



Berk Wayne Washburn

August 27, 1950 - January 24, 2022

Berk Wayne Washburn passed away on January 24th, 2022 in the Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah. He was born August 27th, 1950 in Provo, Utah to AlDean & Clara Washburn, the first of 16 children. He married his eternal companion, Carolyn Adams on May 4, 1973 in the Manti, Utah Temple. Together they had 8 children Eliza, Ephraim, Seth, Esther, Isaac, Miriam, Bekah, and Ammon.

Berk spent much of his youth in Trona, California, a dry, hot place where it was a challenge to grow grass. Berk loved it. He spent his free time roaming the desert with friends, exploring abandoned mines, hunting jack rabbits, catching scorpions and tarantulas, and finding out the many uses of dynamite. Berk attended Brigham Young University, where he met Carolyn Adams and the two fell in love. At BYU, Berk earned a double degree in economics and finance and continued on to earn his joint MBA and Law degree. After trying to start a law practice in Utah, Berk accepted a position at NCR in Ohio in corporate law, a field he would work in for almost 30 years. Work took Berk and his family from Ohio to Michigan and finally to Colorado. Although law was how Berk supported his large family, sending all eight children on missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and through college at BYU, it was never his true passion. He would joke that his favorite part in the movie Jurassic Park was when the lawyer got eaten on the toilet. During the Great Recession of the late 2000s, Berk switched careers and tried

his hand at being an author. Carolyn worked hand in hand with Berk, especially with the character development and editing. They loved the writing process and even published a trilogy with Berk's younger brother Andy. During this time, Berk and Carolyn realized that Carolyn's mother, Anna Adams, now a widow, needed someone nearby to help out. The two empty nesters packed up again and moved to St. George to be near her. Berk continued his writing there and became active in writers groups, including sharing his new passion with students at the local Dixie State University. As Berk and Carolyn felt their age finally catching up to them, they moved north to the Salt Lake valley where four of their eight children lived. So in July of 2021 they moved to Magna, Utah where Carolyn now resides.

Berk's life was dedicated to two things: his family and his faith. He was the king of Dad jokes. He loved laughing with his family and watching scary movies. He loved the opportunity to give his children father's blessings and loved being a grandfather. He knew that the bonds with his parents, siblings, wife, children, and grandchildren were eternal, and strove to strengthen those bonds throughout his life. Berk loved his Savior, Jesus Christ and served him and others wholeheartedly his entire life. Berk served with the young men, as a Bishop in Ohio, and a Stake President in Michigan. Teaching the gospel was always his favorite calling.

Berk is survived by his wife, Carolyn, all 8 of his children, and 29 grandchildren including one who arrives in April. Berk is also survived by his step-mother, Luzon Washburn, as well as 13 siblings: Ann Washburn Smith, Allen Broderick Washburn, Linda Washburn Wehner, Lynnette Eyres Christensen, Laurie Eyres Stone, Hugh Dean Washburn, Ruth Washburn Sulz, Todd Alan Eyres, Tracy D Eyres, Samuel Howard Washburn, Sarah Washburn Simpson, Joseph McKay Washburn, and Daniel James Washburn.

Berk is preceded to the next life by his parents, AlDean and Clara Washburn

and his siblings Andy Washburn and Cathleen Washburn Brown.

Services will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Chapel at 8059 W 2700 S, Magna, UT 84044 on Friday, February 4th, 2022. A viewing will be held from 9:30-10:30 am with the funeral to follow at 11 am. A service at the grave site at Larkin Sunset Gardens at 1 pm in Sandy, Utah. The funeral will also be shared through zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/8012501111?pwd=N09JRFNBRHJWVVAzeERHck0azJKQT09>).

We would like to thank Serenity Funeral Home for helping us navigate this hard time and all of the medical staff at Intermountain Medical Center for all the care they gave Berk.

Please share memories and condolences at www.serenityfhs.com.

