



Harold Wolfgang Bodon

May 19, 1936 - December 23, 2023

Our loving Harold – husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend, passed away on December 23 rd at the home of his son and daughter-in-law in Lehi, Utah.

Harold was born on May 19 th , 1936, in Stuttgart, Germany to Heinrich (Henry) Bodon and Lina (Carolyn) Bullerdick Bodon, the fifth of six children. He attended elementary and secondary school in Germany. His family immigrated to the United States and arrived in Salt Lake City on April 8 th , 1952.

He lived in Salt Lake City for nine years. In 1955 he started college at Brigham Young University and later transferred to the University of Utah where he graduated cum laude in 1959.

After his sophomore year he met Sonja Nelly Zbinden who had immigrated from Switzerland. After a short engagement period they were married and sealed in the Salt Lake City Temple on August 23 rd , 1957, and were happily married for 65 years.

His first job after graduating from the University of Utah was teaching French and German at Clearfield High School in Clearfield, Utah. After his first year there, he moved with his family to Fremont, California, where he taught French and German at Newark High School, in Newark, California. In 1964, he started a soccer program at Newark High School. He also attended California State College at Hayward where he was awarded a master's degree in educational administration in 1966. He also did graduate work at

the University of Nevada at Reno and at Michigan State University.

After teaching at Newark High School for seven years and at Ohlone College for one year he decided to go back to BYU to work on a PhD in French Literature and German Linguistics, which he accomplished in 1979. He then took a position at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Missouri where he taught for 25 years.

He also started the soccer program at Missouri Southern State University and coached the team for 17 years, being voted “Coach of the Year” in the NAIA, District 16 in 1979. In 1985 he traveled with his team to Europe where they played games in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland and came

back home with a combined record of 6 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties. In 1998 the soccer field at Missouri Southern became known as the “Hal Bodon Soccer Field” and in 2012, he was inducted into the Missouri Southern Athletic Hall of Fame.

He also was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints holding several leadership positions. Some of these are Elders Quorum President, High Counselor, Bishop, Counselor in the Stake Presidency and Stake President. After Harold’s retirement the church called him and his wife to be Mission President of the Haiti, Port au Prince Mission where they served for two years.

After his mission he and his wife Sonja took up residency in Ivins, Utah where they lived for 25 years. 2000 – 2010 he was appointed an Adjunct Professor in French, German and English as a second Language at Dixie State College, in St. George Utah. Also, in 2000 he organized the Ivins Soccer League in Ivins, Utah and in 2004 was awarded “Volunteer of the Year” and was appointed Grand Marshall of the Pioneer Day Parade in Ivins. In 2010 – 2012 he was appointed Director of the Soccer Tournament for the Huntsman World Senior Games also in St. George, Utah. During this time in southern Utah, they made many friends and were blessed with wonderful experiences with the people there and commented many times how

fortunate they were to have found this place to settle down.

Harold will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

He is survived by his son Michael (Amber) two grandchildren, Carson and Rachel Reynolds Bodon, and two step grandchildren Madison and Eli Baldwin.

He was preceded in death by his loving Parents Heinrich and Lina Bodon, wife Sonja, son Peter, son Tommy and step grandchild McKelle Baldwin who was truly welcomed in his home.

The family extends their appreciation for all who helped Harold along the way. A special thanks goes out to McKella, Riley, and Daniella who helped Harold in the last few weeks he was with us.

The viewing will be at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 30th, at Ivins Utah 2nd ward at 625 E. Center St. and a celebration of his life will follow at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel. Interment will be at the Ivins City Cemetery, 200 West and 400 North in Ivins, Utah.

Cemetery Details

Ivins Cemetery

200 West 400 North
Ivins, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 30. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (MT)

Red Cliffs 2nd Ward
625 E Center St. Ivins
Ivins, UT 84738

Celebration of Life

DEC 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Red Cliffs 2nd Ward
625 E. Center Street
Ivins, UT

Burial

DEC 30. 12:30 PM - 12:40 PM (MT)

Ivins Cemetery
200 West 400 North
Ivins, UT

Tribute Wall

GJ

“ Herr Bodon was the best German Teacher at MSSU! He understood that we all needed to be able to hold our own at the German Biergartens of Oktoberfest. We raise a stein to you Herr Bodon!

*"In Munchen steht ein Hofbrauhaus: Eins, zwei, g'suffa!
Da läuft so manches Fäßchen aus:
Eins, zwei, g'suffa!
Da hat so mancher brave Mann:
Eins, zwei, g'suffa!
Gezeigt was er so vertragen kann
Schon früh am Morgen fing er an
Und spät am Abend kam er heraus
So schön ist's im Hofbräuhaus."*

Gina Johnson - February 07, 2025 at 04:18 PM

RD

“ Michael and all the Bodon family, I know this is a tardy response but hopefully a loving memory of people we loved. Sitting here today and the thought came to search for your Dad & Mother. The last time we saw them was years ago in Ivins, but the memories that are most dear to us is from our time living in Missouri from 1972 to 1978. They were like second parents to us and our young family. I took pictures for your Dad at the MSSU soccer games which I think I still have. Every time we hear “As I have loved you” the first thing that comes to mind is Sonya Bodon. Tears well up as we think of her singing that song. If you see this post know how much we love your Mom & Dad. Lives well lived. Great faith in Father’s eternal plan where we will see them again

Russell & Nancy Drake - March 24, 2024 at 05:11 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the album *Photos of Harold W. Bodon*



Chris Ash - December 31, 2023 at 05:08 PM

CA

“ To Mike & Family,
Our deepest sympathy in your dads passing.
Your dad & mom were fantastic people.
Many years ago, your dad introduced the worlds game to a
small town in Joplin Mo. that would forever change my life.

