



John Charles Bennett

March 8, 1953 - June 19, 2013

John Charles Bennett was the youngest of five sons born to Edwin Frank and Ruth Hecker Bennett in San Diego, CA on March 8, 1953. He attended BYU on a tennis scholarship where he was very successful—playing number one singles and doubles, and earning All-America honors. While working on his master’s degree, he was assistant coach of the BYU women’s tennis team. In his tennis career, he played the European pro circuit, was the first head pro of Sherwood Hills in Provo, coached the men’s and women’s tennis teams at Boise State, was head pro at Crane Creek Country Club in Boise, ID and most recently taught tennis at Liberty Park. When he turned 35 he went on tour, reaching a ranking of #1 in the Intermountain Region, #25 in the nation in singles and #11 in doubles—all in just one year on the circuit.

John joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while at BYU in 1972. He served a mission to Brazil and was a devoted member, serving as High Councilor, High Priest Group Leader, Elders Quorum President, Ward Mission Leader and was a very dedicated home teacher. In 1977, he married Kathleen Liechty (divorced, 2000). Four children were born to them. In 2004, he married Debra Drennan in the Salt Lake Temple and they shared nine very happy years together. John had unusual faith and was rock solid in all that he did. He was honest, true, kind and in many ways endearingly naive. He could be silly, yet was extremely competitive, especially on the tennis court. He loved his wife, children, grandchildren and brothers completely. He enjoyed

hiking in the red rock, traveling, snorkeling, playing frisbee on the beach, all sports, breakfast at any time of the day, chocolate chip cookies and ketchup. He liked spending time with his grandchildren and even wanted to feed the ducks with them as one of his last wishes.

He is survived by his wife Debbie, his children, Jennifer (Shae) Feters, Michael (Camille), Rebecca, Angela (Jason) Ivancich; eight grandchildren, Elizabeth, Ali, Aiden and Katelyn Feters, Lance, Afton and Cosette Bennett, and Camden Ivancich; his brothers Richard (Bonnie), Robert, and David (Celeste). He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, William.

John fought a valiant, exhausting, nearly 3 year battle with aggressive prostate cancer. He was well cared for and loved by Dr. Neeraj Agarwal, Julia Batten, Dr. Jonathon Tward and many others at Huntsman Cancer Institute. We are hopeful that John's decision to be part of numerous study treatments will benefit many men to come.

Funeral services will be Saturday, June 29 at 11 a.m. in the Waterloo LDS Chapel, 1623 S. 500 E., SLC, UT. The family will greet friends at the chapel on Friday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:30-10:45 a.m. Interment, Mountain View Memorial Estates, 3115 E. 7800 S., Cottonwood Heights, UT.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Huntsman Cancer Foundation or the LDS Missionary Fund. Memories may be shared at www.serenicarefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Estates Mountain View

3115 East 7800 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Salt Lake City, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN **28**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Waterloo LDS Chapel
1623 South 500 East
Salt Lake City, UT

Viewing

JUN **29**. 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM (MT)

Waterloo LDS Chapel
1623 South 500 East
Salt Lake City, UT

Funeral Service

JUN **29**. 11:00 AM (MT)

Waterloo LDS Chapel
1623 South 500 East
Salt Lake City, UT

Tribute Wall



“ *John Charles Bennett*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Hi, I am Michelle Bennett's daughter Cosette I wish he was still here but I know that he is in heaven and watching over us and guiding us in every step in life and he helps me. I am 10 I and hope I inspire people and help them.*

cosete bennett - December 10, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Nancy Porter - June 28, 2013 at 05:11 PM

TP

“ Deb,

Our family has such positive memories of John! He had an innocent goodness about him that was very sweet and loveable. Whenever we got together he would ask about our family members and always showed a genuine interest in us. He seemed content and happy, focused on the things that were truly most important in life. We appreciate the love John showed to you and he will forever hold a tender spot in our hearts. We had super good times on our trips together and look forward to sharing many more fun times with you in the future. You and John had more adventures in your short time together than many couples experience in decades of marriage. Way to go Sis! Life will still be very sweet for you, so hang in there through this time of sadness and know that you are well loved!