Cemetery Details

Larkin Sunset Gardens

1950 East 10600 South
Sandy, UT 84092

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 4. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Chapel
8059 West 2700 South
Magna, UT 84044

Funeral Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Chapel
8059 West 2700 South
Magna, UT 84044

Graveside Service

FEB 4. 1:00 PM (MT)

Larkin Sunset Gardens
1950 East 10600 South
Sandy, UT 84092

Tribute Wall



“ *Berk Wayne Washburn*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Great man to be around. I was one of his councilors when he was Bishop in Toledo Ohio. He loved everyone and was a compassionate man. He will be missed by many.*

Patrick McVicker - Toledo Ohio

Patrick McVicker - February 10, 2022 at 07:33 AM



“ *Denise Zeise lit a candle in memory of Berk Wayne Washburn*



Denise Zeise - February 07, 2022 at 05:15 PM



“ *Denise Zeise & Barb Brunelle lit a candle in memory of Berk Wayne Washburn*



Denise Zeise & Barb Brunelle - February 07, 2022 at 02:46 PM

RA

“ I'll share a memory of Berk! I was first a missionary companion and later a roommate at BYU with Berk. After settling in our apartment, it didn't take Berk long to figure out how to get a case of dynamite and blasting caps, which we kept under the bed in our room and would bring it out occasionally to impress folks. I remember (as does my wife) double-dating, taking our lady friends to Utah Lake where there were enormous concrete blocks with metal pipes going through them, which coincidentally were the exact diameter of the dynamite sticks, so we pushed as many sticks as we could get into the pipes, with the last one holding the blasting cap and fuse, then lit the fuse to watch the most impressive explosion ever! It was hilariously dangerous but riotously fun at the same time. Berk was a leader, whether he wanted that role or not, in all parts of his life. I would never have sought out dynamite, nor taken a date somewhere to have a "blast." But he was always willing to have fun if it was wholesome, even if a bit edgy. I lost touch with Berk, which I sadly regret, but I never lost touch with the amazing influence he had upon me for the remainder of my life. RIP, my brother.

Rudy Anderson - February 04, 2022 at 02:35 PM

WS

“ Luonna and I are truly saddened by Burk's passing. He was a friend, mentor, and leader. We knew him best as President Washburn when he served as president of the Grand Blanc Michigan Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There, we witnessed his kindness, his concern for others, and his deep faith and convictions in action, and we were blessed personally by his tutoring and selfless service to others. He was a truly good man. Our sincere condolences to Carolyn and family.

William Schilling - February 04, 2022 at 01:31 PM

SR

“ I sure liked my Washburn cousins when my dad, Howard Broderick, took our family on vacation to California to visit his two sisters, Verena and Clara. Berk and his sister, Ann, were about my age and great fun to play with. The Easton's and Washburn's were families we loved to see every couple years. Over the years, we lost contact with so many wonderful cousins and are grateful we can participate in celebrating Berk's life at his funeral today. We send our love to all his family.

Sarah Broderick Rowse

Sarah B Rowse - February 04, 2022 at 11:25 AM

MS

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Berk's passing. The Washburn family lived next door to my family, the Schwartz's for five years in the 60s in Trona California. Andy was in my grade. I hung out with Ruthie a lot although she was a couple years younger. I was fortunate enough to see Burk and Andy in Ridgecrest for their book signing in about 2013. A few years later I learned of Andy's death which was devastating for me. Once again, the pain hits me hard for this wonderful family. May he rest in peace with his parents and Andy. Sending prayers to the family.

Mary L Smith - February 03, 2022 at 12:38 PM

MS

Mary Schwartz Smith

Mary Schwartz Smith - February 03, 2022 at 12:40 PM

RA

What a shock! I haven't been in touch with Berk for many years but we were missionary companions and later roommates at BYU. He was one of the funnest people to be with, had a terrific sense of humor, and so non-judgmental of others. He was such a physically strong and spiritually determined person, I just assumed he would live to be 100. Sincerest condolences to Carolyn and family from Rudy and Karen Anderson.

Rudy and Karen Anderson - February 03, 2022 at 02:02 PM

 Linda Hyde

“ Berk was my "FHE brother" at BYU, along with Bryce. Such fun times! Berk was so chill. Always kind. Funny. I'd have maybe had a crush on him except my roommate already did! Praying for all the family to feel the Lord's comfort and care.

Linda Hyde - February 02, 2022 at 09:56 PM

JO

“ I am so sorry to hear this Carolyn and all Kids. So many great memories. I loved his humor and kindness and devotion to his Family. Praying for everyone. Joan Oliver

JOAN OLIVER - February 02, 2022 at 03:08 PM

SJ

“ I remember him in the Grand Blanc area. After a stake conference he got up to the poppet and announced that he wanted to see his wife. I felt the love for his spouse. What a great example he and his family is.
He will be missed greatly.

