



## Neil Hardy

February 4, 1934 - March 7, 2021

Washington, UT—Neil Hardy, 87, passed away on March 7, 2021 in St. George, UT. Neil was born February 4, 1934 in Las Vegas, NV to Leonard and Pansy Leavitt Hardy where McCarren Airport currently resides. He married Colleen Louise Johns in Salt Lake City, UT on December 15, 1956. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake City Temple.

Dad led an eventful life. He moved from Las Vegas to LaVerkin in 1938 when he was 4 years old. He worked with his family on their fruit farm planting fruit and nut trees, harvesting the fruit, and peddling their goods to the surrounding communities in Utah and Nevada. While peddling fruit he met Midge, his childhood dog that he loved and adored, and ended up exchanging the rest of his fruit for her that day.

After graduating from Hurricane High School in 1952, vowing never to return to LaVerkin, Dad joined the Army. He served in Germany during the years of the Korean War and always spoke highly of the experience, but said that when he sailed into New York Harbor from Germany and saw the Statue of Liberty, he knew he was home.

After his discharge papers came in, Dad flew straight to Detroit to pick up his 1956 turquoise and white Ford Fairlane, right off the assembly line. He then made his way home to LaVerkin only stopping to pick up his childhood friend,

Norman Gubler.

Dad had many adventures in his life including riding railway cars with Norman Gubler, driving to Alaska with Bob Mace, and working on the Alaska railroad. He also helped build the Los Angeles Temple while living with his missionary brother, Ronald (that is, until the mission president found out). Though he always kept his gypsy spirit, he eventually settled down long enough to ask Colleen to marry him.

Dad and Mom lived their young life in Salt Lake City. He went to vocational school to be a mechanic, worked at Kennecott Copper Mine, and carried mail for the US Postal Service. They had their first 5 children in Salt Lake City: Brian, Diane, Brent, Bruce, & Bryce. One day Dad came home, tired of carrying mail in the snow, and said to mom "Let's move." And so they did—moving back to LaVerkin in 1969. They added to their family with Denise and Danelle and raised their children on 5 acres, which included a fruit orchard, pecan trees, farm animals, and, of course, a swimming pool.

Dad began his entrepreneurial ventures with building a garage in LaVerkin where he worked as a mechanic and sold gas. He also built the KOA Campground in LaVerkin at the base of the hill to Zion National Park. Building the KOA is where Dad first learned how to install fiberglass pools, a skill that would serve him well in the years to come. His next and longest lasting venture took him into the fiberglass pool installation industry where he continued to work until the last week of his life.

Dad had a great love for animals. Many doggies were in our family. His little side kick in his later years was his poodle, Suzy, who went everywhere with him. Pool clients would often comment that they missed Dad & Suzy coming to their home to check on their pool installation.

And of course, Dad loved to travel. Whether riding the railroads with Norman, traveling around Europe on leave during his Army years, or taking his family on their many fun vacations, Dad was often on the move and loved to see new places. However, he never lost his love for southern Utah and always returned home.

We had the opportunity to work with our dad in every business he started. He instilled the value of hard work, honesty, and integrity to all those he met, whether personally or professionally.

One of Dad's most special traits that we will always cherish was his deep love for Mom. He showed his love in the way he talked to her, how he cared for her, and by setting the example to his children of how to treat their mother. He always had tender emotions when talking about those he loved and admired. The beautiful family that Dad and Mom created will live on forever.

Dad exemplified a life of service and caring for those less fortunate which matched up perfectly with his favorite song from Primary, "Give, Said the Little Stream" He was always one to give a ride to the hitchhiker, offer a meal to those who needed it, and help anyone without any thought of praise, return, or reward. It was not an occasional act but rather a consistent way of life. It was simply who he was at his core.

Neil is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. His temple covenants were special to him and he honored them. He loved to read and write in his journals. We now have those precious journals to pass on to his posterity.

Neil is survived by his wife Colleen; children, Brian, Diane Empey (Ashley), Brent (Geri), Bruce (Stacy), Bryce (Sandra) and Denise Crosier (John). He has 22 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren with 4 great granddaughters

on the way this year. He is also survived by his brother, Ronald Hardy.

Neil was preceded in death by his infant daughter Danelle, parents Leonard & Pansy Hardy, siblings Daisy and Tom Cooper, Leslie Hardy, Paul and Rae Hardy, and Carol and Don White.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. at his LDS Chapel, 628 S. 3000 E. St. George, UT. A viewing will be held prior the service from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the church. Interment will be held at the LaVerkin City Cemetery. Military honors will be provided by the Hurricane American Legion.

For family and friends that are unable to attend or have concerns about covid, services will be live streamed via Zoom at.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89376047281?pwd=YnNsSVE3WCtWMHY3ZEIxWml4ejF0dz09>

Meeting ID: 893 7604 7281 Passcode: neilhardy

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at [www.SerenityStG.com](http://www.SerenityStG.com). Arrangements are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 986-9100.

