



## Richard Ray Tebbs

October 6, 1937 - September 17, 2020

Richard Ray Tebbs, 82, local rancher, scout, and professor, returned to his Lord and Savior on September 17, 2020 after a humble, peaceful battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He was born October 6, 1937 in Panguitch Utah, the third of seven children of D. Ray and Verda LeFevre Tebbs. He began school in California during the war and later, after the family moved back to Utah, attended school in Panguitch and Beaver. He served his first mission in the Northwestern States Mission and then attended BYU receiving a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Mathematics.

He started his most important career August 25, 1962 in Manti, Utah where he married Irene Henrie, a Panguitch girl going to BYU. They started a family that finally included five girls and three boys. After receiving his Master's Degree, he taught for a year at BYU and then moved to Cedar to begin his university teaching career at the College of Southern Utah (now SUU). During his career he taught students at all levels: special needs students at the American Fork Training School, high school, community college, and 40 years at SUU. In July of 1992 he became the first department chair of the new Math and Computer Science department. He was active in professional organizations: NCTM, UTCM and MAA Rocky Mountain Chapter and served for a year as president of that chapter. He was named Educator of the Year for SUU in 2001-2002.

Richard was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Saints. He served in the Boy Scouts of America for many years (with his sons and grandsons achieving the rank of Eagle Scout), he was often a ward or stake missionary, and he served a mission to London, England with his wife, Irene in 2005. He was also counselor to five bishops and served with five stake presidents on the high council. He loved going to the temple and was an ordinance worker in the St George and the new Cedar City Temples until his illness made it impossible for him to serve.

He first ran sheep and then cattle at his family ranch near Panguitch Lake. He raised his children and then helped his grandchildren learn to work hard and love the land. He was known for being honest in all his dealings.

Richard is survived by: his wife, Irene; his children Marilyn and Steve Bennett, Christine and Kent LeFevre, Kathy and Brad Hunter, Barbara and Cary Leavitt, Holly and Greg Wilkinson, Bruce Tebbs, Becky Tebbs, Robert and Alycia Tebbs, Brian and Jennifer Tebbs; 30 grandchildren (with 10 spouses); and 5 great grandchildren; his brother Mike and Margaret Tebbs and sisters Julia Ann and Barry Nicholes, Linda and Broyce Jacobs, and Angeli and Dean Sheffer. He was preceded in death by: his parents, D. Ray and Verda LeFevre Tebbs; sisters Marilyn K. Tebbs and Neucile and Jim Yardley; grandchildren Kimber Hunter and Joshua Tebbs and great granddaughter Lillian Bennett.

The family would like to thank Dr. Todd Garrett and Dr. Tom Marshall and Ethan Bunker and the caregivers at Suntree Hospice for their patient care.

Services will be held at the SUU Alumni House, 300 West University Blvd., Cedar City, UT. State building requirements mandate masks must be worn. Visitations will be held Friday, September 25, 2020, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, September 26th from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. with the funeral for family and close friends at 12:00 noon. Graveside service and burial will be held at 3:30 p.m. at the Panguitch, Utah cemetery.

The funeral service will be live streamed via Zoom. To watch online please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2w7pk7b> or <https://zoom.us/j/99100649301?pwd=THRYVmo0bDI0Vld3eEpLNTBQQmQxUT09>

Meeting ID: 991 0064 9301 Passcode: 216986

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at [www.SerentiyStG.com](http://www.SerentiyStG.com) Arrangements and memorial tree planting by Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 986-9100.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

SEP **25.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

SUU Alumni House  
300W. University Blvd.  
Cedar City, UT 84720

## Viewing

SEP **26.** 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

SUU Alumni House  
300W. University Blvd.  
Cedar City, UT 84720

## Funeral

SEP **26.** 12:00 PM (MT)

SUU Alumni House  
300W. University Blvd.  
Cedar City, UT 84720

# Tribute Wall



“ *Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Ray Tebbs*



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**Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah** - October 07, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**kathy** - October 09, 2020 at 10:54 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah** - October 07, 2020 at 06:19 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Brian** - October 06, 2020 at 06:43 PM

SS

“ *Richard and the Tebbs Family were friends in the neighborhood, ward and SUU. I think everyone knew Richard as an honest, kind, brilliant and good person. He served his family, church and Suu all his life. Will miss seeing him with Irene. Well done thou good and faithful servant. Sue Southwick and the Southwick Family.*

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**Sue Southwick** - September 25, 2020 at 04:45 PM

CA

“ *Claude A. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Richard Ray Tebbs.*



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**Claude A.** - September 24, 2020 at 04:36 PM

YP

“ Your friends and colleagues of PwC purchased the Rays of Light Spray for the family of Richard Ray Tebbs.



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**Your friends and colleagues of PwC** - September 23, 2020 at 07:25 PM

RO

“ TO IRENE & FAMILY: Richard's mother and my father were 1st cousins, descendants of William Owen Orton, who came to America and our beloved Southern Utah from Nottingham, England, and of Sara Ann Dalley Orton. I am proud of our joint ancestry. I am proud of Richard and what he has done with his life. Irene, you and Richard were equally yoked and formed a couple whom I always admired and was delighted to call my friends. I know you will see Richard again and continue to be the patriarch and matriarch of an eternal family. Joy and I mourn with you his passing and offer our condolences at this temporary separation which you are experiencing. We express our love and warmest wishes to you for a deep understanding of Gods eternal plan and how it applies to you personally. Robert F. (Bob) Orton

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**Robert F. (Bob) & Joy Orton** - September 23, 2020 at 02:22 PM

FF

“ From Robert's AGS Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Richard Ray Tebbs.



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**From Robert's AGS Family** - September 21, 2020 at 06:37 PM

JB

“ Professor Tebbs was so nice and friendly when I started at SUU in 1997. A wonderful man.

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**Joe Baker** - September 21, 2020 at 04:28 PM

ML

“ Three memories: 1. Rich using "Bostitch" (the name of a stapler) when he was angry because he didn't want to swear. He thought it sounded just right. 2. Rich and Irene visiting us when we lived in Pennsylvania and he had us take him to see a neighbor's small herd of "beefalo" -- a bison/beef hybrid. 3. Rich hauling baby livestock in the back seat of the family sedan, much to Irene's consternation. He was/is a good man and will be missed. (I'll bet he and Arden had/are having a great visit in between their missionary assignments.)

*With warm sympathy, Margaret Leigh*

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**Margaret Leigh** - September 21, 2020 at 12:14 PM

DR

“ When we were audited by the IRS years ago no one not even the agent could explain what we had done wrong. Richard knew instantly where we had made the mistake and explained it in understandable terms. I still smile when I think about it.

*So sorry for the long struggle the family has had. God bless you all.  
Dale and Lorraine Ross*

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**dale and lorraine ross** - September 21, 2020 at 11:51 AM

SM

“ He was and still is my first missionary companion. I will miss meeting up with him.

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**Scott L Brown, MD** - September 21, 2020 at 09:39 AM

JM

“ *My mind goes back to 1963 on 7th North in Provo when I was dating Don, and we discovered you two were our neighbors. I offer my sympathy for this sacred transition. And because I am on the same journey, Irene, I know something about what your journey has been like. My wish for you is peace and comfort.*  
*Jean Marshall*

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**Jean Marshall** - September 21, 2020 at 02:17 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah** - September 20, 2020 at 04:10 PM