



Benjamin Gary Beckstead

May 26, 1939 - January 7, 2018

Benjamin Gary Beckstead
1939-2018

Benjamin Gary Beckstead died at his home in West Jordan, Utah on January 7, 2018. He was born on May 26, 1939 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Benjamin Gordon Beckstead and Dorothy Marie Anderson. Eighteen months later twin sisters were born—Lani Lee Rawlins (Leon) and Mary Ann Potter (Glen)

The family moved often finally settling in Ely, Nevada during Gary's teen-age years. He loved all sports but excelled in football, eventually playing for BYU. As a youth, he and his cousin had committed to each other that they would serve a mission for the Church. So, two years after entering BYU, Gary left for the mission field finishing his mission in the New England States in 1961.

On June 10, 1963, Gary married his sweetheart, Marjo Beckstead, in the Salt Lake Temple. Together they raised seven children—Benjamin Gordon (Amanda); Anah Nysje Burton (Steve); Lisa Maria Mix (Andrew); Robert Byron (Roslyn); David Joel (Shannon); Heather Alisa Nelson (Troy); and Lara Rachelle Andersen (Lee).

Education was very important to Gary. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Utah and his Masters and Doctorate degrees from Brigham Young University. He loved to read and learn and instilled his love of learning to his children. Gary was employed by the Church Education System of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for thirty-six years and was a gifted teacher. His favorite subjects to teach were the Book of Mormon and the New Testament.

Gary had a great love for the Savior and a strong testimony of the importance of following the living prophet. He served as a bishop on two occasions and also as a stake patriarch. But his favorite calling was that of a father. His seven children, twenty-seven

grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren were his pride and joy. Gary was preceded in death by two very special grandsons, Philip and Matthew.

In his spare time, Gary loved hiking and camping (especially along the Oregon coast) and going for walks with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed reading and listening to music. The family would like to give special recognition to the residents, caregivers, and LDS branch presidency of the Pheasant Run Alzheimer's Facility and also to Inspiration Hospice. The kindness and care they gave will never be forgotten.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Jordan Oaks Stake Center, 8117 South Leslie Drive (3905 West), West Jordan, Utah. Viewings will be Sunday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Monday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the same location. Interment will be at the Salt Lake City Cemetery on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Comments



“ I remember working for Gary at the drive-in and he was such a wonderful person used to spend we used to spend a lot of times it back stands he was just so kind of wonderful he'll really be missed I haven't seen him in years but my condolences to his family and his twins

Beverly Clayton Burke - February 16 at 09:36 PM



“ Brother Beckstead was my very first seminary teacher in 9th grade. He was an amazing teacher and I loved being in his class! I learned so much that year. He was such a good person and a great example. I'm so grateful to be able to know where he went since then and to know he was valiant to the very end. He is remarkable and he has left me with very good memories.
Claudia Lindow White

Claudia White - January 17, 2018 at 12:58 PM



“ Brother Beckstead was always so kind to me as I served as a young high councilor in his Ward. He knew how it was to have a young family and a busy calling and he expressed gratitude to me often for my service. It was clear from the first time I met him that he was a man of God. May Heaven's blessings attend your family during this tender time.

Ryan Kershaw

Ryan Kershaw - January 14, 2018 at 11:21 PM



“ What a wonderful man of God with a wonderful family. My sweetest memories of Brother Beckstead are when he was our Stake Patriarch and I had the great blessing of being asked by some I had worked with to come with them to receive their blessings. These experiences are too sacred to share but I was blessed to get to know in a more personal way this wonderful man of God. I will always remember his friendly smile of recognition and kindness, not only at church but also whenever I saw him, even if it was years later walking for exercise in the mall. Thank you Gary and Marjo for your wonderful examples of goodness, compassion and love.