# Cemetery Details

## LaVerkin City Cemetery

600 N. State Street  
LaVerkin, UT

# Previous Events

## Viewing

MAR 13. 9:30 AM - 11:45 AM (MT)

LDS Chapel  
628 South 3000 East  
St. George, UT 84790

## Funeral Service

MAR 13. 12:00 PM (MT)

LDS Chapel  
628 S. 3000 E.  
St. George, UT

# Tribute Wall



“ *Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah created a Live Stream Funeral Link in memory of Neil Hardy*



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**Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah** - March 10, 2021 at 01:12 PM

KK

“ *My love and prayers are with the family now for God to bless and comfort you.*

*What a sweet and touching story of a most extraordinary man. He had a rare quality that made you feel important and special. He was my favorite uncle with an amazing family. I regret that I didn't keep in touch with them through the years. I'm especially grateful for the knowledge that families really are forever and I will get a second chance.*

*When I was a little girl, Uncle Neil gave me the nickname Baby Kay, which I hated of course. But somehow when he said it, I always felt his love and that made everything okay. He loved a good tease. He had a BIG heart that he shared with everyone along with a wonderful smile I'll never forget.*

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**Kay Lynn King** - March 13, 2021 at 12:24 PM

CH

“ Although I never met Neil Hardy, I have felt his influence and legacy of integrity, high work ethic, and kindness. I am a client/patient of Brian. Brian is my acupuncturist. I was in dire shape prior to finally finding Brian and he has been able to help me manage my chronic illness. I feel totally confident in Brian's treatments and know I can trust him. This has come from his father, and mother, and it is heart-warming and touching to the very core. So often I see people thirsting for a father figure and a role model. It is so refreshing to see the Hardy family possess high ethics, family values, and passion for life. Neil Hardy has indeed left a legacy that I am certain will be preserved, honored, and carried on for the love within the Hardy family is very evident and family members will continue in Neil's footsteps. I express my deepest sympathy and heart felt hope for the Hardy family. God bless you all. I am praying for a sunny day for Neil's funeral. It has been raining and snowing nearly all week; miracles happen every day so here's to the sunshine in the sky for his funeral.

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**Carol Hawkins** - March 12, 2021 at 08:00 PM

SG

“ Scott & Amber Gubler purchased the *With Distinction* for the family of Neil Hardy.



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**Scott & Amber Gubler** - March 12, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Neil Hardy.*



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March 12, 2021 at 04:44 PM



“ *From The Jim and Phyllis Bushman Family purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Neil Hardy.*



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**From The Jim and Phyllis Bushman Family** - March 12, 2021 at 01:55 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Neil Hardy.*



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March 12, 2021 at 06:55 AM



“ *Neil keep my family's truck running years ago.he was like a member of the family we had so much contact with him.sending are condolences from our family to yours.suzan noorlander and halladay family*

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**Johanna noorlander** - March 11, 2021 at 10:08 PM

DT

“ We always enjoyed the time when Neil and Suzy would stop by during the construction of our pool. It was a happy and sad moment when the pool was completed because it meant that Neil and Suzy would not be sharing their presence with us, however, we have fond memories of them whenever we enjoy our pool. With all our love,  
*Don & Aileen Theall*

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**Don & Aileen Theall** - March 11, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ *Rays of Light Spray* was purchased for the family of Neil Hardy.



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March 11, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Neil Hardy.



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March 11, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ *Tender Tribute* was purchased for the family of Neil Hardy.



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March 11, 2021 at 10:45 AM

LP

“ Love, Pam Porter - San Juan Pools purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Neil Hardy.



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**Love, Pam Porter - San Juan Pools** - March 11, 2021 at 09:56 AM

RH

“ My friend R.I.P Neil was a great friend. Prayers and blessing to all.  
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**Ron Hatch** - March 11, 2021 at 01:24 AM

MD

“ He always smiled and treated me like family. He was kind hearted, loving, giving, spiritual. He has an amazing legacy.

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**Michelle Drake** - March 10, 2021 at 11:00 PM

TN

“ The Clark Family Loves Uncle Neil purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Neil Hardy.



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**The Clark Family Loves Uncle Neil** - March 10, 2021 at 09:21 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Neil Hardy.



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March 10, 2021 at 08:40 PM



“ *Tender Tribute* was purchased for the family of Neil Hardy.



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March 10, 2021 at 08:18 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden* was purchased for the family of Neil Hardy.



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March 10, 2021 at 06:59 PM

MM

“ We had the blessing of meeting Neil when we first moved to St. George. He installed our still beautiful pool and we became friends of the family for the next 26 years. We enjoyed having Neil show our pool to new customers as an example of his quality and care. He would leave gifts whenever he showed our pool. I tell anyone who asks "we love the Hardy's" and Neil was the best. He was a man of few words but those words will be cherished. All our love, the Murdocks.



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**Mark Murdock** - March 10, 2021 at 06:28 PM