



Rhoda Frances Goodwin Debes

January 6, 1944 - July 23, 2016

Rhoda Frances Goodwin Debes passed away on July 23, 2016 at the age of 72 surrounded by family. Rhoda was born on January 6, 1944 in El Paso, Texas to Ralph Barnett Goodwin and Shirley Patten Goodwin. While a small child the family moved to California where Rhoda grew up and graduated from Paramount High School. After high school she attended Brigham Young University and graduated with a degree in education and taught elementary school for a short while. One of the greatest accomplishments of Rhoda's life was a mission that she served for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the Andes South Mission which included Bolivia, Peru, Argentina and Chile. During her mission she assisted in opening and running a school of which she was the school director in La Paz, Bolivia, which continued on for many many years. While at the school she met President Hinckley on visits and has a picture on her mantle to this day with her close friend and companion Judy McNally with President Hinckley. Her love for service was easy to see from the experiences she had while serving her mission. Rhoda came home from her mission and then was married to Robert Debes in the Los Angeles Temple.

By far the greatest accomplishment she had was her kids. For those that knew Mom they knew that she loved and adored her kids and grandkids. Every conversation turned into her family. But she didn't just keep the title of Mom for her kids. Mom was "Mom" for a huge number of her children's friends. Until the day she died everyone called asking about "Mom" and seeing how "Mom" was doing. Rhoda exemplified the love of the Savior by always putting other people first and serving those around her. The greatest example of that love was shown when she cared for her parents for the final years of their lives before their passing.

Rhoda was an extraordinary piano and organ player and from a very young age played the organ for church services. She taught piano for as many years as can be remembered. Her music touched many a life and in many different ways. That love of

music is carried on through those she taught and also her kids.

Another group of people that Mom loved were all of her friends that she worked with at Tahitian Noni/Morinda. Her friends at work were a big part of her happiness and they spent time outside of work hanging out and going to lunch and dinner, just so they had the wonderful chance to hear her talk even more about her kids and grandkids.

Mom was absolutely adored by her children and loved spending time with them as often as possible. Her children are so blessed for the time they had with her. Her children and grand children are as follows. Renee and Dewayne Nobles and their kids Kayla, Devyn and Miley of Las Vegas. Brian Debes of Salt Lake City. David and Jessica Debes and their kids Jerika, Dominic and Rockwell (soon to come) of Provo. Vance and Gennifer Debes and their kids Colton and Parker Brynn of Hutto, Texas.

A special thanks to the Edgemont 6th ward of which the Goodwin family has been a large part for almost 50 years. Thank you to the members there who helped us during this difficult time. Also a special thank you to the amazing staff of the Intensive Care Unit at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center. The care they gave to our mother at the end was full of love and compassion and they made her passing more bearable.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 30, 2016 at the Edgemont 6th Ward, 4000 Timpview Drive, Provo, UT where a viewing will be Friday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturday prior to services from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Interment at the East Lawn Memorial Park.

Events

JUL **Funeral Services** 11:00AM

30

Edgemont 6th Ward

4000 Timpview Drive, Provo, UT, US

Comments



“ Rhoda was a Tahiti an Noni expert. She helped us in so many ways. We became friends over the telephone. I and so many IPC 's will really miss such a ANGEL. I will always remember our wonderful conversation.

Mary Hobbs
Toledo, Ohio

Mary - July 30, 2016 at 05:04 PM



“ Renee, Vance, David and Brian,. I wish I could put into words what is in my heart, I love each one of you, I have always loved your mom and your grandma, this is such a hard time and I am not going to tell you in time it gets easier, because sometimes it doesn't you just accept it and know that life goes on, but there is always those times you will think of your mom , miss her wish you could share a special something with her, but she isn't there, but if you are very quite you will be able to feel her close, because the veil is actually thinner than you think. Please stay close to each other, your mom would want that. Your mom loved music and worked very hard to get my girls to appreciate music also, because of her they, (and many others) gained a great appreciation for music. Your mom and I had many great talks in my shop we cried together we laughed together, we gripped together. Good times and great memories! May the Lord Bless you all with peace love for one another and the comforter at this really hard time Love you all Darla



