



## Gerald Shurtleff Budge

May 25, 1937 - June 23, 2024

Gerald Shurtleff Budge, 87, died on June 23, 2024, at his home in St. George, UT.

Gerald was born on May 25, 1937, in Rexburg, ID to Helen Shurtleff Budge and Rulon Rushton Budge. On the day of his birth, his dad drove through town with the windows down, shouting, "I have a boy!" Gerald and Rulon's close bond was a touchstone of Gerald's life. Rulon, a much-loved teacher and coach, took Gerald along to his games and the two spent many hours playing sports, fishing, and exploring the wilds of Idaho.

Gerald lived most of his life in Burley, ID, where he made lifelong friends and met his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Ruth McBride. In high school, Gerald was a diligent student and accomplished athlete, lettering in basketball, football, baseball, and golf. He then attended Brigham Young University, cementing his love of BYU sports.

After marrying Ruth on March 15, 1956, in the Salt Lake City Temple, Gerald and Ruth moved to Chicago where Gerald attended Northwestern University Dental School, graduating with a D.D.S. degree in 1961. While in Chicago, they welcomed their first son, Scott, in 1956. In 1962, while serving two years at an Air Force dental clinic in Minot, ND, their daughter, Leslie, joined the family. Their third child, David, was born in Burley, ID in 1968.

Gerald ran a thriving family dental practice in Burley from 1963-1994. During his career, he served in all offices of the Idaho Dental Association. He was also President of the Idaho Association of Dentistry for Children and a founding Board Member of Delta Dental Plan of Idaho. In 2008, Gerald used his dental skills to treat patients during a humanitarian mission trip to Peru with Leslie.

Gerald had a special affinity for the outdoors and loved spending time fishing and exploring in the Tetons and Sun Valley. At the urging of then-thirteen-year-old Leslie, he picked up skiing in his forties and the two spent nearly every winter Saturday hitting the slopes together. He continued to ski well into his seventies.

Gerald was a student of history and greatly enjoyed traveling to Europe in his later years. He was a meticulous trip planner and those who traveled with him enjoyed the way he made trips feel safe and effortless. In all things, Gerald always took diligent care of those he loved.

After retiring to St. George in 1996, Gerald embraced his new home, golfing often, taking frequent hikes, and delighting his grandchildren with visits to hidden slot canyons. He and Ruth spent nine years serving as ordinance workers in the St. George Temple. Gerald then served an additional two years as Temple Recorder. Throughout his life, Gerald was a dedicated member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, fulfilling many callings with his characteristic integrity.

Gerald is survived by his wife Ruth, daughter Leslie (Dave), son David (Nicole), ten grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and his sister Marilyn and brother Steven. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Joyce, his son Scott, and his granddaughter Zoe.

Services will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Chapel located at 1610 North Dixie Downs Road, St. George, Utah with a visitation from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. He will be interred at Pleasant View Cemetery in Burley, Idaho on July 8, 2024. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Humanitarian Aid Fund of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Services are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 6. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (MT)

North Dixie Downs Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
1610 North Dixie Downs RD  
St. George, UT 84770

## Funeral Service

JUL 6. 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM (MT)

North Dixie Downs Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
1610 North Dixie Downs RD  
St. George, UT 84770

## Graveside Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Pleasant View Cemetery  
Pleasantview Ln  
Burley, ID

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Audio Recording*



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**Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah** - July 09, 2024 at 12:39 PM

PA

“ *Very sorry to know that another of the Burley 5th Ward greets is gone. I loved the Budge family, his wife and Leslie, in particular. Their lovely home had been a property that remains prominent in my mind whenever I return home to Burley. While he wasn't my dentist, I knew of the respect he held from those in Burley for his calm demeanor and quiet professionalism.*

*My love to the Budge family!*

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**Paul Allred** - July 08, 2024 at 03:49 AM

WR

“ *We want to offer our sympathy at this time to Ruth and family . We served with Gerald and Ruth In the Temple for many years and grew to love and respect them so much. May the Lord bless you with peace and comfort at this time . Love Weston and Colleen Randall*

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**Weston and Colleen Randall** - June 28, 2024 at 12:19 AM

JR

*As Burley Lions Club Members, Dr. Budge and I were partnered several years in a row to sell brooms in Burley Neighborhoods as a fundraiser. I always really liked him, enjoyed his sense of humor and had a great time as we peddled our goods. Genuinely one of the good guys!*

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**Jerry Randklev** - July 03, 2024 at 10:06 AM

DM

*Heart-felt condolences to all of the family. I was a loyal patient, and struggled not to laugh whenever I was in "the chair". Funniest dentist ever. Sat in on classes that he taught at church. He was really good. Always considered him my good friend.*

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**Doug Manning** - July 03, 2024 at 11:06 AM