Love,

Tami D. Price

Tami D. Price - June 28, 2013 at 01:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Charles Bennett.*



June 28, 2013 at 10:48 AM

KA

“ John was one of the kindest people we've ever met. It's funny that he managed to excel so much in tennis (we've been told many times how competitive he was) because you think of the ultra-competitive types as the ones who try to destroy you in the process of winning (and then bask in the glory). John was not like that at all. He always tried to build you up. He cared about others so much and went out of his way to find out how you were doing. He was also perhaps the least materialistic person we've ever known.

We especially appreciated how happy John made Debbie. He's been such a blessing to our family!

We'll miss you, John!

Love,

Kirk and Annie (Debbie's brother and sister-in-law)

Kirk & Annie - June 27, 2013 at 05:47 PM

SS

Just found out about John's passing in the latest edition of the BYU magazine. We were in the same district in the Brazil LTM and served together in Sao Paulo Brazil. I remember in particular one funny adventure we had on a P-Day in downtown Sao Paulo where we attended a movie together, but I won't disclose it here, as it was very embarrassing for both of us. He was one of my favorite people of all time, always humble and unassuming, yet firm in his testimony and desire to serve. We kept in touch after the mission, but as time went on, we lost contact with each other. From what I've read here, he continued to be a special person for the remainder of his mortal probation. A good man indeed!

Judge Sterling Sainsbury. Jan 28th, 2014.

Sterling Sainsbury - January 29, 2014 at 12:37 AM

CB

I hope that he is living the life up there

cosete bennett - December 14, 2020 at 10:34 AM

MD

“ I'm glad Taylor and I could go on that trip to Lake Powell with Debbie and John and Mom and Dad. Taylor still talks about his great trip with his Aunt Debbie and Uncle John. I was cute to see John make his little, talkative nephew feel special. He is a very thoughtful and caring man.

-Mark Drennan

Mark Drennan - June 27, 2013 at 04:17 PM

RH

“ Debbie- I recall meeting John on a couple of occasions. What I know of John is what you have shared with me over the years - the way you would light up each time you spoke of him and most recently his valiant struggle against his debilitating disease. I wish I knew him better. As I have experienced the death of both of my parents - the "sting" of death is real, but so are the tender mercies you will receive.

You and John's family are in my prayers.

Roger Hendrickson

Roger Hendrickson - June 26, 2013 at 01:30 PM

DB

Roger, thanks so much for your thoughts! I have experienced both the "sting" and many tender mercies. Knowing people care is the greatest tender mercy of all right now!
Debbie

debbie bennett - June 27, 2013 at 09:25 AM

CB

and i dearly miss him

cosete bennett - December 10, 2020 at 02:21 PM

JF

“ I am John's oldest child, Jennifer. I remember one family trip we took to Sun Valley, Idaho because my dad had a tennis tournament there. Us kids enjoyed swimming and spending time with family. While there we went walking by a pond and saw a "hill" that dad and I decided to climb. We didn't think it would take much time at all. This "hill," however, turned out to be much bigger than expected. It took us a couple hours and as we reached the top there was snow. That was a fun memory of just dad and I hiking forever, determined to reach the top.
That's how he lived his life and hope that I can follow his example. I love you dad and will sure miss you! Thanks for being a great dad and wonderful grandpa to our kids!

Jen Fetters - June 25, 2013 at 07:19 PM

DB

*Jen, what a nice memory of your dad!
Love you, Debbie*

debbie bennett - June 27, 2013 at 09:27 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of John Charles Bennett.



June 25, 2013 at 04:54 PM



“ *John was always such a sweet father-in-law to me. Always so kind. Always asking how I was doing, about my health, about my parents and siblings... and he would always REMEMBER what I had said the last time and get a new update! WOW! (Now that is really impressive!)*

One funny memory of when I first met John as the "girlfriend" to his only son is that the first couple of times we met it was hard for him to give me a hug. It was one of those "pat on the back" type of hugs, but as the years went on he just got sweeter and sweeter and more and more willing to let his soft side show.

Especially the last few years every time we would talk he would always remind us how much he loved us and embrace us with a "bear hug" before sending us on our way. We can't wait to get a bear hug from him again on the other side!

Camille Bennett - June 25, 2013 at 04:27 PM

DB

Camille, John always felt so loved by you as well. What a sweet daughter-in-law you were to him!