Darla Richins - July 30, 2016 at 12:26 AM



“ Rhoda will be missed in our ward, neighborhood and hearts. She had a good word for all she met. I loved her kind comments to me on facebook. I will miss those dearly!!! Her passing was so quick... Our loving condolences to her great family!!! May her family feel peace in knowing they will see her again. Rest in peace dear Rhoda... Though I'm sure Heaven has many assignments for you....probably musical ones!!! Love Karen and Peter Johansson

Karen and Peter Johansson - July 28, 2016 at 09:05 PM



“ I was one of the organists in the Edgemont Sixth Ward where four or five of us rotated playing in Sacrament Meeting. I admired Rhoda so much for her wonderful musical ability, always playing not only accurately, but sensitively to bring reverence to the meetings, but also the joy of singing the hymns. Her ability to play for the Primary, accompany the choir, accompany various musical numbers, as well as take care of her organist duties so beautifully was quite amazing to me. Not only that, she also took care of the Sunday Meeting programs for many years. She handled all of it with such competence and grace. Not only that, she always had a kind word for me and a hug, which really meant a lot to me. She was an amazing woman. She really set a wonderful example of kindness, testimony, and willingness to serve. My sincerest sympathy to all of the family. We will all miss her.
Elsie Smith

Elsie Smith - July 27, 2016 at 11:19 AM



“ I have known Rhoda since we were very young girls in California, we grew up together until we got married. We got together again here in Utah, we went to lunch every summer with two other friends that we grew up with. Rhoda will be greatly missed, she was such a great lady, I loved her so much. Susan (Garlick) Sisco.

Susan (Garlick) Sisco - July 27, 2016 at 08:50 AM



“ Elisabeth Robison sent a virtual gift in memory of Rhoda Frances Goodwin Debes



Elisabeth Robison - July 27, 2016 at 07:04 AM



“ Condolences to your family, Rhoda taught me a lot when I came to work, so patient and compassionate, and took time to get to know me which always has meant a lot to me!

Elisabeth - July 27, 2016 at 07:06 AM



“ So Sorry hear about your mom's passing. I loved being in the Spanish Fork 17th Ward with you all.
When Rhoda played the organ or piano, I really could feel the spirit of the music and the message came across more powerfully. She never let the music drag and it definitely lifted my spirit to sing along at a brisk tempo.
Great lady.
Love from Michael and Leslie Carr.

Leslie Carr - July 26, 2016 at 07:51 PM



“ Our Heartfelt sympathy to Rhoda's family. We love her and enjoyed her playing the piano for the choir. Rhoda has the most amazing talent and we will miss listening to her playing the organ on a Sunday, playing for us to sing and she used to sit just behind us in Chapel. She will be sorely missed by so many but we are so thankful for the Plan of Salvation and the sure knowledge that she is with loved ones in Paradise. Till we meet again dear Rhoda we will remember you with fondness. Valerie and Garth Fisher

Valerie Fisher - July 26, 2016 at 07:30 PM



“ Share a memory of Rhoda Frances Goodwin Debes or send condolences to the family.

Darla Dee Patten Meyer - July 26, 2016 at 04:14 PM



“ I worked with Rhoda at TNI. After I stopped driving, she would pick me up at 6:00 a.m. to take me to work. When I retired, we would keep in touch because our birthdays were 2 weeks apart. Inevitably, we would talk about our vacations/visits to Texas because that's where Vance and his family lives. When we were together on other occasions, she and i would especially share stories about our grandchildren. Rhoda would always notify me when TNI friends would be planning our GNO and then come to get me. She had a beautiful smile and generous heart always. You will be greatly missed Rhoda.

