

Wilson Woodruff Sorensen



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Beloved father, grandfather, scout, and president, Wilson Woodruff Sorensen, passed away peacefully just before his 93rd birthday on Thursday, July 30, 2009 in South Jordan, Utah.

Born in Draper, Utah, on Aug. 8, 1916 to Woodruff Arno and Lettie Estelle Andrus Sorensen. He was raised in Draper and Deseret, Utah, and graduated from Jordan High School, always proud to be a Beetdigger. He received both a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Arts and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Brigham Young University.

Wilson married Helen Howard on Nov. 12, 1942 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. They raised their family in Provo, Utah. He is the father of four children, with 18 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.

An active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, he served as a missionary in the California Mission. He held many responsible leadership positions in the church, including Bishop, bishop's counselor, and counselor in the stake presidency. He enjoyed many happy years of service in the Provo Temple and as a church employment missionary.

He was instrumental in founding the Central Utah Vocational School which has evolved into Utah Valley University, and served for 36 years as the school's president from 1946 until his retirement in 1982. He loved the faculty and students dearly. His goal was to do whatever it took to help his students, faculty, and staff become successful.

He served the Provo community for years as president of the Freedom Festival, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, UVIDA, United Way, and other organizations.

Scouting was an important part of his life. He began by becoming the very first Eagle Scout in Draper. He worked for several years on the board of the Utah National Parks Council, and was honored as a Silver Beaver and a Distinguished Eagle.

A wonderful and gentle man, Wilson performed many acts of service for others. He loved to work with his hands in woodworking and gardening, and had a wonderful sense of humor with countless one-liners. He was known for his special engraved cutting boards for all newlyweds, and his famous "tax shelters." He was truly a friend to everyone.

Preceded in death by his wife, Helen; daughter, Kathy Sorensen; Native-American daughter Naomie Broken Leg; and brother-in-law Max DeLeeuw.

Wilson is survived by his three sons, Kent (Jill) Sorensen, South Jordan, UT; Kim (Tonia) Sorensen, West Valley City, UT; and Kory (Roxann) Sorensen, Grand Terrace, CA.; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother Dale (Lola) Sorensen, Murray, UT; sister Geniel DeLeeuw, Sandy, UT; and sister-in-law Harriet (Reed) Nilsen, Alhambra, CA.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the Edgemont South LDS Stake Center, 2950 N Canyon Road (350 E), Provo, Utah. Friends may call Wednesday evening from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Sorensen Student Center, UVU Orem campus (800 West University Pkwy), and Thursday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. prior to services at the church.

Interment at Eastlawn Memorial Hills in Provo. Condolences may be sent to info@bergmortuary.com