



Marvin Laverne Hanson

September 8, 1932 - May 26, 2025

Growing up in Wisconsin, everyone called him Sonny. At age 16, his family moved to Utah, where he announced, "Please call me Marvin now." Most settled on Marv. He's had many names along the way. His first, Oldest Son to Jalmer and Norma, all the way to his latest, Great Grandpa. Dad outlasted all of his loving siblings: Lois, Eugene, Deanna, Steve and Terry. Thirty years ago, he said goodbye much too early to our mom, Ruth, who died with Parkinson's. They met as teenagers, waited 2½ years through his LDS mission to Argentina, got married in the Logan temple, then brought six grateful children to life. Ten years ago he bravely ventured into online dating and found his wonderful wife, Jarucha. She loved and cared for him and made him delectable Thai dishes until the end.

Dad preferred the title, Speech Therapist, for his profession. He had a PhD and was a Professor at the University of Utah in the Department of Communication Disorders for 35 years. He was honored as a Fellow in The American Speech and Hearing Association and authored seven, still widely used, text books in his field. In 1971, he co-founded The International Association of Orofacial Myology, and twice served as its President. His publishing list is too long to approach, over 90 articles. Dad always maintained a private practice and continued doing volunteer speech therapy long after retirement. Hundreds communicate better because of his direct help, including many cleft lip/palate-repair children all over the world from his more than 20

Operation Smile missions. And thousands have received speech help through the countless students he trained.

Here's an attempt to list his many other activities, none of which he took lightly: friend, doctor, singer, actor, tumbler, high school diving coach, ski patrolman, marathon runner, philanthropist, volunteer, merit badge counselor, lifeguard, bartender, bishopric member, golfer, department chair, water/snow skier, boater, pickle baller, camper, Ute fan, movie watcher, voracious reader, Scrabble player, crossword solver, daily exerciser, sun lover, cesspool pumper, cow milker, dessert eater, and his favorite self-description, professional conversation-starter.

Dad and Mom fell in love while singing and acting together in the Ogden 13th Ward. And look what their romance has wrought! At last count, 55 people belong to our family because of them. Dad passed away peacefully at his home on Memorial Day, May 26th, 2025, surrounded by his children: Rebecca (Michael Crowley), Hugh (Leslie), Joel, Paris (Shannon), Jane (Steve Moffat), and Tyler (Kristin). None of us could possibly count all of the times he has specifically said, "I love you." We love you, Dad, and always will. Till We Meet Again.

A Celebration of Life for our father, Marvin Laverne Hanson, will be held on June 22nd between 2 and 4 pm at The Farmington South (Skate) Park, 1384 S 200 W Farmington, UT. Please drop by.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **22**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

South Farmington Park
1384 South 200 West
Farmington, UT 84025

Tribute Wall

DB

“ I am Donna (Douglas) Banks. I was a student of Dr. Hanson in the 1960's. He is a very intelligent man, as noted in all the activities he was involved in, but a fantastic professor to study under. I worked in the public schools for 30 years, loving it until I retired (kicking and screaming), thankfully for all the things I learned from Dr. Hanson. Thinking of him, Donna Banks

Donna Banks - June 06, 2025 at 01:50 PM

MV

I have been thinking about Dr. Marvin L. Hanson this past year as I near retirement myself. My name is Mary Whitney Valentine, and I had the privilege of studying at the University of Utah, where Dr. Hanson served as my 'chair' for my master's degree. He was truly one of my favorite professors—and one of my favorite human beings.

I still remember the day I was accepted into graduate school and met with him. I told him honestly that I wasn't a 4.0 student, but more of a 3.5 to 3.8 student. With his characteristic kindness, he reassured me and said, "Mary, you're going to make a fantastic speech therapist. The 4.0 students can sometimes be too rigid—but you care about people, not perfection. And that's what makes the best therapists." I have carried those words with me throughout my entire career.

At the time, I was a single parent, 28 years old, with a two-year-old son, and not a traditional student. When I had to undergo a major surgery, Dr. Hanson graciously held my place in the program until I could return in the winter of 1988. That kindness changed my life.

I will never forget his 'Voice Anatomy and Treatment class', which I loved. In one unforgettable moment, he brought in a fluoroscope and demonstrated vocal cord function on himself, allowing all of us to see firsthand as he phonated with falsetto and other voice ranges, so that we could see the vocal fold approximate.

His dedication to teaching and his willingness to go above and beyond for his students made a lasting impression on all of us.

Because of him, I chose a path in Communication Disorders degree as an Speech-Language Pathologist instead of pursuing music—a decision that allowed me to support my family while finding a profession I truly love. I am still practicing today, though not full-time, and I remain deeply grateful for the direction he helped give my life.

I recently came across his obituary, after having thought about him often over the past year. I only wish I had found a way to thank him in person again. He was an intelligent, compassionate, and truly humanitarian professor—someone who genuinely cared for his students. They don't make many like him anymore.

My heartfelt condolences go out to his family, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I hope to meet him again someday and thank him for the profound impact he had on my life.

*With deep gratitude,
Mary Whitney Valentine
Class of 1990
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Mary Whitney Valantine - March 17 at 07:54 PM