



Ralph Warren Smith Jr

FEB 22, 1945 - MAY 1, 2024



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Ralph Warren Smith Jr

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Ralph Warren Smith Jr. was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on February 22, 1945. He was the first of six children of Ralph W. Smith Sr. and Ireta Payne Smith. His father had been a great athlete, and his mother the valedictorian, and he was a great mix of both. He graduated from Granite High School in 1963, then served 2 years in the New England States mission under presidents Truman G. Madsen and Boyd K. Packer.

He met the love of his life, Elizabeth Ann Rothey, in Springfield Massachusetts. They married on August 30, 1966, in the Salt Lake City temple, then moved to Provo Utah, where he attended Brigham Young University and graduated with a Master's Degree in Sociology.

Ralph's first job led him to Olympia, Washington, where he worked for 30 years until retirement. He left a legacy of service as he diligently worked in The Washington State Department of Aging and Adult Services to secure the rights and comfort of aging and mentally disabled citizens.

Ralph and Elizabeth raised their 6 children in Olympia. He taught them the importance of community service as he dedicated his free time to coaching youth soccer and serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, including 9 years as stake president of the Olympia stake, and when the stake was split, as president of the new Lacey stake.

In his professional life, church service and other volunteer responsibilities, he gained a reputation as a strong administrator and as a down-to-earth and powerful speaker. He had an artistic way of telling stories that were equally funny and poignant, and which left a deep impression. After hearing him, people were inspired to be even better.

Above all, Ralph treasured his family and faith. He enjoyed camping and liked to bring his trusty harmonica along. He was an avid reader of science fiction and fantasy books, and always found time to play tennis with friends and family.



Obituary

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After he retired, Ralph and Elizabeth began a second act of full-time church service, enthusiastically serving multi-year assignments as mission president, Missionary Training Center president, temple president, and other assignments, which took them across the United States, Mexico, and Europe.

Ralph is survived by his wife Elizabeth, 6 children - Aaron (Erin), Allan (Jennifer), Kirsten (Ryan), Heather (Matt), Erika (Marshall), Stephen (Stephanie), 31 of his 32 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, his sisters Anne and Donna, and his grandson Tristan Brockbank, who are now having a joyful reunion.

On Friday, May 10, there will be a Friends & Family visitation from 10:00-10:45 AM, followed by the funeral service at 11:00 AM. These events will take place the church located at 828 S Center Street, Lehi UT 84043. Here is the link to the zoom services:

<https://zoom.us/j/98506756220>



Events

Ralph Warren Smith Jr

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Funeral Service



Friday, May 10, 2024

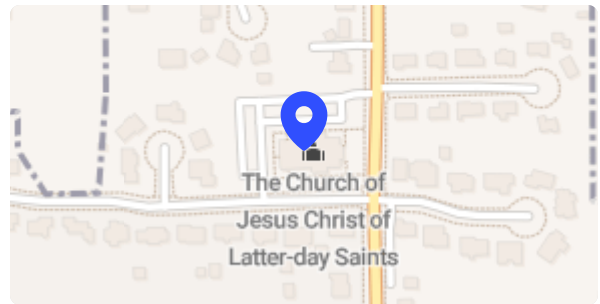


11:00 AM - 12:00 PM MT



LDS Church House

828 South Center Street, Lehi UT





Tribute Wall

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Barbara Starkey posted:

Betty, I just saw this about the passing of Ralph. I am so sorry to hear this. Ron passed away six years ago and I know how you must be feeling. We enjoyed so much having you as friends and neighbors in Olympia. Later we also enjoyed our time at the MTC serving with you and Ralph. I would love to reconnect with you. My phone number is the same as it has been for many years. Barbara Starkey

April 21 at 3:19 PM



Debbie Goldsby lit a candle in honor of Ralph.

I was sorry to hear that Ralph had passed. I had the privilege of working with Ralph as his Executive Assistant while he was employed as the Assistant Secretary for the Aging and Adult Services Administration, within the Department of Social and Health Services, in the State of Washington. I was able to get to know Ralph as a state government employee, rather than a Mission President. He was a wonderful person and probably the kindest person I have ever worked for. He loved his family and spoke of them regularly. When Ralph left and retired from state government he was greatly missed by myself and the many employees within Aging and Adult Services. Debbie Goldsby



June 13 at 12:32 PM



Alton Alexander shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Ralph was truly a pillar of strength, embodying his principles in every action. His mentorship and compassionate guidance have indelibly shaped our family, leaving a legacy of integrity and resilience that will resonate through generations.