Marian Brunner - July 26, 2016 at 03:52 PM



“ My kids didn't have a good experience with one of their piano teacher about 2 years ago and of all my 4 kids the 2 oldest did not want to do anything anymore that was related to piano lessons. As I was talking to Rhoda about this at work, she offered to teach piano to our kids even though she was not teaching piano anymore so she could help them overcome their negative experience. After two weeks of piano lessons, my kids excitement to have piano lessons was so big that even the ones that didn't want to do lessons anymore started going as well to take lesson with her. Unfortunately, we ended up moving last year to North Carolina. My kids would often mentioned how much they missed Rhoda.

Two months ago when we decided to move back to Utah one of the first thing that they were excited about it, was the possibility of having Rhoda as a piano teacher again.

When we heard about her health situation last week my family were so sad about it and even more sad when we heard about her passing. We really developed a great love and admiration for her because of her sweet and tender hearth, and caring and genuine love.

We love Rhoda and we will miss her dearly until we see her again.

Luciano Oliveira - July 26, 2016 at 12:54 PM



“ I met Rhoda when I worked at Tahitian Noni. We were both in the Call Center together. We both were part of their "Tahiti Trim Plan 40" group. We got to help facilitate Noni's seminars for this group. Rhoda was so dependable and a hard worker...and fun to be around. Then I was blessed with a transfer into Noni's Animal Division. I was in a different part of the building than Rhoda but would often be able to eat lunch with her. We also did Seminars about the benefits of Noni Juice for horses, dogs, cattle, steers and other large animals. If Rhoda was available she would volunteer to help me facilitate these seminars. She was so good about taking care of our client's needs and trying to make my job easier for me. Even though I haven't worked at Noni for over 10 years now, we have still kept in contact with each other. I will miss you my sweet friend.

Love,
Debbie Hamilton

Debbie Hamilton - July 26, 2016 at 10:15 AM



“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Vance Debes - July 25, 2016 at 07:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Vance Debes - July 25, 2016 at 07:33 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Vance Debes - July 25, 2016 at 07:29 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Vance Debes - July 25, 2016 at 07:27 PM



“ She will be missed, her positive attitude, her love of church, her family and friends were what made who she is. She is so proud of her children and grandchildren, and the love the entire family have for each other was very evident whenever you were around them.

Our prayers for peace and serenity are what we wishes for all the family.

Rhoda is with her heavenly family who have passed on, but she will always be present to those who are left, letting them know that she is always watching and helping to guide them in the right directions. Love to all the families. Mary and Francis Hill, Linda Warwood and Carol Myers.

Mary Hill - July 25, 2016 at 05:02 PM



“ Rhoda was a lifelong friend, extending back to the Long Beach 6th Ward in Southern California and there were so many connections that stemmed from that wonderful ward. Our parents were friends. I fondly remember her grandmother. Her aunt was my Seminary teacher. Her uncle was my father's home teaching companion. Her brother attended my father's baptism. Due to email and facebook we managed to stay in touch, to share things we'd discover about people we knew over 50 years ago. She was ever encouraging even as recently as when my husband was baptized and when we went to the Temple.

I pray for the comfort of her siblings, her adult children, her precious grandchildren and all who care deeply for her. She was truly blessed to have avoided a long, arduous and painfully complicated end of life. Sadly, the pain will be born by her loved ones.

She is in a wonderful place now, which she richly deserves and was prepared for. Certainly she would want her family to take really, really good care of each other. Rhoda, you will be missed, but the memories are priceless.

Jeannie Griff Newman - July 25, 2016 at 04:38 PM



“ Vance Debes lit a candle in memory of Rhoda Frances Goodwin Debes



Vance Debes - July 25, 2016 at 04:28 PM



“ My favorite memory was a recent one. Walking into Renee's living room and seeing my daughter Parker Brynn with her Grandma Debes taking a nap. Picture was posted on Facebook. Two of my precious ladies just hanging out. That was a month ago.

Vance

Vance Debes - July 25, 2016 at 11:06 AM