



## Martell Beeton

October 3, 1934 - June 3, 2022

Martell Beeton was born on October 3, 1934 in Malad, Idaho. He grew up ten miles south of Malad on the family farm, with his parents, James and Sara Beeton, his sisters, Margaret and Della, and his brother Gerald. Attending Malad High School, he worked hard to develop skills in sports and music. Martell then attended Utah State University, majoring in Civil Engineering and Education, lettering in basketball, baseball, and track.

After two years in college, Martell served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Northern States mission. Upon his return, Martell married his sweetheart Elaine Allen in the Manti temple. One week later, he left for boot camp in the U.S. Army, and was soon stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, just outside of Washington D.C. He became the Special Services officer responsible for athletics and entertainment of troops for 28,000 soldiers, coaching All-Americans and professional athletes, and playing on the military All-star Basketball Team. Martell loved the military and developed a great love for his country there. He studied law at George Washington University in Washington D.C., later finishing his degree at the University of San Fernando.

Upon leaving the military, Martell and his family moved to Los Angeles, California, planning to coach basketball for one year at Long Beach State, then enter his law practice. However, along the way he felt prompted to accept an offer to teach and coach for the L.A. Public School system. He stayed for the next 20 years in Burbank, California; teaching English, history, government, math and driver's education; coaching football, basketball, baseball and track.

Martell was an exceptional athlete, a natural born teacher and a life-long student, accumulating a PhD, an LLB, and multiple bachelor's and master's degrees.

He was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and always let everyone he worked with know exactly what he believed. He served in three bishoprics and various other ward and stake callings, his favorite being Gospel Doctrine teacher. Martell was also asked to participate in the LDS church's "Know Your Religion" circuit

series, and enjoyed traveling to surrounding states, speaking on the destiny of America.

In 1981, after receiving an offer to practice law in Salt Lake City, the family packed their bags and returned to Utah. However, there he soon received another offer to teach high school in Clearfield, and the temptation was again too great. He taught for another eleven years, spent a few semesters teaching history at Salt Lake Community College, and culminated his teaching career as a Driver Training instructor at the Weber Basin Job Corp for an additional thirteen years. Martell felt this concluding assignment was the most important of his career, influencing the lives of hundreds of troubled kids. He loved sharing his values and ideals as they drove around the beautiful back roads of northern Utah.

Martell's family was the pride and joy of his life. He enjoyed no one's companionship as much as his wife Elaine's, and in their final years they were inseparable. Together they raised five children: Janis Rae, Halbert Martell, Daniel Terry, Carol Ann, and Bret Gerald. He was the best and dearest of dads. We love and miss him so.

The five things he valued most were his wife and children, the gospel of Jesus Christ, his country, and his friends.

On June 3 Martell slipped quietly away from this life, after months of battling after-effects of Covid 19. Preceded in death by Elaine, he is survived by his daughter Janis Kelson (Michael), son Halbert Beeton, son Daniel Beeton (Christine), daughter Carol Ann Beeton, son Bret Beeton (Theresa), his fifteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Memorial services for Martell will be held Saturday, June 11th at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Val Verda 4th Ward chapel, located at 2633 S. 50 West, Bountiful, Utah, 84010. Viewing will be held from 9:00-10:00 A.M.; services will commence at 10:30 A.M.

Zoom link for the services

<https://zoom.us/j/98488065258?pwd=MUd6VHg1cnJJVW80MU5pMnhYZ21Ldz09>

Meeting ID:

984 8806 5258

Passcode: 784464

# Tribute Wall

MF

“ I did not know Martell personally. He is my Dad’s cousin and they knew each other while they were growing up. Carol put a fun story of a memory he had with my Dad on Family Search and we connected there. I was able to call and talk to him for over an hour a couple of years ago. Even though he did not feel well that day, He had many good memories with my Dad and was so willing to share them. This told me SO MUCH about this man. He spoke very similar to my Dad ( who passed away many years ago) and I could tell he had led a life of service and experienced much happiness. He was so grateful for good times- especially with his own family. My sympathies to his family - especially Carol for arranging for us to get acquainted. So very difficult to lose one so loved. May you find comfort in the good memories of your Dad and Grandfather.  
MarDene Fernandez (Neil Beeton’s daughter)

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**Mardene Fernandez** - June 14 at 11:40 AM

DC

“ As a youngster, contemporary with Martel, I was fascinated by the “Sand Man.” According to the song this guy could, “Bring me a dream”. His ‘sand’ brought contentment and sleep, a welcome visitor every night. So, he became a favorite visitor. Of course, we never got to see him. But the sand was popular as it induced droopy eyelids.

We don’t think of Martel as gone away never to return. Rather, we consider him to have a present-tense role in Eternity. He continues to help make it easy for others to follow Christ. He is, no doubt, assigned to scatter sunshine and sparkling, easy to see, sand along the path that we, too, shall follow. Thus, he eases our way, even now. To soften our someday and, as he always has, bringing us peace, love, and courage.

We value our friendship with Brother Beeton. We will appreciate the sparkles in the sand to follow.

May peace, love and faith abide with you all,

Douglas, Linda Christensen and family.

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**Doug and Linda Christensen** - June 11 at 06:16 PM