



Kenneth Gardner Beckstrom

November 25, 1943 - August 6, 2015

Kenneth Gardner Beckstrom, age 71, of Santa Clara, Utah, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by numerous family and loved ones, on Thursday, August 6, 2015 after a courageous fight with cancer. He was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1943 in St. George, Utah to Lee and Effie Beckstrom. He was the youngest of three children. He was the loving and devoted husband to Barbara Theobald for 48 years. They were married in the St. George, Utah temple for time and all eternity on June 10, 1967.

Kenneth had an idyllic childhood, spending the school year in St. George and summers in Pine Valley riding horses, fishing, and exploring the mountain. He served an LDS mission in the Argentina North Mission from 1963-65, and also served in the United States Army in the Vietnam War as a medic from 1968-69. He graduated from Dixie College in 1966 where he competed on the tennis team, and from Utah State University in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in range science. He worked for the Bureau of Land Management as a range conservationist for 38 years in both Elko, Nevada and St. George (Arizona Strip), before retiring in 2005.

In retirement, Kenneth enjoyed exploring the many trails and back roads of southern Utah with Barbara and many friends on his Razor and ATV. He also loved traveling with his family and took many trips all over the world.

Kenneth was actively involved in the community and LDS church. He founded Snow Canyon Little League in 1982 and spent many summers and winters coaching each of his three sons in both baseball and basketball. He served as Bishop of the Santa Clara 3rd ward from 1996 to 2001 and served faithfully to the end of his life in various callings in the LDS Church. Additionally, he and Barbara served a full-time mission for the LDS church in the England London South Mission from 2008-09, and as the Transient Bishop in St. George from 2010-12.

Kenneth's favorite place in the world was Pine Valley. He loved nothing more than spending time there with his family at the cabin he built. He and Barbara enjoyed growing a large garden and hosting many gatherings at the cabin all summer long where he would serve his famous Dutch oven potatoes.

Kenneth's family was the joy of his life. He loved attending the sporting events and other activities of his children and grandchildren. Anyone was welcome in his home where there was always a Jazz, BYU or Utah State game on the television.

Kenneth had a kind and gentle disposition and had many friends. He was the epitome of charity and service as he quietly went about doing good without any expectation of recognition. He will be missed deeply by all who knew him.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Effie Beckstrom and sister, Mary Lee. He is survived by his sister, Janice (Judd) Burgess; his wife, Barbara; his sons, Britt (Natalie) Beckstrom, St. George; Brice (Nicole) Beckstrom, Santa Clara; Brian (Lacy) Beckstrom, Santa Clara; and daughters, Brenda (Josh) Forest, Mesa, Arizona, and Brooke (Ben) Neumann, St. George; and 17 grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held Monday, August 10, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the

Santa Clara LDS 3rd Ward Chapel, 3040 Santa Clara Drive. Visitations will be held Sunday evening, August 9, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Chapel and on Monday prior to services from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Chapel. Interment will be at the Pine Valley Cemetery at approximately 3:30 p.m.

The family would like to thank the medical providers at Dixie Regional Medical Center, Intermountain Southwest Oncology, and Dixie Hospice Care for their kind and dedicated care of Kenneth.

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

Cemetery Details

Pine Valley

Pine Valley, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

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

Viewing

AUG 10. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

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

Service

AUG 10. 11:00 AM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth Gardner Beckstrom*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - August 08, 2015 at 02:26 PM

MH

Dear Barbara, I am so sorry for your loss. I was out of town for the services. Our family sends all our prayers and hugs.

Madlyn Haws - August 13, 2015 at 09:16 AM



“ *We are so sorry we missed Kenny's funeral. We would have been there, but didn't even know about it until the day after. He was always a good friend and a joyous connection to our beloved Pine Valley. We are so sorry to hear of his passing, and send Barbara and family our love and prayers. We will miss him!*
Love, Keith and Bonnie Bracken

Bonnie Bracken - August 12, 2015 at 05:51 PM

RC

“ *Dear Barbara, This should have been in person, but we just became aware of it Tuesday a.m. We are so sorry for your loss. We didn't know your husband well, but are sending as many hugs your way as you are needing. Love, Ralph & Carol (Naegle) Christensen*

Ralph Christensen - August 11, 2015 at 04:41 PM

JH

“ I worked with Ken for several years here at the BLM and he was one of the finest people I've ever met. He always had a ready smile and a great sense of humor even at the most trying of times. We miss him. Our condolences to his family.

