

Barry Gail Mortenson

November 28, 1942 ~ April 10, 2022

Barry Gail Mortenson, born November 28, 1942, passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 10, 2022 after a long illness. Barry was afflicted with three dreaded diseases: a rare leukemia, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's. These three diseases, plus the effects of too many bicycle wrecks and broken helmets, were eventually enough to take his life before heart disease caught up with him. Be kind to cyclists!

Barry was born in Ogden, Utah, and spent his young life in Morgan. During Barry's grade school years, he lived in Logan and Layton. In 1953, he moved with his family to Porterville, where they lived in a big, two-story, rock home with no indoor plumbing. Barry slept in the attic during the winter and on the back porch during the summer.

Barry enjoyed his years at Morgan High School. He worked hard, played football, excelled scholastically, and created enough mischief with his close friends that it is still all the talk at high school reunions. Barry loved his mission experience in the California Mission from 1962-1964. As an assistant to the president in the mission field, Barry was known for his great success at telephone proselyting and for his goal to become a millionaire before age 30.

After his mission, Barry worked as a railroad watchman and as a jackhammer operator, where he hung from ropes over the edge of a cliff while placing the explosives used in constructing East Canyon Dam. He attended Weber College and USU where he met and married Susan Cox. Barry completed his MBA at Utah State and went into the Army in 1968. He graduated OCS in Columbus, Georgia, and then was stationed for two years in Atlanta, where he administered defense contracts. His two eldest sons were both born there.

In 1971, Barry began selling pharmaceuticals for Eaton Labs of Norwich, NY. This small company was later purchased by Procter & Gamble, where he retired after a career of 38 years. Barry moved his young family to Sandy in 1973, where he remained for the rest of his life. He turned down many opportunities for promotion so that he could stay in Utah, close to family and friends.

Barry did not believe in having any hobby that did not generate income. As a result, he held many extra jobs including working in food service, working as a convenience store attendant at Tenneco in Atlanta, teaching Seminary, working at Sears in customer relations, selling life insurance, providing bookkeeping and accounting services for several small businesses, and working as a clerk at Deseret Book. He was always productive at home, working at the computer, in the yard, or in the garage. He could build or fix almost anything, and he passed on those talents to his sons. He taught his family the value of work by using the platitudes learned from his own mentors:

"Head down, butt up!"

"No goldbricking."

“Most of the world’s work is done by
people who don’t feel good…!”

Barry dedicated much of his spare time to church service, where he found great joy and fulfillment while serving in bishoprics and stake presidencies, and working with Boy Scouts. Barry served as bishop of the Sandy Hillcrest 2nd Ward. He emphasized the importance of service to others, especially to the elderly, and he devoted much effort to the loving care of his widowed mother.

We are grateful to Dr. Douglas Romney and Dr. Robert Havard, who were both so caring and thorough over the past few years. We are also indebted to the great people of Rocky Mountain Care and Sandy Health and Rehab, who were so kind and helpful.

Barry is survived by his wife Susan, his sons, Dakon, Daren & Heather, Brandon & Lori, Brett & Honnelore, and Chad, his foster son Altin Tsethlikai, and his grandchildren, Jack, Aydan, Isaac, Sam, Ben, Will, Jake, Sydney, Elyse, and Braydon Mortenson.

Viewings will be held Friday, April 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E. 10600 S., Sandy, Utah, and Saturday, April 23 from 10:30 to 11:30 AM at the Sandy Hillcrest Stake Center, 8485 S. 1000 E., Sandy, Utah. Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 23 at Noon at the Sandy Hillcrest Stake Center. Interment will be at the South Morgan Cemetery, 335 S. State St., Morgan, Utah, at 2:30 PM.

To view the services via Zoom click the "Watch Services" button or click on the following link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83861961917