



## Calvin Ricks Kowallis

January 5, 1925 - March 30, 2019

Calvin Ricks Kowallis returned to his heavenly home Saturday, March 30, 2019, in South Jordan, Utah. He was born January 5, 1925, to Otto and Carrie Ricks Kowallis and grew up in Vernal and Logan, Utah. Immediately following his high school graduation, he was drafted into the army. At the conclusion of WWII, he returned to Utah where he attended Utah State for a short time before serving an LDS mission to Southern California. On his return trip from California, he stopped to see his sister and took particular notice of her roommate, Rada Hall. He and Rada were married eight months later. They moved to Forest Grove, Oregon, where Calvin completed optometry school. They returned to the Uintah Basin, this time to Roosevelt, to establish his practice and raise their family. Calvin was active in both the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the community. He served as an LDS bishop, stake president and member of the Vernal Utah Temple Presidency, as well as eight years on the Roosevelt City Council. After living in Roosevelt 51 years, he and Rada relocated to South Jordan, Utah, where they have lived for the past 14 years.

Both his children and grandchildren will always remember picnicking at local reservoirs and water skiing behind Grandpa's boat. His children will also remember the work ethic he strove to instill by working in their large family garden. They will always cherish the love, peace, and respect present in the home he and Rada created. Surely he was a man without guile.

Survived by his wife Rada; children Lori Gardner (Brad), Trudy Christensen (Monte), Scott Kowallis (Sue), Callean Laird (Scott), and Roger Kowallis (Renee); 19 grandchildren; 52 great grandchildren; and his siblings, Donna Hansen, Louise Romney and Ted Kowallis. Preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Karl Kowallis, and sister, Theda Parkinson, and one great grandson, Tacen Kowallis.

Services will be held Friday, April 5, 2019, at 7511 South 2700 West, West Jordan, UT, viewing 10:00 am and funeral at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to LDS Humanitarian Fund.

# Comments

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“ We all loved Calvin. He was always a kind, gentle, lovely individual.

I remember when he was a young scout how he enjoyed going down below the First Dam on the Island on hot summer nights when the frogs were croaking in the swampy areas, to hunt them and roast their legs. They were a delicacy for the boys and a fun pastime.

In those early days of our lives, again, on hot summer nights we enjoyed playing with the neighborhood children games such as Run My Sheepy Run, Hide N Seek, Kick the Can, etc., until it cooled so it was tolerable to go in the house to sleep. We didn't have swamp coolers or air conditioning then.

And I also have to mention the boat Karl built out of tin and tar. I don't know how he found all of that stuff but there were raw edges you could tear your skin on and he and Cal paddled that thing back and forth in the open irrigation ditch in front of our house gleefully giving rides to everyone, To me that ditch looked like a canal.

In high school he developed a passion for photography. He loved to walk up by the Temple and take pictures of the deep, beautiful, fresh snow draped all over the magnificent hill and clinging gracefully from the branches of the trees. He loved taking pictures of scenes.

When he returned from the Service he had a strong desire to serve a mission. He served under Oscar McConkie, Sr. in Southern California. The second year of his mission he was given the opportunity to serve without purse or script. This effort to serve is what truly made him into the sweet, kind, loving individual he became.

When he returned from the service he stopped in Ogden to see me, and again, when he returned from his mission he stopped to see me. That meant a lot to me, and that is when he met my roommate Rada Hall and you know the rest of that story.

I always struggled with my eyesight and had to wear such heavy lenses and so hated to wear them. When Cal and Rada returned from Optometry school, he was able to help me have the best eyesight I had ever experienced. He told me I was legally blind but with Contact Lens he gave me a whole new world of being able to see. I will always be very grateful to him for that.

Our families shared many wonderful memories together between the Uintah Basin and Salt Lake City. Rada I love you and your family so much.

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Donna Kowallis Hansen - May 01, 2019 at 02:10 PM



“ Rada, I was so pleased to be your neighbor in Cornerstone. Thank you for all your service through the years. Best wishes in the future. Loves, Neva Borden.....Calvin's first cousin via Delora Kowallis Flake and Delora's brother, Otto Kowallis.



**Neva F Borden** - April 08, 2019 at 04:00 PM

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“ Bishop Kowallis ( at the time ) ordained me an Elder in the Roosevelt 4th Ward. This is a tender moment to reflect on how big he was in my young life at a pivotal time. He impacted many over the years, but he will have a permanent place in my family's life.

**Mike Root** - April 07, 2019 at 11:42 PM

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“ Dear Kowallis Family,  
What a great legacy your Husband, Brother, Father, Uncle, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather has left for you. I first became acquainted with the Kowallis Family when i also went to Optometry School in Forest Grove, Oregon, and there met Scott and SueAnn. We LDS and Utah Optometry Students and our families had an immediate bond that strengthened all of us as we dedicated our time and talents to learning a profession to support and bless our families and communities in which we live and serve.

I then met Dr. Kowallis once we returned to Utah to practice Optometry, and have enjoyed over the years fellowshiping with Scott and his family at meetings and humanitarian events. Probably the most special one was a trip to Colonia Juarez where we stayed with the Bishop of that Ward while helping the local people receive eyecare and needed glasses, and then were privileged to have a member of the Colonia Juarez Temple Presidency open the Temple one night for us to do Baptisms for the Dead with our children that came with us.

We know where your beloved Calvin is right now, and know that your family on the other side of the veil, as well as our Savior and others of the righteous Saints are welcoming him to heaven. We will all meet again in the not too distant future. Our thoughts and prayers are with you while you celebrate a wonderful Man and Patriarch of your family. May God Bless You All!!

Dr. Doug and RoJeanne Smith  
Centerville, Utah

**Douglas Smith** - April 05, 2019 at 12:50 AM

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“ This is Calvin’s little sister, Louise. Calvin was an amazing big brother. Since my mom was a single parent and had to work, Calvin often helped to take care of me. He took his duties seriously and was always very supportive of me in whatever I did, even after he moved away and got married.

When it was bath time, he made sure I washed the back of my neck and behind my ears.

When I was in 6th grade he challenged me to a wrestling match. We started out on the floor but it was so uncomfortable that we moved it to the softer bed. He was pretty surprised when his little sister threw him off the bed.

In 7th grade I entered a race with the entire Jr. High – Calvin and my mom were both there to support me and watch me win.

I truly appreciate all he has done for me throughout his life.

My husband, Milt Romney, remembers Calvin as a sweet gentle man, soft spoken and quiet.

We love you Calvin.....

**Carrie Romney** - April 04, 2019 at 09:34 PM

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“ Rada, I love you and am sending you bear hugs, condolences and prayers for peace and comfort. Calvin will be missed. I am sorry we did not see each other more often; but I am grateful for all the reunions, family gatherings, socials and events we at together. You are great examples. I am grateful for the effort you made to attend reunions and other family events. I also appreciate your support and encouragement. Love Nadine Knight (I am the daughter of Thea Kowallis Knight Slaughter.)

**Nadine Knight** - April 02, 2019 at 06:01 PM