



David Woodruff Cobia

February 25, 1934 - December 21, 2023

I David Woodruff Cobia, 89, died 12/21/23 due to pancreatic cancer. I am writing my own obituary because other people give me undeserved credit and visa versa. To paraphrase another obituary, by now you know something I don't know and that is how I died and I know something you don't know and that is what it is like to be dead.

Family: My deceased parents are Rhoda Woodruff and Richard Seth Cobia; wife Patricia Claire Smith (who really really loved me); children: LeeAnn Klemetson and her husband Richard, Richard Scott Cobia and his wife Tiffany, Kathy Jacobson and her husband David; with 16 grandchildren and 20 great grand children.

Funeral services, and I feel these are very important gatherings, will be held Saturday, 12/30/23 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1038 N 1200 E, Provo, UT 84604.

I take great pleasure in being born in Cardston, Alberta, Canada. On my 12th birthday our family moved to Moses Lake, Washington where I graduated from high school. I served in the US Army in Korea after a 2 year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the upper Midwest. I graduated from Brigham Young University in 1960, then worked a year in Salt Lake City, UT as a milk marketing specialist. I married Patricia Smith after a 14 day

engagement and just before leaving for graduate school to Purdue University where I received my PhD. in Agricultural Economics. Professionally I was a Professor of Ag. Econ at North Dakota State University, with a one year stint on leave at the the USDA in Washington DC & again at BYU in Provo, UT. I served as acting and then interim head of the department, worked with agricultural cooperatives, prepared a college text book, was the director of an endowed program, taught courses and conducted research. I also organized major publications for the sunflower industry. At retirement my wife and I served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Melbourne Australia as the office couple. At the outset we worked so hard that we both lost more than 15 pounds.

Some accomplishments and roles I played in high school: FFA chapter, track, and student body president (other people put me up to it). I was also a member of BYU's track team. Our team was known for its depth, I helped provide the depth. Track helped me overcome my self consciousness about being so skinny. Among the positions I served in for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were Branch President and 1st counselor to the District President as our region prepared for Stakehood. Then I was called as a stake patriarch at the age of 43. I gave 870 blessings ranging in age from 8 to 93. Later I was a temple ordinance worker and later still helped to clean the chapel.

I took great delight in family events and greeting folks on the way. I tried to remain physically active. Pat and I enjoyed dancing, especially to New York, New York. I enjoyed the scriptures and sacred music, especially O Devine Redeemer and silly music like The Naughty Lady from Shady Lane. I thoroughly enjoyed demo-ing the 30 tons of 16 grain and 9 grain gluten free pancake mix I made after retiring.

The cars I owned ranged from a 1913 Model T Ford when I was 14 years old,

to a Tesla Model X at age 84. I was a penny pincher all my life & blew it all on that Tesla. I enjoyed fussing around in the kitchen making a mess. I took great pleasure in playing with little children and listening to teenagers. I was much better at the former than the latter. I enjoy telling other folks about my life and listening to them about theirs, even at the check out counter.

My closing off advice is to love God and his children, be honest, eat a wide variety of colors, have fun with family and fellow men. Persist and find joy in keeping the Lord's commandments and in the end it always pays off. See you soon but not too soon

Cemetery Details

Orem City Cemetery

1520 N 800 E
Orem, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 30. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Oak Hills 1st Ward
1038 N 1200 E
Provo, UT

Funeral Service

DEC 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Oak Hills 1st Ward
1038 N 1200 E
Provo, UT

Graveside Service

DEC 30. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (MT)

Timpanogos Memorial Gardens
1000 N. 400 East
Orem, UT 84057

Tribute Wall

DH

“ He always remembered my birthday because it was the same as his. He was the Fargo LDS Branch President in 1969 when my Mom, Dorothy Hanks, joined the church. My older sister, Susan, and myself were also baptized at that time.

Both Brother and Sister Cobia had a positive influence on my other 2 sisters Linda and Julie; as well as our Dad, Bill Hanks, who was baptized in 1978.

I remember playing racquetball with him at NDSU. I was in highschool and thought I should take it easy on him. But I was sorely wrong about that.

Both my sister Susan and I worked in the sunflower fields a couple times for Dr. Cobia during his NDSU research. He challenged me to see if I could jump as high as he could to touch the top of the sunflower plants. He won, but I think his plant had ground underneath that was higher making it look the same height as mine.

When I was 20, he asked me to ride with him to help paint the inside of a church about 2 hours away. In the car he leaned forward and wrapped his arms around the steering wheel. Then he told me to stay awake so I could keep him from falling asleep.

He told me you don't have to be a scholar to teach people. You just have to care. He was truly a delightful person to have known. Look forward to seeing him soon, but not too soon.

