



Norval R Whitehead

March 7, 1929 - April 28, 2014

Norval R Whitehead (1929 – 2014)

St. George – Norval R Whitehead died peacefully Monday, April 28, 2014, in St. George, UT of conditions related to age. Norval was born Mar. 7, 1929, at home in Bench, ID to Francis Blaine Whitehead and Anne Della Allsop Whitehead, the youngest of three children. He attended the Bench school during grade school and graduated from Grace High School. He served an LDS mission to the West Central States mission in Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakota's.

Norval first met the love of his life, DonNiece Crane, as she was teenager visiting her oldest sister in Bench, ID. They became reacquainted as she taught at Grace High School, and they were married on June 15, 1953. Norval was a dedicated husband and provider. When they were first married, he worked at night driving slag trucks at Monsanto or at his uncle's cheese factory while farming during the day with this father in Bench. Norval eventually purchased the family farm, purchased nearby land as well as leasing additional acreage. In his youth, he farmed with horses and recounted his experience of harnessing a team to go out and plow. A hard worker, during the 40 years that the farm had dairy cows, he or his father milked every morning or evening with the exception of two nights. Despite broken feet from a childhood fall from a haystack and knees damaged during high school basketball, he was a strong and energetic man. He could throw hay bales six layers high onto a moving pickup and none of his sons dared to pick a fight

with him.

Always a very practical man, Norval enjoyed an efficient and tidy farm. He was not sentimental about things: he easily removed old buildings and scrapped broken equipment. But he cherished his family and bragged about them to his friends (but not his children). He had little patience with pretense, arrogance, and dishonesty. He served as bishop of the Williams Ward for six years during which he led the fund raising and remodeling of the Niter chapel. He will be remembered by his children for teaching them a strong sense of right and wrong, to help others in need, and to accept people that are different than us. He loved reading western novels and was a student of Mormon doctrine and history. A long-time resident of Grace, ID, he and DonNiece moved to the St. George, UT area for their retirement years. They traveled often and Norval enjoyed visiting friends and family. Since DonNiece passed away, his world narrowed but continued to speak often with his cousin Thayne Whitehead, his neighbors at Green Springs, and friend June Turner. Norval believed strongly in being responsible and self-reliant. He remained on his own in his home until five month before his death. Always a teacher by example, in the end, he taught his family how to die with dignity and honor.

He is survived by his children, Val (Lee) Whitehead of Midvale, UT, Kent Whitehead of Sandy, UT, David (Margo) Whitehead of Henderson, NV, Emilee (Michael) Morock of New York, NY, sister Nina Taylor of Centerville, UT, eleven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Norval was preceded in death by his wife, his parents; his brother Arla Whitehead, and a still-born son. A graveside service will be held at the Grace Cemetery, 1.8 miles south of Grace, ID, at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 3, 2014.

Friends and family are invited to share condolences online at www.SerenityStG.com.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Dear Family -

We want you to know how saddened we are by Norval's passing. What a great neighbor and friend he was. Many of us neighbors here at Green Spring will miss seeing him in his kitchen every morning and sitting in the shade of his home in the afternoons watching the goings-on in the neighborhood and always up for a visit from his neighbors.

I always enjoyed stopping by on any of my many dog walking opportunities to visit with him. He frequently talked of his life on the farm and Grace, Idaho and his family. You were all so important to him.

You must be proud of your heritage from your dear father and mother. Norval has been referred to as a "gentle giant" and I think that it describes him perfectly. He never had a cross word for anyone, nor would he gossip about others, and he was always willing to spend some time chatting.

After reading his obituary I am impressed by just how much positive life he crammed into his years - school, hard work, church service, marriage, family, more hard work and raising a family that he was so proud of. Quite a heritage! He will be truly missed here.

Our fondest wishes to you as you remember the tender times, along with the proud heritage he left with you.

Sincerely,

Judy D. and Steve Diamond - GSHOA

Judy & Steve Diamond - May 06, 2014 at 07:46 PM

JB

“ We want to extend our deepest sympathy in the passing of Norval to his family. He was a wonderful neighbor and friend. Emilee, we enjoyed meeting you at the HOA Association gathering at Christmas time.

Sincerely,
Jim and Lynne Bartz

Jim and Lynne Bartz - May 03, 2014 at 12:52 AM

PM

“ Dear Em and Mike, I admire your strength and courage. Your Dad raised a good kid. Thankful for his life that led to our strong friendship. Hugs. Paula

paula mckinzie - April 30, 2014 at 07:15 PM

SC

“ Val, Kent, David and Emilee, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Uncle Norval. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. love Sandy Crane and Molly Crane and the entire Basil K. Crane Family

Sandra Crane - April 30, 2014 at 10:19 AM