



Dennis Hays

March 1, 1943 - April 17, 2026

Funeral Service Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96683561456?pwd=Eh8jCJa685h54rCjg0A4SwwnJV6Z8n.1>

Dennis Hays was born on March 1, 1943, in South Gate, California, to Bob and Arlene Hays. He enjoyed growing up in Southern California in the 1950s. As a boy, he enjoyed independent adventures like shooting rabbits in the fields near his house in Hawthorne. As a teenager, he played basketball and soaked in the California sun with friends and family.

He met Clareen Carter while out cruising with friends. She thought he was cute. The feeling was mutual. Clareen was from neighboring Gardena and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He often said that joining the church and marrying Clareen changed the trajectory of his life for the better. They were sealed in the Los Angeles temple on September 10, 1964.

He got serious about school, moved to Utah, and graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. After working a bit back in Southern California, he and Clareen moved to Davis, California, where he earned a law degree. He and Clareen also added a son, Derek.

From there, Dennis took his little family to San Diego, where he worked as a

Deputy District Attorney. While there, he and Clareen welcomed another son, Chad. Dennis shifted back to his accounting roots in 1978 with a job at Price Waterhouse in Los Angeles, where their daughter Courtney joined the family. The Hays family made their way north to Bakersfield in 1982 where Dennis worked for the Centre for Neuro Skills (CNS), a job he often called a blessing. Dennis and Clareen spent 39 years there before moving to Taylorsville, Utah, in 2021.

Dennis collected friends from every era of his life—childhood, early marriage, college, graduate school, and all the places that he worked and lived. Always a lover of good food, he took great joy in meeting up with friends to enjoy a nice meal and reconnect.

He took joy in a variety of activities over the years. He was a grill master, a craftsman, a top-notch fisherman, a camper and backpacker, a scuba diver, and a pilot.

He loved watching good movies and his favorite TV shows. Always a fan of a good redemption story, he particularly loved Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* and Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*.

Dennis traveled around the world to places like Europe, Canada, Argentina, Mexico, the Caribbean, Vietnam, Singapore, Israel, and India. He and Clareen served for 18 months in the Russia Moscow Mission, which gave them a chance to travel all over Eastern Europe helping lead a program that taught people financial self-reliance principles.

During the last several years of her life, Clareen suffered from Alzheimer's. This gave Dennis the opportunity to develop domestic skills he didn't know he had as he cared for Clareen and did everything he could to make her life comfortable and pleasant. She passed away in 2022 after 58 years of marriage.

Dennis loved his family. He kept track of their birthdays each year, was happy to hear about their accomplishments and always rooted for their success. He loved spending time with his family at the beach. Whether it was camping at San Elijo, visiting Hawaii, or taking his kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids on an annual pilgrimage to Newport, these trips generated many cherished memories.

Dennis had a generous heart and liked helping others. He often used his professional expertise to help friends and family with financial guidance. Throughout his adult life, he served in a variety of volunteer roles and capacities in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Most recently, this included working every Friday in a local temple. His service to others brought him great joy.

Dennis died on April 17, 2026, in Taylorsville, Utah, surrounded by loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his wife and his parents. He is survived by his sisters Sandee (Wayne) and Jeanne (the late Patrick); his children Derek (Jennifer), Chad (Lisa), and Courtney; his grandchildren Dylan (Maggie), Maddie (Michael), Diana, Holly (Samson), Christopher, Sarah, Laura, Mark, Justin, Heber, Logan, and Declan; and his great-grandchildren Theo, Louis, and Gemma.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, at the meetinghouse Dennis attended, located at 3045 W. Bernina Drive, Taylorsville, UT 84129. A viewing will begin prior to the funeral at 9:30 a.m..

Interment will take place at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes, California on Monday, April 27, 2026 with a brief graveside at 12:30

PM.

