



## Howard Molen Roper Jr

November 25, 1938 - August 25, 2019

Howard Molen Roper Jr, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend passed away peacefully after a courageous battle of pancreatic cancer surrounded by his family on August 25, 2019.

Howard was born on November 25, 1938, in Salem Utah, to Howard Molen Sr and Lois Roper. He and his 5 siblings were raised on the family farm in Salem. He married Carolyn Huff (later divorced) together they had a daughter. He then married Mary Jane Deuel on February 12, 1965 in Spring Lake Utah. They were married for 54 years, together they had 3 children. He was a member of The Church of Jesus of Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The love for working on a farm never left him as he graduated from Spanish Fork High, he went to Snow College and received an associate degree. He continued his education at Brigham Young University where he graduated in 1966 and started working for the Bureau of Reclamation, then moved to the Soil Conservation Service (Natural Resources Conservation Service). He worked for 33 years and retired in 1998. During his career, he moved his family to several cities around the state of Utah where he acquired many close friends. He retired while living in Cedar City. In 1963, he joined the Utah National Guard. He served in both the 1/116 Engineers in Springville and 2/222 FA in Cedar City. He retired in 1994 after 27 years of service. He took pride in serving his country. He loved to spend time at Panguitch Lake. There

are not many roads that he hasn't traveled around the Lake during all seasons of the year, whether by truck, snowmobile, or UTV. He loved making things out of wood; there was nothing that he couldn't build. All we had to do was say, "Dad, look at how cool this is!" and he would get to work and make us one. He loved spending time with MJ on the golf course. After retirement they moved to St. George. He loved providing service to various civic groups throughout his life. He was a member of the Elks Lodge for many years. He taught us all the meaning of hard work and if he didn't feel we were working hard enough he would let us know. He left his mark at the house complex they lived at, in doing many landscaping projects. He also spent many hours teasing his children, grandchildren and friends.

Howard is survived by his wife, Mary Jane Deuel Roper; children Janalee, Stephanie (Murray) Condie, Jason (Amy) Roper, Jamie (Sam) Rex; 2 brothers and 3 sisters. He had 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Preceded in death by his parents.

The family would like to thank the staff at Dixie Regional Medical Center for the care they provided. We also would like to thank Encompass Health for the care they provided in his last hours. In lieu of flowers the family ask that you donate to the Huntsman Cancer Center in his name.

Funeral services will be on Saturday, August 31, 2019, at the East Ridge Ward, located at 912 South 1740 East, St. George at 10:30 am. A viewing will be held at the same location on Friday August 30th from 7-8 pm and from 9:00-10:15 am prior to the service. Interment with military honors will be at the Panguitch City Cemetery at 2:30 pm.

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at [www.SerenityStG.com](http://www.SerenityStG.com). Arrangements and memorial tree planting by Serenity Funeral Home, 986-2085.



# Tribute Wall

TB

“*Mary Jane, my thoughts are with you. We will miss Howard and all the others who have gone this summer in our Lake Panguitch group. My prayers are with you at this sad time. Tiny Burkholder*

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**Tiny Burkholder** - August 31, 2019 at 08:24 PM

AB

“*This memory is from Tony Beals. I hired on with what was then the USDA's Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) in 1977. About a year later still just a snotty nose kid so to speak I was transferred to Kanab, UT to serve as the district conservationist in a one-man office. Howard was already a seasoned veteran working as the district conservationist I believe in the Cedar City office at the time. Both offices were in the same SCS area and so I met Howard at area meetings. I know Howard came across to be a little gruff but that never stopped me from liking him. He knew what he was doing and if you listened to him you could learn a lot. If you were hard working and willing to learn Howard was definitely there for you. Howard knew how to get things done. I know the family feels a huge loss but I want them to know there are others that feel that loss along with them and a wish that they will feel supported and supported.*

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**Anthony Beals** - August 29, 2019 at 02:53 PM

KC

“*He will always be Grandpa Howard at our house. A good man.*

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**Kerri Cooper** - August 26, 2019 at 07:51 PM

