



Wilford Walter Ruf

November 12, 1931 - June 16, 2021

Obituary for Wilford Walter Ruf

A valiant spirit returned home after an 89-year sojourn on earth.

Surrounded by family, Wilford Walter Ruf passed away peacefully in his home on June 16th 2021. He was born November 12th 1931, the 3rd of 4 children, the only son to Walter Herbert and Lina Gilgen Ruf in Bern, Switzerland. Influenced by his older sisters, he was a good student and spoke many languages including Swiss, German, French, Spanish, and English and qualified for the gymnasium (which is considered an academic honor) in Switzerland. However, at the age of 17, he immigrated with his family to the United States of America. From the moment he arrived on American soil, he considered himself an American and loved this country, heart and soul. After completing an honorable 2 ½ year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the South-Western states, he married his eternal companion, JoAnn Smith in the Idaho Falls Temple on August 18, 1955. During their 66 years of marriage, they were blessed with 10 children (two of whom are perfect 💎💎), 46 grandchildren, and 46 great-grandchildren.

Dad was an example of how one walks in faith, come what may. He helped care for his two special-needs children born at the end of their family until his dying day. His greatest legacies to those who love him are his testimony of Jesus Christ, Joseph Smith and the restored gospel. Others include, His powerful prayers, his example of sacrifice for the good of others, and the mercy which he extended to all.

His focus was rarely upon the things of this world. He often was found preparing and serving meals to family, neighbors, and visitors—his door was always open, and everyone was welcome. To the end, he was still serving the caregivers that came to assist with LaPrele and Wilford. He never boasted of himself, or sought for prominence, power or prestige. He is remembered and spoken of with humility and reverence by those who were served by, or knew him. He was no respecter of persons. He often looked for “the one” as he defended the defenseless, sought out the downtrodden, and raised the hands that hung down with his big smile and encouraging love. Throughout his life, he felt empathy

toward others in trial and uplifted them by freely sharing his testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. He would often say “no one said it would be easy; but it will be worth it.”

He loved studying the scriptures and the gospel and he loved to teach. One of his favorite callings was as Gospel Doctrine teacher, a position he held for over 20 years. His life was a reflection of what truly motivated him. He was faithful to his beliefs and covenants and magnified his callings as a servant of the Lord and as patriarch to his family.

Dad is survived by his wife JoAnn Smith Ruf; children: Marianne Tawareguci, Daphne (Dirk) Baum, Caralee (Jim) Jewkes, Emalina (John) Vincent, Rosalie Noyes, Elizabeth (Steve) HATHENBRUCK, Wilford M. Ruf, Adrian (Jill) Ruf, Lottie LaPrele Ruf, Walter (Marci) Ruf, and many grand and great grandchildren; and his sister Lotti Anderson.

Preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Lina Gilgen Ruf, his sister Eliza Ruf Fife and his sister Evelyn Ruf Smith.

Viewing and Funeral Services will be held on Monday the 21st of June at 1050 E. Galena Dr., Sandy, Ut. Viewing from 9:30-10:45 am. Funeral will follow at 11:00 am.

Comments



“ My grandma, LaVona Gilgen (daughter of Joseph Gilgen, who was the cousin of Wilford's mother Lina), knew Wilford when they were teenagers and she often spoke of how he helped her finish college. I never met him but I heard many stories of him and his parents. I thought I would share this one that my grandma wrote down: "Walter Ruf was a man who had studied the Bible and knew it was necessary for him to be baptized. Not knowing anyone who could baptize him, he went into the forest, found a stream of water, and baptized himself. Imagine his joy when he met Lina, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and learned that Christ's church was back on earth and that he could be a member. So great was Walter's faith that when his son Wilford was diagnosed with tuberculosis and was required to stay in an institution with other people who had the disease, Walter and Lina pleaded with the Lord to heal him so that he could come home and be brought up in the knowledge of the gospel. They then went to the institution to get Wilford and bring him home. The institution said they could not take him because of his TB. Walter told them Wilford did not have TB anymore. The X-ray was taken and, sure enough, Wilford had been healed. The X-ray showed only a scar where he had had TB. They had the tender mercy of being able to bring their son back home. Walter was a branch president in Switzerland for many years. He was promised by a General Authority that when it was time for him to come to America, a way would be opened. My parents were asked to help a family emigrate to America, but misunderstood who it was and instead signed papers for Walter and his family to come. The Rufs were happy to come then as their children were approaching marriage age and there were few members of the Church where they were, making it difficult for them to find a mate in the Church. Happily, in America, their children were able to find mates who shared their beliefs. Our family was close to the Ruf family and Wilford was a good friend of mine during my college years."

Sarah Neves - September 01, 2021 at 12:06 AM



“ I knew your dad for 30 yrs while working with wilford. He always had such kind words for everyone and was an inspiration to me. His dedication to his family was unlike anything I have ever experienced. His last words in every conversation I had with him were "Love Ya" . I loved him too! I'm so sorry for your loss. His passing is a loss to this world and and a gift to what lies beyond. I will miss him



Fiona Forrest-Hildebrant - July 01, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ Wow! Words cannot express how much your family meant to us. Only to hear of your sweet and beautiful Mother's passing as well. They were such valiant and hardworking, compassionate and loving each and every day of their lives. They took on challenges with a smile and never did I hear them complain. Such great examples of love for one another.

Our hearts are with you and we love you all so much. May your hearts be comforted at this time of loss and know your all being thought about in the warmest of ways. They will be missed. Love always, The Donna (Harland) Stosich Family.

Regina Pearce - June 30, 2021 at 01:32 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Wil was one of my favorite people and I enjoyed working with him. He always made me smile when I walked in the door. I have missed him over the years. □

Jana Rae Jones - June 22, 2021 at 08:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Premier Funeral Services - June 18, 2021 at 09:34 PM