James Henry Reed Jr.

February 25, 1925 ~ December 2, 2017

"The Piano Man" passed peacefully on December 2, 2017. He was born in Cheyenne WY on February 25, 1925. He resided in Denver CO and attended Denver University. He was an accomplished Jazz pianist and used his talents for over 70 years to entertain others and to support himself. He served in the Army during WWII in the Pacific. His piano playing helped him end the war out of harm's way and he got to share the stage with Bob Hope. When a music job sent him to Salt Lake City UT in 1947, he met his wife, Barbara. They were married April 8, 1949. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Los Angeles Temple.

Jimmy has always been a "people person." He ran Boy's Clubs in California and Salt Lake. He was involved in the Community Action Program in Salt Lake. Jimmy then found a way to integrate his music into business. He opened Four Seasons West; a party/reception center where he combined great food and music for wedding receptions and company parties. Many local musicians got their start with Jimmy and his band. Jimmy played all over the valley for events of all kinds. The last few years he loved playing at various assisted living centers and memory care facilities. They loved him, and he loved them. It was a real pleasure working with Heart and Soul.

Jimmy (Papa) will be remembered for his amazing music, his ever-generous heart, his sense of humor, and his infectious laugh. He always had a joke or story to share; regardless of the topic. He was an animal lover and supporter of the Humane Society and his faithful companions; Wesley and Lily, will miss their loving master. Jimmy had an amazing miniature train set that he "played" with, he enjoyed nature with a lovely garden and loved watching the birds. He was also an avid fan of the University of Utah, and wore his red proudly through the bad years along with the good years.

Jimmy is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years, Barbara Jean, his son Michael, daughter Diana Payne, Son-in-Law Bart, and grandchildren Adam and Katy. His grandson, Matthew, preceded him in death.

We would like to thank the staff at St. Joseph's Villa for their professional and loving care.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held in February 2018. Condolences may be left at www.larkinmortuary.com.