



Erwin Kay Watson

MAR 21, 1942 - APR 3, 2026



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Kay Watson

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Erwin Kay Watson, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather passed away peacefully on Friday, April 3, 2026, in Provo, UT. Kay's life was defined by a devotion to family, honoring God's creations through his artwork, and his love of Jesus Christ.

Kay was born to Castle James Watson and Thelma Fern Anderson on March 21, 1942, in Salt Lake City, UT as the eight of nine children. He was raised near Sugarhouse in a loving home alongside six siblings who shaped his early years with shared work, laughter, loving family bonds, and commitment to the gospel. He loved Sunday drives with his father and riding the bus around town with his mother to visit her at work or to run errands. Kay admired his older siblings for their patriotism, military service, entrepreneurship, and other hard work. His silly and cheerful disposition helped him and others to be positive through sometimes challenging times.

Kay graduated from Highland High School in 1960 where he began to develop his lifelong passion and divine gift as an artist. He won several awards in recognition of his talent. He served full-time in the Northwestern States Mission from 1961-1963. His love for his missionary service was evident from the funny stories he later shared with his children. He served in the National Guard from November 1960 to November 1966 and graduated from Brigham Young University in May 1971 with a bachelor's degree in Fine Art. Kay spent his career sharing the gospel as a Commercial Artist at the LDS Church Office Building in downtown Salt Lake City where he spent 33 years supporting church magazines (The Ensign, Friend, New Era, and Liahona) and manuals. One of his final projects was helping to produce the Teachings of the Living Prophets manual series used by church members worldwide during Priesthood and Relief Society in the late nineties and early 2000's. He worked hard to provide for his family and to serve in the church.

Kay met his wife, Sharilyn Gladys Shurtleff, during a weekend military assignment in northern California, where he attended a young-adult dance with a friend. They were married on



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December 28, 1965, in the Oakland California Temple, beginning a partnership marked by loyalty and commitment. Kay loved to be with Sharilyn and appreciated her service to him and the family. Together they established a loving home and welcomed seven children. They built a happy family despite life's challenges. Dad loved to spend time with the children by baking cookies, playing in the yard, going for bike rides, listening to good music, and going out for treats. He built an addition onto the family home so that mom had a garage to park the cars and dad had a nice art studio in which to paint.

Kay's dream was to be a landscape painter, and he spent all the evenings and Saturdays he could painting. He frequently took his children to rural areas in Utah County where he could set up his easel and paint while the kids played outside and had a good time. His artistic works are unknowingly most observed by faithful patrons of LDS temples throughout the world where his paintings are displayed in Germany, Mexico, Canada, and the United States, including in the Salt Lake Temple, the Nauvoo Temple, and the Mt. Timpanogos Temple.

Kay's life was marked by his love for the gospel. He loved the doctrine of Jesus Christ, as evident by the worn pages of his tattered brown leather scriptures where he spent many hours studying. He and Sharilyn actively taught the gospel at home through family scripture study, prayer, and home evening. Kay commonly shared new scriptural insights with his children, enthusiastically describing how the Holy Ghost had influenced him regarding a new doctrinal discovery. His greatest desire was to be "born again" and he studied this topic often. He demonstrated his love for the Savior through his profession and in the church. He served as a counselor in a young married ward bishopric soon after Kay and Sharilyn were married. As a father of five small children, he served as a high counselor in the Provo, Utah Stake and Bishop of the Provo 11th Ward near West Center Street in Provo. He served on the High Counsel in the Grandview Stake and later as a counselor and Branch President in several branch presidencies at the Missionary Training Center. He loved spending time with the missionaries and included his children in his service whenever possible. He was a committed home teacher and minister throughout his life and enjoyed serving as a Ward Greeter at sacrament meetings in his later years. Kay loved to serve in the temple, including as a temple worker, when his health permitted.

Those who knew Kay will remember his gentle nature, quiet humor, and his love for quality time with Sharilyn, his children, and grandchildren. He ministered to them with love and compassion during delicate times of their lives.



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Kay is preceded in death by his parents and siblings; Castle Ross, Glen (infant), Merrit Galen, Thelma Nona, Milton Bennon, Maralyn Beverly, Max Brent, his infant brother who passed shortly after birth, and his granddaughter, Chelsea Nicole Ramos.




He is succeeded by his wife Sharilyn; his children Melanie (Troy) Berrett, Camille (Charles) Paxton, Tiffanie Watson Weekes, Hollie (Brigham) Russell, Aaron (Haley) Watson, Brian (Skye) Watson, and Heather (Jonathan) Ishoy; 25 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He found his greatest happiness in supporting their growth, celebrating their accomplishments, and offering steady encouragement that shaped each of their lives. He leaves behind a family who loves him deeply and carries forward his legacy of kindness, devotion, and faith.

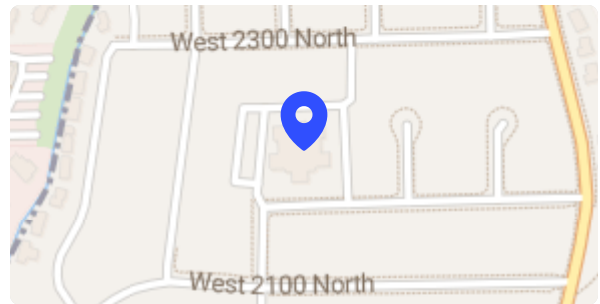
Funeral services will be 11:00 am, Friday, April 10, 2026 at the Grandview 3rd Ward Chapel, 900 West 2150 North, Provo, Utah where a viewing will be from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Thursday, April 9, 2026 and Friday prior to services from 9:30 am to 10:45 am.