*Love you,
Debbie*

debbie bennett - June 27, 2013 at 09:28 AM

DB

“ *1 file added to the album Debbie's Tribute to John*



debbie bennett - June 25, 2013 at 03:51 PM

DB

I love this photo, because it is so John. Most of the time he wore a hat. In fact, I did not see him without one before our 5th or 6th date. His "work" attire was tennis clothing. He did not like to dress up and never felt that comfortable in a shirt and tie. He had always been physically fit and had worked hard on his athletic talents, so dealing with a debilitating illness that gradually took away ALL his physical capability was very hard on him! It was also very mentally and spiritually challenging to know for nearly three years that dying would be the ultimate end of this illness. We knew it had already reached the point of being incurable by the time it was diagnosed--that is hard. Despite all this, John fought for every day and tried many unproven study drugs in the attempt to extend the time he had here, as well as to make his quality of life better. Some worked wonders, others failed miserably. John got "poked" literally thousands of times and underwent many, many tests. Through all this, he remained optimistic, cheerful, kind and most of the time very happy. He was a joy to live with, love and ultimately care for! I miss him more than words can say, but am cheered by the knowledge that one day I will see him, embrace him and spend eternity with him! And, he will be the John I knew--or maybe even the younger version (with hair), that I never got to meet. In any case, he was ready to leave the prison his body had become and I know he is enjoying his new found freedom. I am thrilled for John, just trying to deal with the emptiness that is left in my life. Thank you to so many who have been there for me and our family members. Your expressions are deeply appreciated and have helped immensely! Please know that I have felt your love and am very, very grateful.

*With Love,
Debbie Bennett*

debbie bennett - June 25, 2013 at 03:53 PM

LD

“ John was the nicest guy we've ever met, and the fastest walker! He always made you feel important and interesting, and was the first to offer to help. We are grateful to know our association with him will continue beyond this life, and that he and Debbie will be reunited, never to be parted again.

Leah Drennan - June 25, 2013 at 11:46 AM

DB

Leah, We sure enjoyed visiting you, Brent and your darling daughters! Remember when Brent showed us the way to the emergency room in Charlotte when John woke up with his jaw having had a severe reaction to the bone strengthening infusion he had received a few days before we left to visit you? John went through a lot and fought hard. It is nice to imagine him fast walking again!!! Thank you for your sweet thoughts! I also loved the beautiful flowers you sent!
With love,
Debbie

debbie bennett - June 27, 2013 at 09:34 AM

VL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Valerie Leavitt - June 25, 2013 at 11:45 AM

DB

What fun times! Thanks Valerie for helping me reminisce on them!
Debbie

debbie bennett - June 27, 2013 at 09:35 AM

DB

“ 6 files added to the album *New Album Name*



debbie bennett - June 25, 2013 at 08:14 AM

PT

“ *Debbie veel sterkte. We vonden het fijn om John ontmoet te hebben hier in Nederland. Als je tijd nodig hebt om even uit te blazen kom dan lekker even naar Nederland er staat een bed voor je klaar. Heel veel sterkte de komende tijd we denken aan je en bidden voor je. Heel veel liefs en knuffels Familie Tettero*

Petra Tettero - June 25, 2013 at 02:09 AM

DB

Ik hou van jullie! Bedankt voor jullie lieve gedachten. Veel liefs, Debbie

debbie bennett - June 27, 2013 at 09:37 AM



“ *Debbie, i know you are a strong and faithful person. I know, however, there will be times of sadness and grief. I pray your memories and daily prayer will comfort you and help you feel johns loving arms around you when needed. God bless. Love, lisa orgill*

Lisa Orgill - June 25, 2013 at 01:44 AM

DB

*Lisa, Thank you ever so much for thinking of me!
Debbie*

debbie bennett - June 27, 2013 at 09:37 AM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



debbie bennett - June 25, 2013 at 12:44 AM

DB

getting ready for the photoshoot

debbie bennett - June 25, 2013 at 08:10 AM

LM

“ *Dearest Deb,*

*Much love and loving arms around you and family in my thoughts.
So anxious to sit down with you and visit for hours and hours. I love
you and have missed an association with you.*

God bless you to feel a constant companionship of heaven's love.

*With much love,
Leslie McLean*

leslie mclean - June 24, 2013 at 11:10 PM

DB

*Leslie, Would love to do that visit! Thank you for your kind thoughts!
Debbie*

debbie bennett - June 27, 2013 at 09:38 AM