



# Karl Eugene Kidman

JUN 24, 1945 - JUL 10, 2025



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# Karl Eugene Kidman

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Our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Karl Eugene Kidman, passed away unexpectedly on July 10, 2025. Karl was born on June 24, 1945, in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the first child of Don Carlos and Dorthy Hultquist Kidman. He grew up in Toppenish, Washington, and attended BYU before his LDS mission call to the Central British Mission. Drafted into the Vietnam War after his mission, he decided to go to Officer Candidate School, where he received training in Special Forces as a Green Beret. His father gave him a blessing to preserve his life. Karl served as a 1st Lieutenant in the jungles in Vietnam and earned a Purple Heart and 3 Bronze Stars. He returned to Utah, where he served as a Captain of the National Guard 19th Special Forces Group. While attending BYU, he worked at Foreign Auto Works in Provo.

Two weeks after Karl married Deborah Murdock, his father asked him to develop land he had purchased on the Amazon River. Karl and Deborah moved to Belém, Brazil, where Karl was called to be the LDS Branch President of the Amazon River area and served there for 3 years. Karl later served faithfully as a Scoutmaster, Young Men President, and in Bishoprics in Texas, California, and Utah. Karl and Deborah had two children born in Brazil and two children born in Utah and Texas.

After returning to Utah, Karl graduated from BYU in Business Management. He began working for Pepsi-Cola in Houston, followed by Coca-Cola in San Antonio as their Directors of Fountain & Vending. He later started business ventures, including a Schlotzsky's Restaurant Developer in the San Francisco Bay Area, All Event & Tent Rental in Orem, Utah, and Extreme Funplex and The Zone, also in Orem, Utah. Finally, he became a home inspector in Utah for the last 15 years, which he enjoyed. He sold his inspection business last December and finally retired.

When younger, Karl loved motocross racing with his brother and friends. He also enjoyed building and repairing things. He could fix anything. He loved reading the scriptures and any



## Obituary

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books on science and the universe.

Karl was currently serving an LDS mission at the Saratoga Springs Employment Center after serving more than 2 years at the Provo Transitional Services Office. He had a kind heart and loved helping others. He recently celebrated his 50th Wedding Anniversary with his wife. They have four children, Dawn Poulton (Josh), Jared Kidman, Mark Kidman (Melissa), and Katrina Merz. He cherished his 10 grandchildren and loved spending time with each of them: Calvin, Jonas, and Rory Poulton; Amelia, Gwen, Eliza, Ruby, and Clarissa Kidman; Felix and Ari Merz.

Karl was a man of great faith and love for his Savior, Jesus Christ. His family and friends will greatly miss him

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday July 19, 2025 at the Cascade 1st Ward, 481 East Center Street ~ Orem, Utah. Interment to follow at American Fork City Cemetery.

Please watch the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wkr61G3BZxk>



# Tribute Wall

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**Aaron Poulton** posted:

Karl gave me my first job in Utah after I moved from Virginia. He was always busy a job here or there. He never sat still. He never bragged about the amazing things he had done in his life. I didn't know he was a green beret or even in Vietnam until years and years after working for him. He inspected several homes when we were purchasing our home. He never wanted to charge me a dime. He was a humble, hard-working, and great man on this earth.

July 19 at 7:52 AM



**Stephanie Ashcraft** posted:

Elder Kidman was loved by all of us who were blessed to serve with him at the Transitional Services Office in Provo. He was a walking encyclopedia on Veteran Resources, and he and Sister Kidman were so compassionate and caring as they ministered to those who were homeless or exiting corrections. We send our love and prayers at this difficult time.

July 18 at 11:40 AM



**Bill Harvey** July 19 at 5:49 AM

Karl shared his unique spiritual gifts in a manner which demonstrated his strong faith in Jesus Christ and his deep love for others. One morning while serving as a missionary at the Provo Transitional Services Office (TSO), Karl overheard a couple share their vision about starting a home cleaning business to earn money to support them as a family. They had followed an impression to move to Utah with their son and were currently living out of their car. Karl had a lot of used cleaning equipment and supplies in his garage and was planning to dispose of it. While the couple was discussing other needs with missionaries, Karl drove to his home and loaded all his cleaning equipment and supplies into his car and returned to the TSO. When the couple left the TSO, Karl walked out with them and asked if they could use any of his cleaning supplies before he disposed of them. They were overcome with amazement to see everything they needed to start their own cleaning business without having to pay hundreds of dollars! The man was so moved standing there in the parking lot that he offered a sincere, verbal prayer with his family thanking Heavenly Father for this miracle!



**Matt Murdock** lit a candle in honor of Karl.

Karl was a great example in so many ways. It's hard to lose those who have taught us so many valuable lessons. We will miss you Karl.

July 18 at 5:36 AM





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**Joanne Rich- Brinton** posted:

This is Joanne Brinton Reid's wife. I only knew Karl and Debbie for a short time, but thought him a man of such great character and kindness and goodness. I know he had to be to put up with the rest of the group. He was in charge of, Moyle Reid, Danny, Harry and Tom! This group along with their wives truly loved and admired Karl. I am so sorry to hear of his passing but I think at least Reid and Danny will be saluting Karl in the heavens and am among those there to welcome him home!

