



George Stanton Barrus

February 26, 1925 - July 27, 2017

George Stanton Barrus, a longtime resident of Provo, passed away on July 27 in Columbia, Missouri where he was living with his daughter, Michelle Brinkerhoff, and her family. He was 92.

His journey started in Long Beach, California in 1925, and took him to over 48 countries. "We can eat when we get home," was his travel mantra, not wanting to miss a single item in the Michelin guide along the way.

Dad was blessed with boundless energy throughout his life which seemed to defy the laws of physics. He was an object in motion which always remained in motion never ceasing in good works. Whenever his forward momentum slowed for just a moment, he was reading. It was almost impossible to find a book he hadn't read.

He served in the Navy in the Pacific in WWII, a mission to Sweden, and missions with Mom to Newfoundland, South Africa, and Southeast Asia. He earned three academic degrees and finished his working career at BYU as a professor where he taught advertising and public relations.

He loved the semesters abroad he led with students to France and Austria. He was an avid scouter and Eagle scout, serving for over 50 years.

We were hopeful that he was finally getting serious about retirement when he bought a hot tub at the age of 88. True to form, he rarely found the time to use it. Relaxing is one of the few things Dad never quite figured out.

He was a faithful Latter-day Saint and will continue his service on the other side even as his righteous example inspires us here to do better.

He is survived by his sisters Gae Haynie and Marge Brunson, sons Craig, David, Kent, Lee and James, and by his daughters Brenda Christensen and Michelle Brinkerhoff. He also leaves behind 31 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife Merlynn, his son John, and his sister Marilyn Russell.

A viewing will be held Friday, Aug. 4, from 6-8. Sat., Aug. 5, viewing from 9:30-10:30 followed by a memorial service at 11:00 AM at the Grandview 13th Ward chapel, 1260 W. 1150 N. Provo, Utah.

Please have flowers sent directly to the church at that address.

Cemetery Details

East Lawn Memorial Hills

4800 East Lawn Drive
Provo, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Grandview 13th Bldg
1260 W 1150 N
Provo, UT

Viewing

AUG 5. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Grandview 13th Bldg
1260 W 1150 N
Provo, UT

Funeral Service

AUG 5. 11:00 AM (MT)

Grandview 13th Bldg
1260 W 1150 N
Provo, UT

Tribute Wall



“ George Stanton Barrus

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ I am reading my mission journal and discovered this long forgotten entry dated March 18, 1966. “I was transferred to Brookfield, Illinois on the 17th. I sure hate to leave Iowa City, especially the Barrus family. They had us over for dinner and Pres. Barrus said he wanted to take me for a little walk. He told me that he and his wife had talked about it and wanted me to come live with them in Cedar City when I am released in August and go to CSI. I told him I would except I had a girl in Idaho that I loved and did not want to leave again. His family is so wonderful and I love them.” Now 55 years later I am still married to that girl. I am so grateful I rediscovered this sweet memory of a great man and his wonderful family who cared enough for this young boy to offer to take him into their home and family. I love them still. George A. Parker, Vernal, UT

George Parker - January 11, 2021 at 07:32 PM

RB

“ George Barrus was a mentor, a friend, and a colleague for more than 20 years. I loved him and respected him. When I joined the communications faculty, and taught some of his same classes, he shared all of his lesson plans and outlines--saving me hundreds of hours of preparation time. When I returned from my mission presidency a week after our classes had started, he filled in for me without hesitation. He was a superb teacher, a dedicated Scout leader, an energetic faculty colleague, had an innovative and creative mind, was a terrific father and devoted husband. I never saw George turn down an opportunity to help someone or be of service.

Raymond E. Beckham - August 05, 2017 at 10:30 AM

SB

“ George will always be one of the finest men I've ever known. My association with him goes back more than 50 years to the little town of Cedar City, Utah. He was a leader of boys who became men. His work involved much about testing and trying the young men. For them, he applied challenging experiences so important to advancing their knowledge and maturity levels which in turn better prepared them for future leadership positions in the Church and the world.

For me, he did the incredible. As a newly ordained Elder and soon to leave missionary, he offered me the unique and extraordinary opportunity to baptize his daughter Brenda. He gave me that blessing so I would be better prepared for mission service in the Kingdom. Though Brenda will always have on her Church records that she was baptized by a man who was not a member of her family, to that man she will be eternally special. That selfless decision by George was a memorable example of what sacrifice is.

As I will be out of town Saturday, please know that I will be thinking of George, his family, and treasuring the blessing he was in my life and the lives of many others.

Scott Boyter - August 03, 2017 at 09:02 PM

RS

“ I had just joined the Church when I convened with several members of the Communications Department faculty in a conference room in the Harris Fine Arts Center to defend my master's thesis. It seemed like everyone in the department was there, including Dr. Barrus. I don't remember having any significant conversations with him during my graduate school years at BYU (1971-1973). And I never had an advertising class that he taught. The meeting started with a prayer, for which I was grateful, thinking that these professors knew that I needed all the help I could get--and that they wanted me to do good. At the conclusion of their questions and my answers, the faculty went outside to talk. When they returned, they announced that I had passed, but with reservation, The reservation was Dr. Barrus's. He had asked me a question about advertising, and I didn't answer it to his satisfaction. He commented that he didn't want me to leave BYU without some basic knowledge of advertising. He invited me to come into his office and pick up some books on the subject, which I did. He told me to read them and come back in two weeks so he could ask me some questions. I did. And when I sat down in his office, he asked me one question: "How is your testimony?" No questions about advertising. All he was interested in was the strength of this new convert's testimony. Well, little did Dr. Barrus know--or maybe he did--that my entire career has been in advertising, as a copywriter first for a Salt Lake City agency (what is now Richter 7), then for Walt Disney World's Advertising/Creative Department in Florida, and now with the Communications Department at LDS Philanthropies, the Church's fundraising arm. I ran into Dr. Barrus a couple years ago in a barber shop. He was talking up a storm with the barber while I waited for a seat. When he finished, I introduced myself and related the master's thesis story. He didn't remember, but I have, fondly and gratefully, for nearly 45 years.

Rick Stockton

Rick Stockton - August 03, 2017 at 12:40 PM

JK

“ There have been thousands of professors come and go through BYU. George Barrus was the best in my opinion. What a good person!

John M. Knab - August 02, 2017 at 11:20 PM

DG

“ I took an advertising class from George and enjoyed his great personality and vigor. I used to see him shopping in the grocery store after he retired and though he probably didn't really remember me, he was always gracious to take a few minutes to visit. -Doug Gardine, Orem UT

Doug Gardine - August 02, 2017 at 10:20 PM

DC

“ Scouts was always fun with Brother Barrus. From his little bear in his pinewood derby car, his stories, his pancakes, juggling, getting us ready for campouts to being there when I received my Eagle. I think he is the reason why I enjoyed scouting so much. Brother Barrus always had a smile, a handshake and a kind word ready every time I met him. But the thing I appreciated most was that he was a great example and a worthy priesthood holder. He is a part of my priesthood lineage and has indirectly helped bless me and my family many times; for which we are eternally grateful.

Daniel Cook - August 02, 2017 at 08:36 PM

RZ

“ Dr. Barrus was one of my favorite two professors. I purposely took multiple classes from these two professors. I could only get A minus grades from Dr. Barrus no matter how hard I tried, but I remember him saying to an advertising class I attended, "mediocrity is not for you. You know too much. You were born to create worlds."

Ralph Zobell - August 02, 2017 at 07:52 PM