JA

*My dear Mary Jane, I was just made aware of Howard's passing today. We are so sorry and send our love and condolences. You have always been a treasured friend as young Spring Lakers. So many mornings JoLene and I waited as you brushed your teeth many mornings before going on up the hill to school! I'll always treasure these memories with love. I knew your dear mother-in-law since I was tiny because of their close friendship with my mom and dad. I didn't know Howard very well but feel he must have been a wonderful husband and father because he was a part of you. I pray for peace and our Savior's love to encircle You everyday! Hugs to you from your old friends, Ron and Jennie Ruth Alvey. 🥹🥹*

Jennie Alvey - September 17, 2019 at 01:09 PM

JA

*My dear Mary Jane, I was just made aware of Howard's passing today. We are so sorry and send our love and condolences. You have always been a treasured friend as young Spring Lakers. So many mornings JoLene and I waited as you brushed your teeth many mornings before going on up the hill to school! I'll always treasure these memories with love. I knew your dear mother-in-law since I was tiny because of their close friendship with my mom and dad. I didn't know Howard very well but feel he must have been a wonderful husband and father because he was a part of you. I pray for peace and our Savior's love to encircle You everyday! Hugs to you from your old friends, Ron and Jennie Ruth Alvey. ❤️*

Jennie Alvey - September 17, 2019 at 01:15 PM

SR

“🙏❤️ God Rest our Dear Cousin Howard's Precious Soul. We have so many great memories spending part of our summers with him when "we" were kids, and the rest of the family in the Salem "Roper" House. When I was 13, your Howard was with us when I bagged my first Deer and he helped me a lot. We also enjoyed getting together for a big camp out/family reunion in Panguitch. Lots of great memories with your Dad that we will always cherish. Big Hugs and Big Love to Mary Jane, Janalee, Jason and everyone in our family, from all of us in San Diego. 🙏❤️

Stan Rich - August 26, 2019 at 07:28 PM

RL

“ Great memories of the years of Guard Service, snowmobiling, four wheeling, golfing, trip to Hawaii, playing cards at the Mortensen's, meeting for supper at the St G Elks Lodge with many of our friends, traveling to Mesquite for supper on Fridays, telling funny stories, on the way back with way too much laughter, and staying at the cabin at Panguitch Lake. Howard was always the most congenial host and a great chef. "National Guard Training"

*You will always be missed in our trips to St G. We will keep in touch with MJ.*

*Ron and Coreen*

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**Ronald V Linton** - August 26, 2019 at 05:49 PM

SC

“ I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Howard. Alan and I only knew him for a short time from golfing on the couples league on Sundays. He was a man with a very dry human that we learned to love. We adore his wife Mary Jane , and our hearts go out to her and the family.

*Shelly and Alan Christensen.*

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**Shelly McGregor Christensen** - August 26, 2019 at 05:35 PM

HT

“ Howard left a lot of great memories and always had a ready smile and great advice for those who were lucky enough to work with him and know him. his family has a great legacy in SCS/NRCS and will continue for years with his son following in the footsteps of this great family tradition.

*May Howard rest in peace knowing he lived a life doing good things.*

*Howard Thomas, Retired NRCS*

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**Howard R Thomas** - August 26, 2019 at 05:29 PM

KK

“ Howard.....we had lots of hard work and lots of "getting lost" in the hills of southern Utah with SCS friends. You were always willing to be late getting home from work because we would always seem ready to look for deer!!! Thanks for the good memories!!! You were great to work with!!!

*Karl A. Kler, retired*

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**Karl Kler** - August 26, 2019 at 05:06 PM

LH

“ *Lola Henrie lit a candle in memory of Howard Molen Roper Jr*



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**Lola Henrie** - August 26, 2019 at 04:56 PM

WK

“ *Howard was always up for me hanging around the house and letting me tag along to the lake. I looked up to him and considered him my buddy! I enjoyed seeing him this last fall and enjoyed having a slice of cheese cake. He will truly be missed and he is one of a kind! Heaven certainly gained a good guy.*

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**Wendy Kilmer** - August 26, 2019 at 04:12 PM