May 10 at 1:50 PM



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JD

Jill Mulvay Derr posted:

Dear Elizabeth—We were saddened to learn of Ralph's passing. We have such fond memories of serving with the two of you in the Europe Area. Brooke remembers a tender moment with Ralph during that mission. Ralph asked Brooke to talk to a French Stake President about a prospective missionary because the president spoke only French and Brooke was to act as the translator. The president was concerned about whether to recommend a prospective sister missionary because of her past experience with mental illness. Ralph handled the matter in a very sensitive and positive way and the president felt reassured in the end to call the young sister into service. It was a great example of Ralph's character as well as his ability to seek and receive divine inspiration. The two of you have blessed so many lives through your dedicated service. Elizabeth, we pray that you and your family will be blessed with abiding comfort and peace. Love, Brooke and Jill Derr

May 8 at 6:03 AM

ES

Elizabeth Smith May 8 at 5:15 PM

Thank you for remembering us from our time in Frankfurt. Ralph worked very hard, while we were there. He has always been focused. We met many of the best dedicated friends on missions. Thank you for remembering Ralph.

ES

Elizabeth Smith May 8 at 4:54 PM

Our mission in Europe was a wonderful way to meet so many of the Lord's faithful. It will always remain a special experience in our hearts.

MF

Marilyn Foster posted:

It was a privilege and blessing to serve in Frankfurt, Germany with Ralph and Elizabeth. Sincere condolences to Elizabeth and the family

May 3 at 7:26 AM

ES

Elizabeth Smith May 8 at 4:59 PM

You are such a kind and loving Sister missionary. Everyone in the Area Office had an instant love for you. I will remember you always.



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Michael Schaub posted:

Dear Smiths: We have great memories of Ralph. When we lived in Glen Terra, our oldest son, Karl, who is about Stephen's age, remembers going to the Smith's house and watching Star Trek The Next Generation with Ralph. We remember many Stake Conferences where he would speak, and we would always come away edified. We're grateful to have known Ralph, and wish the best for Betty and the family. Michael & Elizabeth Schaub

May 3 at 6:38 AM



Marjean Otton posted:

Dearest Betty and family, Sid and I are deeply sorrowful to hear of Ralph's passing. I was blessed to be serving as Olympia Wa Stake Young Women's president when President Smith was called to be 1st Counselor in the Stake Presidency over the Young Women's program. It was a wonderful experience getting to know and love him in that capacity. When my husband Sid was a ward Bishop, President Smith was the Stake President. Sid thought so much of him and appreciated his great wisdom and counsel. We send you our deepest condolences and pray for each of you to find peace and comfort in the joy of seeing him again and join again for eternity. Much love -Sid and Marjean Otton

May 2 at 7:12 PM



Elizabeth Smith May 3 at 12:42 PM

Thank you so much. It is kind of you to remember him after all these years. We can all get together in heaven and have a wonderful time together and catch up. 😊



Jefferson Macdonald shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Sad to hear that this great man passed on to the other side. President Smith was a great leader and I am so glad I got to serve while he was the Mission President in the Utah Provo Mission. Sister Smith once said we get treated like "Rock Stars" in Utah; and I believe President Smith was the Rock Star. We all respected him and loved being with him. Too many memories and great examples but if I had to share just one story of him it was this one- It was my last transfer and a missionary needed extra attention and I was assigned to be his companion. The great part was I would get to meet with President Smith weekly to keep him updated. One trying week, I remember showing some frustration with the situation and I will never forget President Smith getting choked up and teary eyed and said to me, "We have to find a way to help him." He was a great example of love for the one. This is one of many Christlike examples he showed that will always stay with me. Utah Provo Mission 2000-2003 (President Smith)

May 2 at 6:19 PM



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AR

Armando Zarate Ramos posted:

He was my misión president... He's so powerfull men...

May 2 at 6:10 PM

KB

Karen Burbidge sent a virtual gift in honor of Ralph.

We love you, Smith family, each and every one of you! From Norwin and Karen Burbidge

May 2 at 4:20 PM



KP

Keri Lister Pratt posted:

I'm shocked to hear this. I'm so glad that I was able to visit them during the summer of 2022. My daughter was so impressed by President & Sister Smith, and saw instantly why I loved them both. When President Smith learned she planned on serving a mission he said "I hope you have a hard mission." She's now serving on Temple Square (it's a different type of hard). There's one funny story President always liked to tell about me on my mission. He had extended a call to serve at the VC and I was adamant that I should not go there. The lesson he taught me was to be obedient to the Lord's servants and I developed a testimony that they are inspired and if we place our trust, the Lord can show us miracles. Obedience always brings blessings. ❤️ Sister Smith, you will be in my prayers and thoughts. I'm so sorry for this great loss. I wish I could be there, please know that this Canadian will be forever grateful for the gift of you both in my life.

May 2 at 1:54 PM



Media

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Alton Alexander shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 10 at 1:50 PM





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May 2 at 6:19 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ralph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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