



Del Westover Despain

March 20, 1954 - April 10, 2022

Del Westover Despain, 68, of Washington City, Utah passed away April 10, 2022 in St. George, Utah after a long illness.

He was born in Murray, Utah on March 20, 1954 to the late Joseph William Despain and Nina Westover Despain. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Tomkinson Despain; children: Austin Despain (Korie), Kari Despain (Ben), Jayson Despain (Ora), Staci Costa (Kevin); ten grandchildren; and his siblings, William Despain, Evon Gold, Sheryl Lloyd, and Marva Williams.

Del graduated from Dixie High School in 1972. After a two-year religious mission to Singapore and Indonesia, he was sealed by marriage to Wanda Tomkinson in the Manti Utah Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on March 12, 1976. They shared 46 years together, raising four children and making dear friends in Washington, Arizona, and Utah.

Del earned degrees from Dixie College, Utah State University, and Washington State University before earning a PhD in Watershed Management from the University of Arizona. He worked as an Associate Research Professor for the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Arizona until he passed away. During the last decade of his life, he received many distinguished awards in his field, including the Outstanding Achievement Award for Research and Academia.

From boyhood, Del was blessed with a reverence and an awe for nature, which led him to spend as much time as he could outside. He studied plant life along the Arizona Strip and on the Kaibab Plateau for many years, giving him the opportunity to hike and enjoy the outdoors during his workdays. Some of his best memories were made while exploring new places and old haunts with his children or his best friend, Dan. Del recently set a goal with his sons to summit the highest point in each of Utah's twenty-nine counties. He was able to complete twenty-five of those hikes.

Del loved the gospel of Jesus Christ. He used much of his life to serve those around him on account of his church assignments and his involvement in the Boy Scouts of America. He served in his church as a financial clerk, a youth leader, a bishop, and a stake clerk for many years in the Hurricane Utah West Stake. Del is revered by his family, friends, and coworkers for his kindness, integrity, attention to detail, and his work ethic.

The family extends their gratitude and appreciation to the oncology doctors and staff at St. George Regional Hospital for their dedicated and compassionate care of Del in his challenging, final years.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to their local Ward Missionary Fund or to <https://philanthropies.churchofjesuschrist.org/humanitarian-services>

Funeral services will be available online at <https://zoom.us/j/95191208364?pwd=UmUwblhJcXdHd0orMG0rY3hRMzhvdz09> and will be held as follows:

Sunday, April 17th

Viewing: 6:00pm-8:00pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

155 E 1050 N
Hurricane, UT

Monday, April 18th

Viewing: 12:00pm-12:45pm

Funeral Service: 1:00pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1080 W Arlington St.

Washington, UT

Internment at Washington City Cemetery

Cemetery Details

Washington City Cemetery

300 Park View Drive
Washington, UT 84780

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
155 East 1050 North
Hurricane, UT 84737

Viewing

APR 18. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1080 West Arlington Street
Washington, UT 84780

Funeral Service

APR 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1080 West Arlington Street
Washington, UT 84780

Tribute Wall



“ I just heard of Del's passing this morning. Del and I often collaborated and worked for many years together when I was with the Henry Mountains Field Station. We trained and gave presentations on VGIS monitoring to the BLM and Park Service in Utah and AZ. He was a very cutting edge person, always on top of technology. That smile on his face was always planted there and it made your day. I learned a lot from him about collaboration and teaching people and patience. You will always have a spot in my heart forever. I am so glad to have crossed paths with you. Enjoy your journey across the rainbow my friend.

Alvin Whitehair - April 29, 2022 at 01:09 PM



“ Del was one of the most unique individuals I ever met. His knowledge of ecosystems, ecological dynamics and technology made him extraordinary professionally. His gentle nature and sincerity made him precious personally. He was a natural mentor and generations of Rangeland Management Specialists will carry on his legacy. He was a dear friend who will be missed immensely.