~David Hanks

David Hanks - January 29, 2024 at 03:01 PM

WH

“ I was an NDSU college student of Dr Cobia's in the late 1960's & really appreciated his teaching style & ability! I remember one incident at his Ag Econ class at Morrill Hall fairly well: I think the class was just before Christmas vacation & the class of 25 or so was unusually noisy & Dr Cobia's normal way to get our attention before he started the class did not work. However, what he did next really got our attention! He was behind a fairly tall & narrow podium at the front of the class, and in one motion he jumped to the top of the podium and stood, & asked for our attention! Dr Cobia was tall & athletic, but I was still in awe of how quick & easily he did this & he certainly got my attention & respect (as well as the rest of the class) & this exploit became a part of the NDSU Ag Econ Dept lore.

Dr Cobia was not just a good teacher, but also a good man that I looked up to.

His was a life well lived.

Wendell D Herman, Fargo, ND (BS 1970 & MS 1975)

Wendell Herman - January 02, 2024 at 11:42 AM

DW

Dr Cobia is remembered as an excellent instructor at NDSU and a quality man. He taught with passion and encouraged all his students to grow in understanding. I greatly appreciated his wisdom and insight. Dennis Walsh. Harvey, ND. BS 1980.

Dennis Walsh - January 05, 2024 at 08:55 PM

LO

“ I am David's younger sister by 2 years. No one could ever have a better older brother than David was for me. We were close friends and he always looked out for me. He was my protector. When I was a freshman in High School, he was the student body president. He grabbed me by the hand and we ran through the school, he introducing me to teachers and many of his friends.

When David was 16, I was 14, Ron and Roy: 9, Judy: 4. Mom and Dad went to Montana for 4 weeks. David and I took care of the children, dairy farm, and farm chores. As the folks were leaving to come home, Dad's appendix ruptured, and he was in a hospital in Montana for another month. I worked hard, but David being the oldest, led us through a difficult situation.

He wrote letters to me during his mission, his time spent in the service of our country, and while at college. I was one of the first people he phoned when he and Pat got engaged. We visited each other's families in Michigan and North Dakota. After retirement, we found them their home in Provo, down the street from us. We did lots of traveling together. After their mission to Australia, we went with them to Tasmania and New Zealand. We cruised through the Panama Canal, we went to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. We went to Catalina Island, Moses Lake Washington (where we were raised), and had planned a trip to the new Moses Lake Temple, about the time David was diagnosed with cancer. After Mom died, he was the perfect first child who kept us together, being sure the family was involved with each other and our cousins, and being represented at important events.

I love him and Pat dearly, and will miss him very much.

Lorna - December 29, 2023 at 03:14 PM

LO

“ 2 files added to the album Photos



Lorna - December 29, 2023 at 03:07 PM

JM

“ I first met Dave when I started work at NDSU in 1969. After his retirement and move, he would call periodically for any news from Dept and staff. My sympathy to Pat and family.

Judy Mor - December 27, 2023 at 06:18 PM

JJ

“ I remember a couple wonderful polka dances with cousin, David! Once in Mom & Dad's kitchen in Cardston & another at a family reunion near Donnelly, Idaho! He was a great dancer & cousin!! I'm so glad we stopped by in June & had a great visit with David & Pat. I always felt uplifted following a visit with David!! Love to all his family!

Jane Woodruff Jensen - December 26, 2023 at 07:58 PM

MG

David was our Branch President in Fargo and sent my buddies and I out on our missions. I remember him as having a great sense of humor and a leader that was fun to be around. At the same time he was a very spiritual person. He kept in touch with us over the years. Love to Pat and family

McClaren Giblette - December 29, 2023 at 12:37 PM

RW

I recall growing up in Fargo, N. D. I recall the Cobia family moving into the Fargo branch. I thought a lot of the family. I recall Kathy was about 2 or 3. I crawled up to her. She started to cry. That spooked me, because I knew LeeAnn and Rick so I knew Kathy. But it appears not very well.

David was a professor in Ag Economy at NDSU he was not my school advisor. But, I went to him many times for advise about school.

I love the Cobia family. I will miss Brother Dave. God Bless you all!!

Roger Wimpfheimer - December 29, 2023 at 12:54 PM

HM

Many years ago (probably 1956) David and I spent part of the summer wandering around rural northern Illinois as LDS missionaries. We did it in a manner similar to what missionaries of older times had done --- without purse or script We never had to sleep outdoors and several times the good people even gave us their best beds. We managed to have breakfast and dinner every day but never a lunch, (Maybe God does not believe in lunch.) We survived (somehow) and even met a few individuals who showed interest in the Church. As I stumbled along behind David, I was convinced he fully was a Woodruff family missionary.

Hal Milner (hmilner@aol.com)

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Hal Milner - December 31, 2023 at 01:19 PM