

President M. Russell Ballard

October 8, 1928 ~ November 12, 2023

How honor I was for meeting such a wonderful man and friend I will always treasure his friendship he truly was a apostle of god may god bless all of you and this time Ballard Family how grateful I am for the Plan of Salvation and for the knowledge that we will see Elder and sister Ballard again

- Jonathan Tirado

I am So sad to hear about the passing of Elder M. Russel Ballard!■■ He was very close to my heart and always peirced my soul with everything he shared! ■■■ I know God has a Plan for EACH OF US, and moving forward, we will EACH be blessed if we CHOOSE to continue to Rely on him and his Son, JesusChrist...■%ALL IN! ■% OF the Time! ■■■■■■ May the love and peace, only our Savior, Jesus Christ can bring, be with his family, and all who are mourning his loss at this time!■■■■■■■

- Juliana Reynolds

Russ, as we called him back in the day, was my former Priest quoreum advisor and as the secretary of the quorum, I had the opportunity of participating in leadership meetings at his home. This included organizing various projects to generate enough funds for a super-activity to spend a week on the beach at Mazatlan in Mexico. We had a pretty good church basketball team and sponsored and sold tickets for the "Foothill Invitational Tournament" for us and other elite Church basketball teams to participate in. This included an East High-Highland High alumni and BYU-Utah alumni All-Star games, as well as two professional NBA players to play a one-on-one game. We also hired a professional recording group to play for a "stomp" at East High that was very successful. One of the special memories was having a queen contest for the tournament with some of the cutest girls around town and lining them up with us young men for a special dinner in downtown Salt Lake. I think there were many of us that had never even been on a date before, let alone with some of the prettiest girls around. There were other service projects and fundraising activities to help generate the $8000 to finance our trip. While there in Mexico, aside from the usual touristy things we did, our leaders took us to some of the less fortunate areas to help us appreciate our material blessings. We also put together a Mormon basketball game night with our Quorum team and a local mexican city team and involed the missionaries and other church members. Not too long after this, he was called to be a Mission

president in Canada. Even a year later after being released as our advisor, I received a letter from him for my 19th birthday encouraging me to continue to pursue a full-time Mission myself, which I still have. I think of the 33 members of our Quorum during that period 32 went on missions. I understand that years later in a leadership meeting he expressed because not all wards had the resources to pull off such a super-activity, the whole church policy for such was changed to ensure more equity between units. Roughly 20 years later we had a special Quorum reunion where he spoke and gave us an Apostolic blessing. I witnessed many other occasions where he ministered to other local members, despite his busy schedule as a General Authority. This included the honor of him marrying my wife and I in the Salt Lake temple. I of course have followed him closely over the years with his sermons including some special Christmas messages to his local congregation. I was impressed with one I heard during the pandemic. His humbleness and sincerity was apparent trying to lead the Quorum of Twelve with all the travel restrictions when needing to call new leaders, and pleading with the Lord for guidance and approval inventing new policies to continue the Lord's work. I count myself very blessed to have rubbed shoulders with him in my youth, which set the stage for the rest of my life, in addition to hearing his messages given throughout his life. I am glad he can join with his wife Barbara again with whom he said never had a major argument. There couldn't have been a better example of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

- C. Kerry Stratford, MD

President M. Russell Ballard, We appreciate your selfless service to Heavenly Father's Sons and Daughters during your mortal life, like Paul of old "You have fought a good fight, you have finished your course,you have kept the Faith" (2Timothy 4:7) May Heavenly Father comfort all the bereaved through the power of the ATONEMENT of Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer Amen!

- Edward Engengu Ebaju

Our family loves President Ballard. I was raised in Millville, and so I have family members who are very close to the Ballard family. He was such a great man. My husband who recently died, just connected to him and admired him so much. Part of his family has gone on many trips with my sister and brother in law. My cousin Dixie told me today that President Ballard came to their home one day. She said she was so glad her house was clean and she had bread in the oven. I send deep sympathy and love to all of the Ballard family. Marie Anderson Burke

- Mrs. Marie Anderson Burke

Nuestras oraciones y pensamientos están con su familia, lamentamos la pérdida del Pte Ballard pero nos alegramos por su gozoso encuentro junto a su amada esposa la Hna Barbara.

- Familia Lopez Pasases y Soriano Lopez

We offer our deepest condolences to the family and friends of President M. Russell Ballard. I am so happy that President Ballard can now be with his eternal companion, Barbara, forever. There is always comfort in knowing we will be with our loved ones again because our Savior Jesus Christ overcame death. I am so grateful for His love and comfort. I cried Monday morning, hearing of the passing of President M. Russell Ballard. He had been an Apostle for nearly as long as I can remember. We met him and his dear wife, Barbara, on an airplane heading to Hawaii. My husband flew for business a lot during that time and he surprised me with first-class tickets to Oahu for my birthday that year. In the airport departure terminal, we noticed several General Authorities standing not too far from us. We had our Ensign magazine with us from the October General Conference and started looking them up. It was great to see them in person. To our delight, we sat between Elder & Sister Ballard to our left and Elder Hales

to our right on the entire flight. Elder Hales slept most of the way and flew on to another island. Elder Ballard told us he always wore a sweater under his suit coat when he traveled as he could never tell what the temperature was going to be like on the plane. Sister Ballard was so kind and gracious. Elder & Sister Ballard were there with something pertaining to BYU Hawaii. I remember hearing him speak and he wore an elaborate lei. The Church news says he addressed the winter commencement at BYU-Hawaii on Dec. 12, 1998, in Laie, Hawaii. He was accompanied by his wife, Barbara. In Elder Ballard's remarks that day he explained, "When our time comes to return to our Heavenly Father to give Him an accounting of our stewardship while here on the earth, what do you suppose the Lord will be most interested in? I believe He will be pleased with all of our honorable accomplishments, but will have a special interest in the service — including sharing the gospel — that we have rendered to others along the way." My dad and his wife were serving a mission at the Polynesian Cultural Center in Laie and we stayed with them in their home next to the Laie Temple. We were invited to attend a dinner as guests with the Ballard's and senior missionaries serving at the PCC. I have a picture at home with all of us. Later that evening we attended the PCC Luau show with the Ballard's and other senior missionaries. We had VIP seating next to them and were all served delicious dole whip in pineapples. I have never in my life met more Christ-like people than Elder & Sister Ballard. They were genuine, loving, calm, caring, and full of faith. Their example has had a great impact on my life and I am eternally grateful for their wonderful example. I am confident he will continue to have a powerful impact for good on the other side of the veil.

- Sister Catherine A. Badger

El señor le trajo para servir en sus propositos en esta vida y ahora lo llama a seguir en la patria celestial, con el camino del servicio.

- marvin zamora araya