



## Durward "Du" Harvey Wadsworth

April 15, 1943 - March 22, 2023

Durward "Du " Harvey Wadsworth, 79, of Hurricane, Utah, passed away in his safe nurturing home being cared for by his family after a long and valiant battle with colon cancer.

Durward was born on April 15, 1943, in Hurricane, Utah to Carl Eugene and Leah Ballard Wadsworth in an apartment above the Eugene Theater ("the Show House"), owned by his parents. The day after his birth, Hurricane residents were given free entrance to the movie theater to celebrate the birth. He was the fourth of six children and spent his childhood in Hurricane working on the family farm, helping run the family show house, eating copious amounts of popcorn, and cavorting all over southern Utah with friends and cousins.

Du attended Hurricane High School (class of 1961), where he developed lifelong friendships and an appreciation for learning. His childhood was an idyllic time. The only blot was the loss of his father, Gene Wadsworth, to a massive heart attack in 1960.

As a college student at the College of Southern Utah, Du earned degrees in Social Work and Elementary Education. He taught in Las Vegas, Nevada and Washington County, Utah as an elementary school teacher for 30 years, retiring in 2003. Beloved of his students for his dry sense of humor and adoration of Louis L'Amour.

He married Gwendolyn Brady Wadsworth, his best part, on July 15, 1976, in the Manti Temple, Utah. They spent their almost 47 years of marriage picking fruit, going to Lake Powell, traveling, and spending time with their fantastic 5 children and 18 grandchildren. Their children gave them a run for their money at times but have all turned out to be fine outstanding citizens.

Durward was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, serving a full-time mission to the Gulf States Mission from 1962 to 1964. Du even slept through a hurricane in New Orleans on his mission and lived to tell the tale. He served in many church callings, including a bishopric and as a bishop. He was a rock to his family, always fulfilling his priesthood duties, and going where he was called, a kind and gentlemanly friend.

He was a devoted husband, father, brother, and grandfather. After retirement, he planted 300 peaches with his brother, John. He skillfully pruned the trees and sold the fruit each summer. Going fishing and checking on the cattle with buddies were some of his favorite pastimes. It was referred to as going to the mountain to get a drink of water. Traveling was a favorite hobby, Durward and wife had great adventures traveling to New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Egypt, and Jordan. He loved going to Kolob and Smith's Mesa (his grandfather, Harvey Ballard's homestead).

Du is survived by his loving wife, Gwen; children, Elissa (Craig) Smith, Nicholas (Cristina) Wadsworth, Joshua (Heather) Wadsworth, Charish (Ryan) LeFevre, Levi (Audri) Wadsworth, and 18 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 2 sisters, and 1 brother. And his best friend, Bob Jepson.

There will be a viewing Sunday, March 26, 5pm to 7pm and Monday, March 27, 9:30am to 10:45am. Funeral services will be held on Monday, March 27 at 11am. All events will be held at the LDS Chapel located at 155 E. 1050 N., in Hurricane, Utah.

Please click the link below to join the family in celebrating the life of Durward Harvey Wadsworth.

<https://zoom.us/j/96542500656>

Webinar ID: 965 4250 0656

# Previous Events

## Viewing

MAR 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Hurricane 8th Ward Chapel  
155 East 1050 North  
Hurricane, UT 84737

## Viewing

MAR 27. 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM (MT)

Hurricane 8th Ward Chapel  
155 East 1050 North  
Hurricane, UT 84737

## Funeral Service

MAR 27. 11:00 AM (MT)

Hurricane 8th Ward Chapel  
155 East 1050 North  
Hurricane, UT 84737

# Tribute Wall

EW

“Gwen, I am sad to hear of Durward's passing. Please know how much I love you and pray for you. ❤️ Ellen Winn Buxton



Ellen Winn - March 29, 2023 at 12:03 PM

JF

“So sorry to hear of Durward's passing; he was my 5th grade teacher at Washington Elementary, and I just loved him. What a great man. I'm grateful for the time I had in his class.  
Josh Foremaster

Josh Foremaster - March 28, 2023 at 11:58 PM



“1 file added to the album Funeral Recording



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - March 28, 2023 at 02:19 PM

TB

“Gwen, we are sure going to miss seeing Durward. You guys are an important part of our life for your example of friendship. We love you guys and send our condolences for your loss. Our prayers are with you. Love, Travis and Katharine Bradshaw.

Travis Bradshaw - March 28, 2023 at 10:59 AM

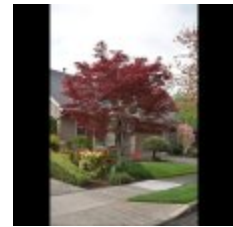
MS

“ I was happy to reconnect via telephone with Du after Bob Jepson's passing. He was a good college roommate and friend. I still remember weekend "socials", Fred, his blue Chevrolet and Murdies Corner. Mitch Seaman

Mitch Seaman - March 28, 2023 at 09:15 AM



“ Red Leaf Japanese Maple was purchased for the family of Durward "Du" Harvey Wadsworth.



March 26, 2023 at 04:40 PM

BB

“ Gwen, so sad to hear about your loss. I send my condolences to you and your family, and may God bless you all. A friend always. Bruce Bundy.

Bruce Bundy - March 26, 2023 at 03:41 PM

DF

“ Enjoyed our shared time together. Off to the next great adventure and new youth. The world is a better place because of your short time here.



Don Fawson - March 26, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Durward "Du" Harvey Wadsworth.

March 26, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Durward "Du" Harvey Wadsworth.



March 24, 2023 at 08:24 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Durward "Du" Harvey Wadsworth.



March 24, 2023 at 07:38 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Durward "Du" Harvey Wadsworth.



March 24, 2023 at 05:00 PM



“ Jackie Morris lit a candle in memory of Durward "Du" Harvey Wadsworth



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**Jackie Morris** - March 24, 2023 at 03:51 PM



*Prayer to you Gwen and your family-stay stong-Jackie Anderson Morris*

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**Jackie Morris** - March 24, 2023 at 03:52 PM

CW

“ *Much love to Aunt Gwen, Elissa, Nic, Josh, Charish, and Levi. Uncle Durward was such a special guy and will be greatly missed. I remember the twinkle in his eye, the inappropriate songs about certain students, and his wise words of advice. When my dad died and my three uncles came for the funeral, it was like a wave of comfort and relief just washed over the house when they walked through the door. Uncle Durward could always be counted on for a smile! May you find comfort in knowing that families are forever. - Carrie White*

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**Carrie White** - March 24, 2023 at 01:37 PM