Interment and graveside services will be 3:00 pm, Friday at the Ogden City Cemetery, 1875 Monroe Blvd, Ogden, UT.






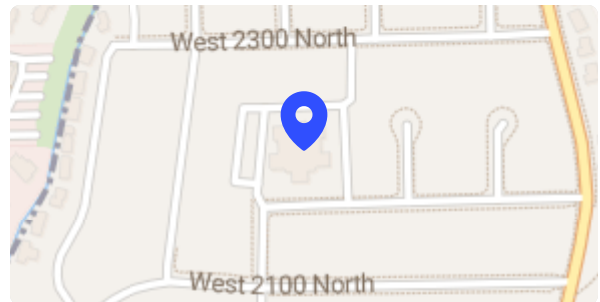
Evening Viewing

-  **Thursday**, April 9, 2026
-  6:00 PM - 8:00 PM MT
-  **Grandview 3rd Ward**
900 West 2150 North, Provo UT






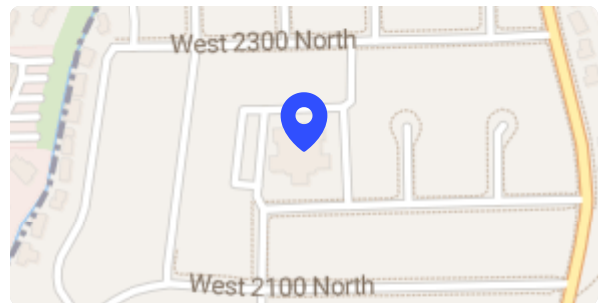
Viewing

-  **Friday**, April 10, 2026
-  9:30 AM - 10:45 AM MT
-  **Grandview 3rd Ward-**
900 West 2150 North, Provo UT




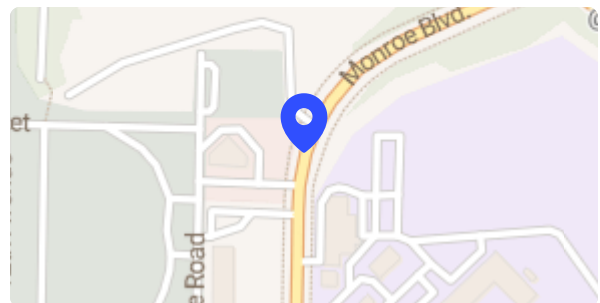
Funeral Service

-  **Friday**, April 10, 2026
-  11:00 AM MT
-  **Grandview 3rd Ward**
900 West 2150 North, Provo UT



Cemetery Details

-  **Ogden City Cemetery**
1875 Monroe Blvd, Ogden UT 84201





Tribute Wall

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B

Bruce Hansen posted:

I recall vividly meeting my future husband's family all one year at a Fourth of July Celebration at Uncle Kay's home in downtown Provo! He and Sharilyn were beyond hospitable and helped me feel very much at home. Over the years we loved visits at their home early on in our marriage and through the years. Kay was so kind and gentle natured, thoughtful, loving, passive, extremely close to the Spirit, such an incredible artist and talented beyond words. He was always family centered and his family was always his number one concern. He deeply loved each one of them!! He truly was their biggest fan. He also was a deeply devoted spouse and loved Sharilyn with all his heart. You could just feel it, when you were with them!! Truly their marriage was one to shine as an example of thinking of the other one. Maralyn, his sister, could be heard giggling and laughing with Kay for hours on the phone. I always knew when she was talking to Kay!! She was so full of life and happy as they chatted for HOURS. I have no doubt that it was a glorious reunion in heaven with Ross, Milton, Merritt, Nona, Maralyn, Max and now their youngest sibling, Kay!! Just thinking about it makes me smile!! Thank you for being a wonderful Uncle to Bruce and !!!

April 10 at 10:01 AM

K

K Thomas posted:

Our family lived in the same neighborhood as Kay & his family when we were growing up. We attended the Imperial 1st Ward in the Sugarhouse area of SLC Utah and we graduated from Highland High School. Kay's exemplary skills as an artist evident even as a young boy and he was often asked to help lead the decorating committees for LDS Stake dances and road shows. He also lead a committee to build a float representing our ward/stake in one of the July 24th Pioneer Day parades back in the day! Kay was a very good dancer and he taught my brother and many of the other young men in our ward how to do the Jitterbug. Years later Kay & wife invited my brother to stay at his house when he was in the Provo Area. They were incredibly hospitable! RIP our dear friend! Thomas Family!

April 9 at 8:25 AM

CP

Camille Paxton posted:

One of my favorite memories as a little girl is my dad swinging me in my blankie. My sister's and I would lay our blankets out on the floor and lay down on them and he would pick up the four corners and swing us around. We all patiently took turns. It was truly magical. We also loved when he read us fairytale stories from his old book from when he was a child. There was also such a spiritual side to my dad. The spirit was always with him. He constantly strived to make himself better. Serving others in his church callings, constant prayers and scripture study. I love my dad and will miss him so much.



April 6 at 2:00 PM



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Paul Ramos posted:

Kay and I had many great discussions on Music and Art. We both had very different taste but always respected each others opinions and could really go into detail about what we liked. I really looked forward to those conversations. Another topic of discussion that I really respected conversing with him, was religion. Also, an area where we had very opposing views. He was always open and listened to my perspective, received it, thought about it and asked questions. He would offer up his thoughts and share his beliefs. We did not debate and there was not any, I'm right you're wrong attitude. This is a true man of faith that can listen and hear others views that differ from theirs. A lesson many can learn from. RIP Kay, you were a truly wonderful human being.—Paul D Ramos

April 6 at 9:53 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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