July 17 at 4:18 PM



**Mark Johnson** lit a candle in honor of Karl.

Mark Johnson lit a candle in memory of Karl Kidman



July 16 at 4:30 PM



**Mark Johnson** posted:

When Bob Beadles called to tell me of Karl's passing, great memories flooded my thoughts of how much I admired and loved Karl. He was the keystone of a close group of friends who attended BYU together so many years ago. Karl was the kind of friend you find once in a lifetime. He was endlessly generous with his time, spirit, and heart. Karl had a gift for lifting others up. I so admired Karl's service as a Green Beret. A genuine, decorated war hero. He served not only with valor, but had a warrior's soul grounded in faith. Karl had a great sense of adventure. His zest for life inspired us all. He lived with joy and with authenticity. For me, friendship with Karl was an adventure of its own. He made his friends feel alive. Brave. Capable of more. He brought to our close knit group of friends, laughter, wisdom, and a sense of spiritual strength that left us uplifted and deeply grateful. Your friendship gave me confidence. You always made me feel fully accepted and genuinely supported. I am very sorry we didn't stay in touch. As I sit and think of you and our friendship, I think of love in action. I think of your goodness and kindness. I remember your compassion, your loyalty, and your faithful and humble heart. Karl, your friendship was truly one of the greatest treasures of my life.

July 16 at 4:29 PM



**Deborah Kidman** July 17 at 1:24 PM

Thank you, Mark. Karl loved his friendship with you. Best wishes.



## Tribute Wall

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MM

**Mona Merz** lit a candle in honor of Karl.

Mona Merz lit a candle in memory of Karl Kidman

July 16 at 12:28 PM



MM

**Mona Merz** posted:

Karl was a gentle Soul. I always appreciated his kindness towards our son, Micah Merz, who was his son-in-law and boyfriend to his youngest daughter for over 18 years. He will be missed. Mona Merz

July 16 at 12:25 PM

DK

**Deborah Kidman** July 17 at 1:31 PM

Thank you, Mona, for your kind words.

BI

**Brother In Law** posted:

I was in High School when I first met Karl. He and my sister Deb had just gotten engaged. I had just gotten off work and was parking my motorcycle when a red Ferrari pulled up at the end of the drive. It was Karl, come to see if I would like to go for a ride. He told me that he was the only certified Ferrari mechanic between Denver and San Francisco. The owner of the vehicle was from Idaho. What teenage boy would turn down a ride in a red Magnum Ferrari? Off we went. As we went up 100 East and left the last home Karl goosed the car. Instantly we were doing 90 mph. "Did you feel that" he asked? "Feel what", I replied. "That slight hesitation when we accelerated." I guess Melissa is right. Karl could fix anything. Instead of a candle, I wish I could post a red Magnum Ferrari.

July 16 at 10:22 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Melissa Kidman** posted:

"Karl could fix anything." That has been said, probably by a lot of people. The first time I has that thought, was when we were visiting Utah and one of those vics humidifiers stopped putting out steam. I thought that it would just go into the trash. I didn't know that was fixable. Apparently the heating elements just get caked in salt or something and you just have to clean them off. Who knew?! Karl knew. Both Debbie and Karl are impressively conservative. I have learned a lot from both of them. Wow! That probably seems like a small thing to fix, but it is the one that stands out in my mind. I know there are plenty of other bigger more impressive things that he has fixed over the years. Mark has followed in his footsteps there. Mark would call him for advice on how to fix many things over the years. For instance a sagging ceiling(a broken truss, I think?), car stuff, dishwasher stuff, lots and lots of home repair stuff. Some of which, I would have thought unrepairable. I guess I know better now.

July 16 at 5:42 AM



**Deborah Kidman** July 17 at 1:45 PM

Thanks, Melissa. Love you and the girls!



**Melissa Kidman** posted:

Every time we (Mark's family) would come to Utah for a visit; when it was time to go back home(Oklahoma), he would get up with us to say goodbye and see us off. It was always super early in the morning, usually around 4am. We tried to be quiet, but somehow he was always there, every time, with a snack for us. We tried to be quiet(he must have super good hearing or something). It really felt like he cared about us and worried about us. He is such a great guy! And I will miss him! We will miss him!

July 16 at 5:17 AM



**Kat Merz** lit a candle in honor of Karl.

Kat Merz lit a candle in memory of Karl Kidman

July 15 at 10:43 AM



**Premier Funeral Services** shared an album called **PFS**.

July 15 at 7:01 AM





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**Dawn K Poulton** lit a candle in honor of Karl.

Dawn K Poulton lit a candle in memory of Karl Kidman

July 15 at 6:58 AM



**Deborah Murdock Kidman** lit a candle in honor of Karl.

Deborah Kidman lit a candle in memory of Karl Kidman

July 15 at 6:58 AM





## Media

**Karl Eugene Kidman**

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**Premier Funeral Services** shared a photo to the **PFS** album.

July 15 at 7:01 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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