

John Richard Jefferies

August 7, 1929 ~ May 24, 2020

John Richard Jefferies passed away peacefully on May 24, 2020 in St. George, Utah. Ruby, his loving wife of 15 years, provided strength and comfort. John was born in Salt Lake City on August 7, 1929 to William Chester Jefferies and Sarah Elizabeth Flinders. He graduated from South High School in 1946. He attended the University of Utah on a track scholarship and graduated with a BA in art in 1950. Later, he earned an MHA from the University of Minnesota. John married Bonnie Peterson Stoker on February 12, 1952; they raised three children.

John served as an Army officer in the Korean War and was an accomplished golfer, outdoorsman, and artist. During his career, he was the Administrator of Primary Children's Hospital (Salt Lake City, Utah), All Children's Hospital (St. Petersburg, Florida), Columbus Children's Hospital (Ohio), and Duchesne County Hospital (Utah). John was President of Buffalo Children's Hospital (New York) and the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) and the Children's Hospitals Executive Committee (CHEC) and represented children's hospitals in the Children's Miracle Network.

John's testimony of Jesus Christ was central to his life as he served others in countless ways. He and Ruby served two full-time service missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Ruby was his loving companion and source of strength in his later years, as they shared many adventures and traveled the world.

John will be remembered for his boundless generosity and mentorship among his family, friends, and coworkers, as well as his graciousness under pressure. He fought the good fight, ran the good race, and endured until the end.

John loved his family dearly. He is survived by his devoted wife, Ruby; his sister, Dorothy Thuet; his children, Julie Jefferies, Jim Jefferies (Laura), and Brad Jefferies (Jasmine); grandchildren, Sam Paquette, Zac Paquette, Natalie Jefferies Peterson (Eric), Joshua Jefferies, Peter Jefferies, and Jacob Jefferies; and great-grandchildren, Drake Paquette, Estelle Peterson, Emmi Eckes, and Dixon Shimkus. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie; and his grandson, Jeff Paquette.

A graveside service will be held May 29th at 11:00 am at the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, attendees are asked to comply with government directives by being mindful of social distancing and wearing a mask.