John Herron - August 10, 2015 at 10:20 AM

JA

“ Ken was such a bright light, yet never calling attention to himself. Indeed a servant that went about doing good with a smile and friendly hand shake.
We'll cherish our memories of ATV rides with the 'Santa Clara' group at many beautiful Utah locations.
Our deepest thoughts and prayers continue for you and your family
Barbara,
Ken and Jan Ashworth

Jan Ashworth - August 10, 2015 at 09:58 AM

CK

“ Barbara, So sorry for the loss of Kenneth. I send my deepest sympathy and condolences. Carol Stapley Kemple

Carol Stapley Kemple - August 10, 2015 at 09:40 AM

BO

“ Barbara, I am sorry for the loss of your husband.
Sincerely, Bonnie Olds Ballard

Bonnie - August 09, 2015 at 09:08 PM

BS

“ How do you say in a few short words the depth of feelings and friendship one feels for another. Ken has been first a friend as well as a co-worker and mentor. He has always been steady and strong, never seeking notoriety but going about doing good and getting the work done, whether it was at BLM, church or home, he was always doing his best.

Ken has been a great example to me in all areas of my life and has been a true friend. I just hope I can live my life in a way that will allow me to go where he is, because I know he is in the highest place in Heaven.

Bob Sandberg - August 09, 2015 at 06:06 PM

RB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Rand Beacham - August 09, 2015 at 04:31 AM

RB

“ I have loved the Beckstrom family for more than 30 years, and I am so sorry for the loss of my great friend. I can honestly say that I have not known anyone in my life whom I respect more than Ken Beckstrom. It was an honor and a blessing for me to serve with him in his bishopric. I can't imagine life in Santa Clara without Ken. I will miss his leadership, his gospel knowledge, his testimony, his humility, his strength, his stories, and his charity for all. Barbara, you know that Chris and I are both too well acquainted with your pain, and we will do everything we can to support you now and especially when we return home in October.

Love, Elder Rand Beacham
Weno, Chuuk, FSM

Rand Beacham - August 09, 2015 at 04:21 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Gardner Beckstrom.



August 09, 2015 at 03:24 AM

KK

“ Dear Barbara,

Lana and I are absolutely heartbroken to hear of Ken's passing. You and your family are in our prayers during this difficult time. Mike Small called me last Wednesday evening with the news of Ken's illness. I called George Cropper that evening and asked him to keep me informed.

Ken was and is a dear friend. As you are aware, we entered the mission home together. I am so glad that our paths crossed at that time and that we had the opportunity to live by the two of you in Logan for awhile. Without doubt Ken is one of the best people I have known and I am grateful for the example he has set for me throughout my life. He truly is a man without guile. Ken has passed his mortality test with flying colors, and I hope I can do as well.

May the Lord bless you with His comforting care at this time of loss and deep sadness.

Kurt and Lana

Kurt Kotter - August 08, 2015 at 10:39 PM



“ *I have had your whole family in my heart all day since finding out of Ken's passing. Ken was a friend my neighbor and an amazing bishop at a tough time in my life. His soft demeanor was wonderful to be around and just what I needed in a bishop. My heart is broken but at the same time I look forward to seeing my friend again someday in an even more glorious place. My love to Barbara and all the kids. I know I speak for Shelley too in saying "we love you!"*
Lorin Reeder

Lorin Reeder - August 08, 2015 at 10:08 PM

WF

“ *My thought and prayer go to your family. My name is Wendy (Grover) Fletcher and I lived across the street from is family who lived on the corner my parents were Carl and Minnie Grover. Just remember the fun time you had with your husband, dad or grandpa. We will be with him.*

*Love,
Wendy (Grover) Fletcher*

Wendy (Grover) Fletcher - August 08, 2015 at 10:44 AM

SH

“ *Barbara and family;*

We feel a great lost in the passing of Ken. He was truly a great servant of our Heavenly Father. He was a true friend to all. He was a great guide on the 4-wheeler trips. We will miss him. Our thoughts are with you and your family. Stay strong.

We wonder: if there are trials in heaven, Ken has a Polaris RZR exploring.

*Love ya,
Elder Bob and Sister Sheila Hansen*

Sheila Hansen - August 08, 2015 at 09:57 AM

VH

“ *Barbara and family,*

Terry and I wish to express our deepest sympathy for the loss of your Kenneth. I remember serving with the Young Women and meeting with him in PPIs where he was always a helpful and wise Bishop. He gave me great counsel and encouragement which enabled me to complete a calling I felt was way over my head. I will always be grateful for the wonderful Bishop he was for our Santa Clara 3rd Ward. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all of your family, Barbara.

Much love,

Terry and Vicky Hickman

Vicky Hickman - August 07, 2015 at 09:44 PM