Judith Dyess - April 21, 2022 at 08:05 PM

BS

“ Sorry for the loss we all feel, but you as family feel it most of all. I had the pleasure of working with Del. He was always positive and pleasant. He knew his stuff and developed a computerized monitoring system that could analyze all the data that the Az strip office had and it didn't stop there. He went on to take it to the Forest Service and the BLM throughout the west. It was great boon to the agencies and the users. He was always so calm and quiet but right and professional. I am honored to call him a friend. We will all miss him. It is great to have a testimony of the gospel, so we know we will see him again if we can live like he did.

Bob Sandberg

Bob Sandberg - April 18, 2022 at 12:07 PM

BO

“ Dr. Del , you were one of kind ole friend . we spoke of the fun hunts that you and your son's went on for years... One time your wife said you were playing peakaboo with a giant buck, and your wife drew a picture of the beast. I always had a picture in my mind of that deer even though I never saw it just from the drawing. On other occasions del and I spoke of monitoring of course and one day we were traveling the the great sand hills and Del was driving and we got stuck in the sand. I remember all the moral support Del offered as we shoveled and shoveled to get out LOL. Del and I fought heat and Knats for years as he perfected his monitoring system but I tell you there was never a more genuine person or kinder soul than the one Del Despain. Love you Man, till we meet again!

Ben Ott - April 15, 2022 at 07:44 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Del Westover Despain.*



April 14, 2022 at 09:03 PM



“ *I worked with Del at the University of Arizona, and it was such a pleasure and a joy to work with him. He was so very kind, and I always enjoyed his visits. He had such a gentle soul, and the way he treated you made you want to be a better person. To his family, I hope you find comfort in knowing that he lived a good life and that he made other people's lives better just by knowing him. He was someone special, and he will be missed.*

Lynn Frazier - April 14, 2022 at 06:09 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Del's wife, children, grandchildren, and extended family. Del was of course a consummate professional whose inventive mind created an indelible legacy via the collection of rangeland monitoring data that are as invaluable today as they will be for generations to come. But what I will miss most about Del is his calming and kind spirit. Just looking at his picture as I type this gives me that familiar feeling of ease that I am certain everyone felt whenever they were around Del. Rest in peace my friend.*



Larry Howery - April 14, 2022 at 01:10 PM

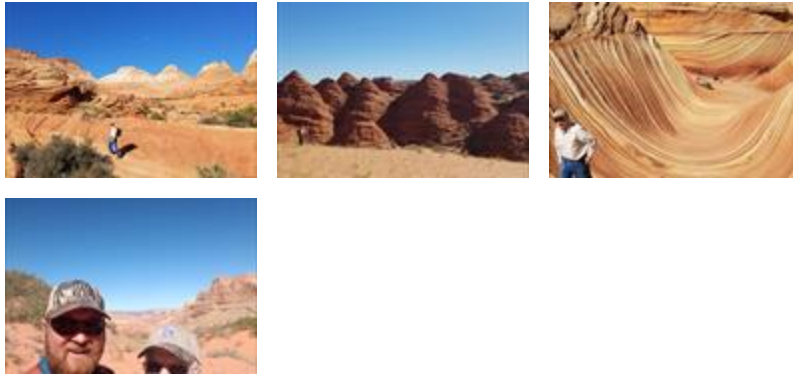
CP

“ *Del was a true pioneer in rangeland technology, an expert in field techniques, a passionate developer, a great team leader, and a wonderful friend. I am grateful to have been able to spend so much time with him learning, laughing, and growing together. His kindness and leadership will be sincerely missed.*

Chaz Perry - April 14, 2022 at 12:46 AM

CP

“ *4 files added to the album Hiking To The Wave*



Chaz Perry - April 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

OP

“ *My prayers and condolences to Wanda and family. Del came into my office a couple years ago at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region, Branch of Indian Self Determination Office. He surprised as he introduced himself as Wanda's husband. He offered to give me a ride to Fillmore. He was very professional and took his job seriously. I learned he loved outdoors and enjoyed working with all people with different backgrounds. I was elated he looked me up. He will never be forgotten. Rest In Peace Del, until we meet again. 💖💖💖*

Orlinda Platero - April 13, 2022 at 10:34 PM