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 25. 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM (MT)

Bernina Chapel
3045 West Bernina Drive
Taylorsville, UT 84129

Funeral Service

APR 25. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Bernina Chapel
3045 West Bernina Drive
Taylorsville, UT 84129

Graveside Service

APR 27. 12:30 PM (PT)

Green Hills Memorial Park
27501 S Western Ave
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Tribute Wall

KB

“ *What I remember about Dennis*
-Grouchy on the outside, marshmallow on the inside
-No good deed goes unpunished
-Vacations were work deferral
-He would start to sweat when discussing financial stuff!!!
-Stepping over papers, files, and cardboard boxes to get into his office
-Always having time for a question or to give support
-Spending hours with me copying visitor's logs when I had to appear in a patient's parents divorce case

I will miss him but I'm so glad he and Clareen are together again!

Kathy Bermejo, CNS

Kathy Bermejo - April 25 at 01:42 PM

LW

“ *Dennis was an incredible friend to my dad, Bryan, especially when he was sick in the hospital for weeks. Loyal thru and thru. He also drove down and came to my son's funeral, gave me the biggest hug, sobbing. It meant the world. I'm so glad that him and Clareen are together again. ❤️*

Lindsey Wintch - April 24 at 12:23 AM

CP

“ *I have fond memories of working with Dennis for several decades at CNS. We always had fun poking at each other over our differing politics but never took it too seriously and always respected each other. Also, had great conversations about his time in Moscow where I had also lived part-time. He'll be missed.*

Craig Persel - April 23 at 05:05 PM



“ *I truly enjoyed my time serving in the Taylorsville Temple with Dennis. We loved sharing stories of flying airplanes. A passion we both shared. He loved God. He serves him still. God bless.*

Chad Stewart - April 23 at 01:57 PM

DJ

“ *I'll will always remember Dennis as a "true friend." When my dad was in the hospital Dennis was right there always. Despite his busy job and other things I'm sure he had going on, Dennis made time. Truly grateful for this man and the friendship he had with my family over the years. You will be missed.!*

Devin Jolley - April 21 at 06:13 PM



“ *Dennis, you will never realize how great a role you played in my life. I will always be so grateful to you for your support and your wisdom. Your composure in the face of adversity and the strength of character you demonstrated when facing great loss were qualities you had that I always admired. I can only hope that I returned a fraction of what you brought to my life. May your soul rest in peace together with your beloved wife.*

Philip Decallejon

Phil Decallejon - April 21 at 05:18 PM

TK

“ Dennis and Clareen were friends for over 50 years. They greeted us when we arrived in Davis for law school in 1970 (a year behind Dennis). We traveled to San Diego together to interview for employment and both accepted offers with firms we interviewed with that week. We have been close friends throughout. We will always remember Dennis's appreciation for fine things (food, clothes, and hotels) which he managed in his frugal but always well-reasoned way and his commitment to church, family, and friends. We take joy in thinking of his reunion with Clareen.

Tim and Kathy Konold

Tim and Kathy Konold - April 21 at 03:38 PM

MB

“ You were my sweetheart in these later years, my traveling companion, and my dear friend. In just two years you filled my life with more warmth, laughter, and meaning than I ever expected to find again. I will miss our Tuesdays to the temple and our Saturdays to TJMax and all the plays at Hale and Eccles theaters. I will also miss your smile, your love and your kindness to me and my family. I am so happy that your dear Clareen is with you now. Marge Bush

Marge Bush - April 21 at 09:38 AM

TM

“ Dennis took my son, Tim Jr on his first father- son campout with Derek in 1974. I was at sea on my submarine. Thanks to Denis, my wonderful home teacher, I realized that no success on my sub, even chasing the Russians, could make up for missing time with my family. Thanks to Dennis I left the Navy the next year and will always be grateful for the loving lesson Dennis showed.

Tim Martin - April 21 at 12:07 AM

JW

“ I have fond memories of Uncle Dennis. Spending time in La Mesa when I was young, waiting for their family to come over to grandma’s on Christmas, Spring break and summers in Bakersfield and the Volvo. I loved that car. Hahaah Good times. I remember the baby shower for Courtney at his mom’s house and all the fun we had that day. I remember playing in the pool at the Bakersfield house and warm summer nights. He was always kind, friendly and quick to provide life guidance and direction. Uncle Dennis was a role model to so many. The blessings have always poured upon him for his moral obedience. Our Father in Heaven with open arms welcomed him home to his loving wife, my aunt Clareen. Love you Uncle!

Juli Winter - April 20 at 11:23 PM