David Stoddard - January 14, 2018 at 03:47 PM



“ I always loved to be taught by Gary and appreciated his outstanding ability to teach. One Sunday after I had taught a gospel doctrine lesson, Gary took time to stop by our home and tell me that I had done a good job and that he had learned something from my lesson and then he shared what he had learned. I have always remembered that and consider it one of the greatest compliments I have every received. I always learned so much from him. He has made an great impact in my life. Terrilynne Maxfield

Terrilynne Maxfield - January 13, 2018 at 09:36 PM



“ Our hearts go out to Marjo and the family for this temporary separation, with full assurance that you will experience unsurpassed joy at the time of your future reunion. We have so many wonderful memories of our years together at Boise Institute and working on our doctorate degrees at BYU. God bless you. Larry and Amaryllis Tippetts

Larry Tippetts - January 13, 2018 at 11:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Larry Tippetts - January 13, 2018 at 11:48 AM



“ Gary and I met in the New England Mission and have been as close and any brothers could be. We have shared many memories together and with our families. From our defeating a highly regarded Massachusetts HS basketball team to camping under the stars in the midst of an Indian Reservation in northern Montana. I love him as a brother and Marjo. We will cherish Gary and Marjo and our love for them forever.

Chuck and Bernice Augade



Charles & Bernice Augade - January 12, 2018 at 04:22 PM



“ Gary was my mentor, teaching companion, and dear friend at the Boise Institute of Religion. We frequently planned lessons together, searched for favorite quotations from the most recent General Conference, took walks on Boise's green belt, and occasionally wondered aloud if the Church Educational System would thrive just as well on half as many meetings. His powerful testimony, gifted teaching ability and quiet demeanor made him a favorite teacher among students. His love of the Savior and of his family made him an example for us all to follow. All who knew him were enriched and blessed by him.

David Mills

David Mills - January 12, 2018 at 05:15 AM



“ He taught me two very important and interesting gospel principles. Hard to explain here but one was why we have pets and why certain people are called to be a bishop. Remember and loved by me. Peter Covino, Jr. I am sure my wife was there to greet him.

peter covino - January 11, 2018 at 10:50 PM



“ Gary was our home teacher for nearly 20 years and never missed a month. He was a dear friend and we enjoyed spending time with him and Marjo. Several years ago we took them on wave running trips with us and Gary loved it. He was disappointed when his doctor told him he could no longer do that with his pacemaker. He was a great example to us of a dedicated son of God. Gary we will miss you and look forward to seeing you again. Our love goes out to Marjo and to all of Gary’s family.
Ralph & Sherry Burton

Sherry Burton - January 11, 2018 at 12:46 PM



“ We love the Beckstead family. Our families spent a lot of time together in Meridian, Idaho. We shared great memories and times in Placerville, Idaho. I was honored to serve as a counselor to Bishop Beckstead in the Meridian, Idaho 3rd Ward. To the entire family, please know how much we appreciate the time we spent together.

Reed Hanson - January 11, 2018 at 12:46 PM



“ Gary and I were Brickers together at BYU as freshmen in 1957, and students at the University of Utah in 1962 after Missions! I will never forget those times with this great man! Stan Larsen

Stan Larsen - January 14, 2018 at 02:44 PM



“ Gary and I were Brickers at BYU in 1957, and after our missions had some classes together at the UofU in 1962 Gary had a great influence on me, and I will. never forget this Great man.

Stan Larsen -January 17 at 1: 58 Pm

Stan Larsen - January 16, 2018 at 04:14 PM



“ "Bro. B" played a wicked game of ping pong at the Twin Falls Institute. Ron Ellsworth could give him a run for his money, and most of the rest of us just enjoyed sharpening our skills, while we lost. I hope he meets Ken Manthey (Kodiak, AK Branch president 1980's) and they enjoy a good game, I'd love to watch.

He introduced me to a life long friend. Fresh from Carey, Idaho country he called me over and said "Carolyn, this is Gale, you two ought to get along together, you both like horses." One of most significant understatements I ever heard him say. It was Fall, 1972.

I found new depth in the Scriptures and my testimony through his classes, and discussing the practical application of them to life.

Another fond memory was going to General Conference with the Pocatello, Twin Falls, and Boise Institute Choirs. Bro Castelton and Sister Marjo helped create musical memories in the Tabernacle that I've never forgotten.

I've considered Bro B one of my first and best spiritual mentors, clear up through the 80's when I taught early morning seminary in Canyon County, and he was my administrator and life line.

I look forward to seeing both he and Marjo again. Many are the lives they touched.

Carolyn Baum-Buttorff.August 4, 12:32 am

Carolyn Baum-Buttorff - August 04, 2018 at 01:33 AM