



Joseph William Reece Jr

June 15, 1922 - March 10, 2018

Joseph William Reece, Jr passed away peacefully in his sleep on March 10, 2018 at the age of 95. He was born June 15, 1922 in Cardston, Alberta, Canada to Joseph William Reece, Sr. and Ida Mazell Ross Reece.

The family was working in the coal mines in Canada and moved to Utah in 1929. They lived in various places while Joe was growing up. He sold newspapers on the corner of Temple Square as a boy to help his parents. He attended West High School in Salt Lake City where he was active in ROTC. In 1942, after the invasion of Pearl Harbor, Joe was drafted into the United States Army. The following year he was assigned to South Mountain Reserve in Phoenix, Arizona as quarter master. His duties included caring for the POW's.

Joe met Lovina Shumway at church and soon afterward they won a dance contest at the USO, and their date for eternity began. They were married on Valentine's Day, 1944, in the Mesa Arizona Temple and settled in Phoenix. They raised two daughters, Sherrilyn and Linda, and two sons, Craig and Sterling.

Joe worked for Arizona Public Service in Phoenix as an accountant and retired in 1982 when Lovina's health declined. Lovina passed away in 1983, and Joe's mother, Mazell, encouraged him to come to Utah and take care of

her. In Utah he courted and married his widowed sister-in-law, Janice Hughes Ruff Reece on March 17, 1984.

Joe was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and faithfully served in many church positions. His favorites were Ward Greeter and Temple Worker. He made friends with anyone he could and truly cared about others. His hobbies included working with wood, gardening, bookkeeping, and Jerry-rigging and re-purposing. Anything to save money and the environment.

Joe was preceded in death by wife Lovina, daughter Sherrilyn, sons Craig and Sterling, and grandson Preston, as well as his parents, sister Lela, and brothers Lyle and Don.

He is survived by his wife Janice, daughter Linda, son-in-law Fred Pitman, daughters-in-law Mary Lou Allison Reece Ellis and Layne Eagar Reece, stepchildren Ron Ruff, Cristine (Brad) Draney, Layne (Pat) Ruff, and Paul (Lisa) Ruff, and over 150 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, siblings David (Becky) Reece and Mazie (Drew) Binks.

Service will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 4350 South 1100 East, Millcreek, Utah.

On Friday March 16th.

Visitation will be from 10:00 am-11:30 with a memorial service beginning at 12:00 noon.

Interment will be in Phoenix, Arizona at the Greenwood Memory Lawn Cemetery 2300 West Van Buren St.) on Monday March 19 at 11:30 am.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Winder 7th Ward
4350 South 1100 East
SLC, UT

Funeral Service

MAR **16**. 12:00 PM (MT)

Winder 7th Ward
4350 South 1100 East
SLC, UT

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph William Reece Jr*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *My earliest memory of the Reece family is from Halloween in the 1960's. They were neighbors just down the street from us and we went to their house on the typical trick-or-treat rounds. When I joined the Church at age 19, Brother Reece was there to support me. He even drove me from Phoenix up to SLC for October Conference in '77 so I could meet up with my Texas fiance who drove up with his Texan friends. He and Lovina came to our wedding reception. Years passed and we kept in contact, and then my kids started getting married. He came to each of their receptions as well. My friendship with him was truly lifelong, and I am grateful to have known this wonderful, great man. Jan, please accept my sincerest condolences at your loss. Lynnell Lage Fulkerson*

Lynnell Fulkerson - April 21, 2018 at 12:20 AM



“ *Joe was always smiling and inquiring about you and your family no matter how difficult life was for him. He was a dear friend, a true Saint. He will be much missed.*
Jane Hales

Jane Hales - March 16, 2018 at 01:04 AM



“ *Joe watched our children grow up. There was never a time when he didn't ask how they were doing. He loved us and we loved him and Jan. Wonderful, wonderful friend.*

Arnold Wilcox - March 15, 2018 at 11:28 PM



“ *Uncle Joe (and Jan) have been to every big event in the Wixom family since I can remember. You could always count on seeing Joe give his bright smile and go out of his way to give a sincere hug each time he saw you (even when he was unable to walk). He was always such a Gentleman. We are going to miss his joyful laugh and inquisitive nature.*

*Sending my love to Jan and the rest of the family.
Natalee (Wixom) Lance*

Natcat Lance - March 15, 2018 at 06:01 PM

WU

“ *Joe showed his sweetness of character when we first met in Compiegne France when he was in the hospital for treatment of ulcers. He went home, had this problem until an antibiota was developed and it was cured. We saw him in Phoenix, he visited us in Salt Lake, then moved into our stake. We have always been good friends. Bernice joins in condolences from the Ursenbach family.*

Wayne O. Ursenbach - March 15, 2018 at 12:10 PM

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“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Serenity Funeral Home - March 14, 2018 at 03:18 PM

MB

We love Joe and Jan so much. His influence carried over to our sons as they have served in scouting. They remember most the fun of pine wood derby races. His love for wood working and building things was the start for our sons hobby and career The boys lovingly cherish their wooden tool boxes that they still use today. Robert and Marilyn Black

Marilyn Black - April 03, 2018 at 11:48 AM