Chris Ash & Family

Chris Ash - December 31, 2023 at 05:07 PM

JE

“ Harold and Sonja were some of the best neighbors anyone could ask for. My mom and I spent a lot of time sitting on the bench with them talking about Switzerland, Missouri, and "the big red mountain." They were so kind to us and we are so grateful to have known them. Harold and Sonja were one of a kind and the neighborhood hasn't been the same without them. Our condolences to the Bodon family at this time. - JP and LP

Jennifer - December 30, 2023 at 08:25 PM

JA

“ My deepest sympathies to Michael and the Bodon family. Of all his academic degrees and his service to his faith, I still believe Harold's major accomplishment was the founding of the Soccer program and seeing it to Varsity status at Missouri Southern.

I know I am not the only teammate that still has fond memories of the 1979 season of 16 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw, including 13 clean sheets, with a #10 NAIA National Ranking that earned Coach Bodon, District 16 Coach of the Year honors.

His efforts to promote and develop the "beautiful game" provided many individuals opportunities on the pitch and also developed many friendships that still endure today. Thanks Coach, and enjoy a bowl of ice cream with Sonja!

*Joe Angeles '82
St. Louis, MO*

Joe Angeles - December 30, 2023 at 07:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Photos of Harold W. Bodon



Alva Myers - December 30, 2023 at 01:10 PM

CH

I served in the Red Cliffs Stake Sunday School with Harold Bodon (and Raymond Peterson) sometime around 2007. Right away I felt he had a special, loving, faithful persona. I loved our times together. His wonderful funeral yesterday added even more appreciation for his inspiring character.

Charles Hurt

Charles Hurt - December 31, 2023 at 02:31 PM



“ *He was my Bishop when I moved to Joplin in 1973. I was his Executive Secretary. He sent me on my mission to Italy Rome. He attended my wedding reception after the mission and he was in the circle when I blessed my new daughter. He has been an integral part of my life since I joined the Church. I can never forget him, his counsel and his humor. He was a rock in my life. RIP Bishop.*

Alva Myers - December 30, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ *Alva Myers lit a candle in memory of Harold Wolfgang Bodon*



Alva Myers - December 30, 2023 at 01:00 PM

JF

“ *President Bodon was the stake president when my parents and I joined the church in Pittsburg. He was an amazing man and one that made me feel special and loved. I remember his joyful laugh. I know he will be missed by his family and all that knew him.*



Jeff Ferlo - December 30, 2023 at 10:20 AM

SA

“ I only had two French classes with Dr. Bodon while he was at MSSU (then MSSC), but he stands out in my memory as a kind man, who was passionate about his teaching, and who truly cared about his students. His many anecdotes in the classroom helped to make his teaching more effective. I was blessed to be one of his students. Sending prayers of comfort to the family. Spencer Aggus

Spencer Aggus - December 30, 2023 at 02:19 AM

DB

“ Harold and Sonja are amazing people and their presence made the world a better place. We love the Bodon's, and we feel blessed that we had the opportunity to know Harold and Sonja. For many years we were in the same ward in the St. George Red Cliffs Stake. They were always so loving and kind. They served others tirelessly and they freely and often shared their testimony of Jesus Christ. We are happy that Harold and Sonja are now reunited. They are an inspiration to us and will truly be missed. Prayers and condolences to Michael and the extended Bodon Family. Sincerely, Daren and RaeBeth Barney

Daren Barney - December 30, 2023 at 12:56 AM

DV

“ President Bodon was a wonderful leader to work with in the Joplin Stake Presidency - kind and concerned for those who were having spiritual or temporal problems.

David Vandagriff - December 29, 2023 at 11:48 PM

HW

“ *President Boden is just a giant of a man, in every way. His jolly nature, positive outlook, and good humor were contagious! His church presentations (“sermons”) were always highly entertaining, captivating, applicable, and memorable - making the gospel come alive. He was my church leader (stake president) when I was a teenager and always had kind and encouraging words for me. (I am sure he did for countless others as well.) He was brilliant, yet very approachable. He had a gift for ministering to the one and making you feel as if he had all the time in the world. I can remember one specific time that he called me aside and talked to me about my goals, listened, and gave ideas of how I could accomplish them. I can remember soccer players and classmates, from MSSC, speaking so highly of Coach Bodon. Harold’s love and admiration for his dear Sonja set an example for all the sheep of his fold of how to adore and cherish their spouse. I am sure they are singing together in heaven.*



Heather (Falls) Willard - December 29, 2023 at 03:23 AM

HW

Heather (Falls) Willard

Heather Falls Willard - December 29, 2023 at 03:32 AM

DW

“ *Harold Bodon and his wife have been dear friends of our family since they moved to Joplin over 50 years ago. My mother remained in contact with them ever since they moved away until her passing two years ago. Harold was a major influence for good in my life, an influence felt to day. He recruited me to play soccer for him the first year (1972) he started a team at Missouri Southern State College and I have played and/or coached ever since. He was my religious leader for several years and I still recall and contemplate the advice and direction he gave me. My condolences to the family during this time of sorrow.*

Don Warren - December 28, 2023 at 03:02 PM

AS

“ *He recruited me and my brother Dennis Johnson from Sedalia Missouri even when not varsity sports, until we started winning, and got varsity! remember when Mrs. Bodan bring their Pet big St. Bernard dog would chase the ball and probably could put it in his mouth he was so kind though I wouldn't go get the ball from me*

Aaron Johnson (74-78yr.Soccer Mo. South) - December 28, 2023 at 02:19 AM