



Donald Carlyle Whittaker

March 16, 1927 - October 14, 2013

DONALD C. WHITTAKER ~ OBITUARY Santa Clara, Utah 1927-2013

Our favorite cowboy mounted his horse and rode off into eternity early Monday morning, October 14, 2013. He left behind his loving wife, Joyce Wittwer Whittaker and his children: Maridon (William) Crosby; NaNon (Kevin) Bulloch; Bret (Joni) Whittaker; Leslie (Craig) Lance; Douglas (Gina) Prisbrey; Brent (Jodi) Prisbrey; Shari (Michael) Ballard; twenty three grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, Clyde (Thelma) Whittaker and Charles (Trudy) Whittaker.

Donald was born in a log cabin in Circleville, Utah on 16 March 1927, the first-born son of Taylor Carlyle and Ruby Dalton Whittaker. Donald was raised on a cattle ranch and he grew up under the influence of rough riding, tough talking, bow legged cowboys. When he was in his teens, he worked for Ebenezer Parker, the youngest brother of Butch Cassidy.

Donald was the first Eagle Scout in the Garfield, Utah Stake. His three sons and most of his grandsons have also achieved that rank. He also earned the Master M-Men Award.

He completed his high school graduation requirements several months before graduation and joined the Navy, serving in the U.S. Naval Medical Corp during World War II. He was walking guard duty at the San Diego Naval Station at the exact time his high school class was graduating at home. After his discharge, he served an LDS Mission to the Northwestern States Mission.

Donald valued education. He earned Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate

degrees. As a teacher and principal he taught all grades and all subjects. He was an elementary and high school principal and counselor, Superintendent of Schools of Piute County, Director of Central Utah Educational Services, and Co-ordinator of Federal Funding at Dixie College. He was also a Real Estate Broker.

Donald's Doctorate Dissertation was written on "Revealed Concepts Counseling" and he used those concepts in counseling. He taught many his philosophy that "so much in life depends on attitude.... To do the best we can and then choosing to be happy about our circumstances, whatever they may be. Don't wait for tomorrow.... be happy today."

Donald was a historian and author. He wrote and published several family history books, and gave seminars and lectures on his "Keys to Success" and "Take Control of Your Life" publications.

He served as City Clerk of Circleville, Utah a number of years and then as Mayor for two terms.

Donald had a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served faithfully in many callings, including Stake Mission President, YMMIA Stake Superintendent, Stake High Council, Executive Secretary to the Regional Representative of the Twelve Apostles, and his favorite, as a Sunday School Teacher (especially Gospel Doctrine). He loved to attend the temple and completed thousands of endowments. He claimed to have read the Book of Mormon for the 21st time on his 21st birthday, from cover to cover in eight hours and 20 minutes.

One of Donald's favorite scriptures was 2 Nephi 2:22 (25) "Man is that he might have joy" (spelled with a 'T' for toy) Horses, Snowmobiles, 4 wheelers, boats, horses, yard sales, guns (hunting), horses, etc. Donald built a 7 story tree house in their front yard. His motto was "Have Fun.... Be Responsible!"

A special thanks to Southern Utah Hospice who made it possible for Donald to spend his final days in his home.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the Santa Clara Valley LDS Chapel, 3040 West Santa Clara Drive. A

visitation will be held at the chapel prior to the services from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30. Interment will follow at the Santa Clara Cemetery.

Friends and family are invited to share condolences online at www.SereniCareofStGeorge.com. Arrangements are under the direction of SereniCare Funeral Home of St. George, 986-2085

Cemetery Details

Santa Clara City Cemetery

3900 Ancestor Way
Santa Clara, UT

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 17. 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

Santa Clara 3rd Ward
3040 W. Santa Clara Dr.
Santa Clara, UT

Service

OCT 17. 1:00 PM (MT)

Santa Clara 3rd Ward
3040 W. Santa Clara Dr.
Santa Clara, UT

Tribute Wall

SM

“ We were so sorry to hear of Mr. Whittaker's passing. Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.
Yours truly,
Sharon Richens, MD and the staff at Richens Eye Center

Sharon Richens, MD - October 24, 2013 at 07:36 PM

DJ

“ We have such sweet memories of Don as he opened his arms to welcome us to Circleville, Utah in 1970. JoAnn and I were young marrieds with one small child and I was taking my first teaching assignment as a seminary teacher at Piute High School. He opened his heart and his home to us, and gave us wise and timely counsel that helped us acclimate to a new environment and succeed in a difficult teaching assignment. Nanon was one of my first students and we remain close friends over all these years. We will never forget Don's kindness and his happy attitude. In recent years we have loved seeing him in the temple in St. George. We will always be grateful for our association with this wonderful man. We send our love and condolences to the family during this tender time of transistion. Dan & JoAnn Jones

Daniel M. Jones - October 17, 2013 at 09:42 AM

RC

“ I first met Don Whittaker when he was a federal financial grantsman at Dixie State College. He was the instrument to help me obtain the first National Science Foundation Award to come to Dixie State College called "CAUSE," which stands for Comprehensive Assistance to Undergraduate Science Education. This made possible the study of basic learning principles of: 1. allowing students to progress at their own rate of learning, 2. Using varying media and mode approaches, 3. Using small learning units which made learning fun and easy for students, 4. Allowing repeatable formative testing, and student selected learning units and other significant learning principles. This resulted in the highest student long term retention ever recorded in education and significantly increase the affective domain of students. Don's contribution to education is little known. And his courage to do what he was told by others couldn't be done against much opposition made happen this miracle of education and became a wonderful significant stepping stone of educational progress. I have great thanks and deep gratitude to Don C. Whittaker for what he did, which was impossible without him. As an ordinance worker I was also privileged to visit with Don as he attended the St. George Utah temple in his evening of life. What a great example to all! I express my sincere sympathy for the loss and strength the family and many feel of Don Whittaker, especially Joyce at this time. God bless you this day and always. Kindest thoughts and wonderful memories,
Robert E Coombs, Ph.D. (Bob)

Robert E Coombs - October 16, 2013 at 10:48 AM

MJ

“ My dear friend, principal, and neighbor I would mourn, however, I know you are in the arms of our Father In Heaven> I remember your smile and all the wise council you gave me, thank you Donald for being warm, wonderful and wise. I will always cherish our friendship. To your family I send condolences and love. Maureen Gass Jones

Maureen Gass Jones - October 15, 2013 at 01:12 PM