Sherrei Jolley-Pauls - February 02, 2022 at 01:43 PM

DH

“ Dear Dr. Washburn and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I hope your memories continue to bring you comfort and peace. Please let me know if I can do anything. Sincerely, Dr. Tammy Henderson



Dr. Tammy Henderson - February 02, 2022 at 10:32 AM

BB

“ I met Berk at BYU and was immediately attracted to his spirituality and humor. We both left for our missions the next year and corresponded between Argentina and Italy. Upon returning home, we roomed in the same house until we both married. We lost touch for a while, but reconnected and kept in touch. He and I shared a powerful spiritual connection and were, indeed, spiritual brothers. Berk was also my best friend and a major support through some difficult times of life. He and Carolyn were supportive and helpful, for which I will always be grateful. Berk and Carolyn always treated me with great respect and love. Berk is gone way too early and will be missed tremendously. But what a great reunion must have taken place in the spirit world. My heart is broken and aching, but I look forward to the time when I will again see my best friend and brother. Love you, Berk. And Carolyn, always know you have a friend in Chicago

Bryce F Barney - February 02, 2022 at 12:03 AM



“ I remember when I was a young child Berk came to visit us in California. He walked in the door and I ran to him and gave him the biggest hug yelling “dad’s home.” After the hug I took a step back and just stared at him because he looked like my dad but he wasn’t my dad. We just sat there staring at each other for like 3 minutes until Berk started laughing. When he could talk again he told me he was dad’s brother and my uncle. I also remember uncle Berk and his many animal noises, especially his dog barks. Berk always had a kind word for me and was full of compliments. He will be greatly missed because he was greatly loved.

Ambre Wessel - February 01, 2022 at 10:42 AM

MF

Nero’s family shared a fence with us in Trona. Amazing family and he set a great example to all those that followed him. I have read three of his books and they brought great memories of Trona back to me. I am so sorry for your loss. Clara taught me all about Relief Society when I was her counselor. Much love Marie Davis Fairbank.

MarieDavis Fairbank - February 01, 2022 at 07:19 PM

BK

“ Berk walked the walk and talked the talk of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What a powerful couple Carolyn and Berk made. Gods comfort and blessings to the entire family.

Bill Kennedy - February 01, 2022 at 01:24 AM

JV

“ Taking us out on the lake for hours and hours. Teaching me the importance of Red Hot Sauce. How kind he was to me even though I left my shoes around his house. Always had a pun ready. I’ll never forget Seth giving him some kind of magazine quiz. He asked his dad, “Do you feel a driving need to get ahead?” Pres Washburn responded so fast...”No way. I already have a head.” Loved how he met with his kids one on one regularly. I never saw him angry or heard him yell. Even when someone would accidentally mow over a lawn sprinkler. Or when his house would get toilet-papered. He was one of the kindest, humblest and selfless people I have known. I love you, Washburn Family! Sending hugs and prayers to you all.

Jennifer Vos - January 31, 2022 at 11:21 PM

LF

“ Our family has known you as dear friends in Michigan. Berk was our stake president, and he and your family were a strong influence for good through both happy and difficult times in our lives. Ephraim and David were best friends, Esther and Michael had first dates together and served in the same mission, and Eliza and Lisa were in the same Young Women's classes. They all attended seminary, and Carolyn even taught this class for a while. We have been so blessed by all of you and truly love you! We have been praying for Berk and all of you since we first heard of his illness. May it be of comfort to you knowing that you have many friends that care, and we pray for The Comforter to be with you at this time. How wonderful to know that one day you will all be together again some day! Much love to you always, Lana Foley

Lana Foley - January 31, 2022 at 03:26 PM

DA

“ I will always remember the time that Berk, his brother Sam and I went to the western mountains by Tooele. He has 2 motorcycles that we rode around until we found a gold mine. We explored the mine & found a big hole with a rotting latter going down. There was a rock that took all 3 of us to push over the edge. Berk counted about 2 min if I remember correctly before we heard the splash of water. At the top of the cave Berk decided to take a nap. Sam and I decided to do a little more exploring. We found a door partly open that took both of us to open enough to get in. Inside was boxes of dynamite which was sweating. Not knowing any better we took a box to show Berk who laughed, explained why it was sweating, and took it back, carefully lol. I love you Berk and I will always miss you and be thinking of you. David.

David Adams - January 31, 2022 at 02:51 PM

DC

I remember him visiting me in the ICU when he was the Bishop of the Toledo First Ward. He was both a physical and spiritual giant.

Dennis Coakley - February 02, 2022 at 09:30 PM