



Roger Russell Evans **"Grandpa Shark"**

DEC 4, 1948 - DEC 17, 2025



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Roger Russell Evans "Grandpa Shark"

DEC 4, 1948 - DEC 17, 2025

Roger Russell Evans "Grandpa Shark", 77, passed away December 17, 2025.

Born in Salt Lake City on December 4th to Russell and Marian Evans. He graduated from Olympus High and the University of Utah. He found his passion helping others through his work in city government. He dedicated many years working alongside city, state, and national committees striving to improve people's safety. This included education and advocacy for wheelchair accessibility, earthquake preparedness and improved building code standards.

Roger enjoyed gardening, especially raising giant sunflowers, tomatoes and growing pumpkins for his grandchildren. He loved sharing his vegetables and fruit with neighbors and friends. When going to see the Utes play he would bring a bag of homemade dried apples to share. Environmentally conscious, he was a big advocate of recycling, composting and "turn the light off!"

Roger loved his family. He met his beautiful wife through mutual friends and doted on her til the end. "I just called to say I love you".

He was a proud father of four and grandfather of ten. He found joy in family gatherings and forming memories with his grandchildren.

Roger is survived by his wife of 49 years, JoLynn, and his four children; Ryan (Erica), Lyndsi, Taylor (Jenn), and Scotty (Megan)

His beautiful bird calls and singing will be profoundly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Obituary

Roger Russell Evans "Grandpa Shark"

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A viewing will be held at Premier Funeral Services (67 East 8000 South) on December 19th from 6pm-7pm. In lieu of flowers, plant your own, like Roger would.



Events


Roger Russell Evans "Grandpa Shark"

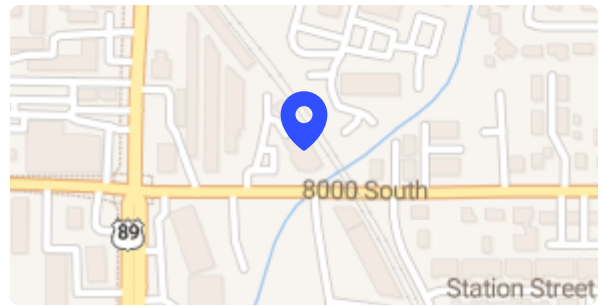
DEC 4, 1948 - DEC 17, 2025

Viewing

 **Friday**, December 19, 2025

 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MT

 **Premier Funeral Services**
67 East 8000 South , Salt Lake City UT





Tribute Wall

Roger Russell Evans "Grandpa Shark"

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Melodie Hayes posted:

I recently learned of Roger's passing and am very saddened. He was inspirational and when I worked for him all those years ago (1992-2001), he led a then 22-year-old to believe she was smart enough to advance to code enforcement, building inspections and now in the latter part of my career, I have advanced to a city planner and deputy community development director). He told me I was good enough and because of his words of wisdom, I believed him. I always appreciated his thought to bring tomatoes and share, telling me I was the right choice for things and making me believe in myself. I remember the time after I moved to code enforcement and his permits techs and secretaries were not available and he tried to handle all the calls and inspections requests in the morning. I calmly had him leave the front desk while I did it and I hope I continue to make him proud as I advance in life. Rest in peace

February 5 at 4:05 PM



Melissa Stynes posted:

My memory of uncle Roger is his distinctive voice, his large personality, his absolute love and devotion to his family. Even as a youngster, I loved to witness the fun bantering he had with his children, with always a sparkle in his eye and a playful smile on his face.

December 19 at 5:58 PM



Janice Belt posted:

I am thankful to have an amazing brother-in-law, Roger Evans. When he married JoLynn, he immediately became an involved Burton Clan member! Roger would cut Grandma Burton's lawn there on Wilmington Ave, he along with JoLynn took care of our mom Melba after dad died, he spent many hours with Aunt Leone either watching games on TV or playing cards, and was a friend to our brother Jim in his last years! Roger loves his family. They mean everything to him!!! He and JoLynn share a special Love Story! They always sought ways to show that love to each other even in sickness and health. As I read the obituary, I can attest to hearing Roger sing " I just called to say I love you" to his Sweetheart JoLynn. Thank you Roger for also giving my family special memories! We love you!

December 19 at 2:47 PM



Jason Taylor posted:

"Who's a got the bestest team-a in the state? Utah's got the bestest team-a in the state. Tisk, task, how bout that!" I'll have to rely on siblings and cousins to fill in any missing lyrics to Roger's Utah Utes jingle. Roger was an awesome uncle and will be missed!

December 19 at 11:45 AM



Tribute Wall

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AV

Anne Vonweller posted:

I knew Roger professionally as a colleague, fellow public servant and eventually as a friend. It is hard to overstate his contributions to building safety in Utah and our country. He spent seemingly endless hours in model code change sessions priding himself on being the first one in the room and the last one to leave frequently making a positive difference. He'd bring his passion, intelligence, humor and dried apples to share with the Utah delegations. A single example of his code work was when he led the effort to include requirements for carbon monoxide detectors in residential construction, first in Utah then in national codes. He rose to the leadership of the International Conference of Building officials and was instrumental in bringing together the three disparate U.S. regional codes into a single group of regulations for the country. As Chairman of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, he was relentless in his advocacy to improve earthquake safety for older, vulnerable public schools finally convincing the state legislature to implement requirements. There is no doubt he leaves a legacy of lives saved and suffering avoided for those who will never know him. I will plant a tomato next spring in his memory.

December 19 at 1:44 AM

S

Sharon Woody posted:

Doug and I are just so sad to hear of the passing of Roger. What a wonderful, kind and caring man. To have him and JoLynn as our neighbors was just the best. Roger had that wonderful dry/sarcastic humor, which we got such a kick out of. He was always, always, always willing to help, no matter what we asked. We watched him raise you guys and saw what a wonderful father he was and we saw how much he loved JoLynn. And, JoLynn, we just always loved you and we're sad you lost the man who filled your heart. We know losing Roger leaves a hole in your family's heart, but having him as a husband and father was an amazing blessing for all of you. We hope those cherished memories give you comfort and peace.

December 18 at 12:44 PM

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December 18 at 12:44 PM



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JD

Judith Dillman posted:

I will miss Roger. For the past 50 years, he always had a joke to tell, produce from his garden that he wanted to share, interesting news to relay. He was always fun to be around. I was so blessed to have him as a brother-in-law.

December 18 at 11:38 AM

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December 18 at 11:09 AM

JS

John Smith posted:

Roger was a great guy; he always had a story or an antidote ready to tell you. 😊 He always made me feel like one of the family and was a terrific grandpa.

December 18 at 10:36 AM

AB

Angela Belt posted:

Uncle Roger would take us to the drive in theater when we had sleepovers with the cousins and then make us HUGE pancakes for breakfast. He would also make bird noises and we would look around for the bird but couldn't find one. He was a lil trickster. He will be missed.

December 17 at 5:59 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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