

Bonnie Rae Dansie Parkin

August 4, 1940 ~ July 28, 2025

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Bonnie Rae Dansie Parkin passed away on Monday, July 28, 2025, at the age of 84 surrounded by her family. A devoted disciple of Jesus Christ, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, educator, and leader, she lived a life of service, faith, leadership and love.

Born on August 4, 1940, in Murray, Utah, Bonnie was the third of five children of Jesse Homer and Ruth Martha Butikofer Dansie. Raised on a family farm in Herriman, Utah, she learned to work hard from an early age—milking cows, bottling fruit, and helping in Dansie's Place, the family store. Her humble, loving, hard-working mother taught her how to cook and how to serve, instilling in her a strong work ethic and a deep sense of loyalty and gratitude.

Always passionate about education, Bonnie graduated from Jordan High School, home of the Beetdiggers, and attended Utah State University, where she was president of Kappa Delta Sorority and vice president of her senior class. Bonnie was proud to be an Aggie and earned a degree in elementary education and early childhood development. She taught school for three years at Hannah Holbrook Elementary in Bountiful, Utah before becoming a mother. She was a lifelong learner and an avid reader with a great love of literature. Her book club with cherished friends met monthly for over 50 years. Later in life she received an honorary doctorate from USU. A scholarship in her name continues to support aspiring students.

In 1963, she married her sweetheart, James L. Parkin, in the Salt Lake Temple. Their marriage was a joyful love affair—a partnership of purpose, service and devotion to the Savior. Together they raised four sons; Jeff (Jana Winters), Brett (Angela Christensen), Matt (Ann Howell) and David (Jennifer Huntsman). Following prophetic counsel, they brought Ernest Zahoney into their home for several years to provide him with education, opportunities and love. He sweetly called her "mom" from his first night with the family. She did the same for extended family in need of nurturing.

As a young mother in Seattle, she was mentored by women in the ward who taught her to love and study the scriptures daily. From that foundation, her devotion to and understanding of the gospel deepened, and so did her empathy—shaped by personal loss, including three miscarriages. She developed lifelong friendships in every place she lived and left people feeling seen, heard, and valued. Many—young and old—considered her a second mother. She could outrun, out-work, and out-love anybody.

She adored, mentored and bragged about her four daughters-in-law, and rejoiced in the lives of her 18 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, building individual bonds with each of them. She was the heart of a bustling, service-oriented home—feeding missionaries, hosting international students, welcoming young single

adults, and showing love in thousands of unseen ways.

Bonnie was a fierce competitor—whether playing tennis, skiing, or backpacking—and an even fiercer supporter of her boys. She showed up to nearly every game and performance, cheering loud enough to be heard by her sons above the crowd. And while her sons thought they had a paper route, it turns out, *she* had the paper route.

A tireless servant of the Lord, she magnified all her callings, including ward Relief Society president, stake Young Women president, Primary president, Sunday School teacher, member of the General Relief Society Board and Second Counselor in the Young Women General Presidency. From 1997 to 2000, she and Jim served as mission leaders in the England London South Mission, where she mentored and loved her missionaries deeply and they loved her. She continued to stay in touch with them until she died.

She was sustained as the 14th Relief Society General President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 2002. Heading the largest women's organization in the world, she ministered to millions of women across the globe with her unique brand of warmth and charity and an abiding testimony of God's love. They shared stories, laughed and cried together and embraced their sisterhood.

Early in her presidency, she prayed to know what women needed most and felt a powerful answer: *"We, His daughters, need to know that He loves us."* That message became the guiding light of her ministry. In her first conference address she said, *"If I could have one thing happen for every woman in this Church, it would be that they would feel the love of the Lord in their lives daily."* Later she taught, *"Feeling His love encourages us to press forward, reassures us that we are His and confirms to us that He cherishes us—even when we stumble."*

Putting those words into action, she helped lead global humanitarian efforts, including the Church's wheelchair project and measles vaccination initiatives in Africa.

She was a straight shooter—known for her candor, humor, and generous spirit. After being released as Relief Society General President in 2007, she gladly accepted a calling to serve in the ward nursery for toddlers and later as a Young Women advisor. She loved those callings and magnified them with her characteristic energy, passion and love.

Her commitment to service extended far beyond her church callings. She volunteered with the Utah Symphony and the Great Books Foundation, served as a PTA president and a page in the Utah Senate. She served brides in the temple on their special day. She carefully listened and offered wise counsel and warm meals around her kitchen table. She lived her life centered on her testimony of Jesus Christ and the Restoration of His gospel. She believed deeply in charity, living Relief Society's motto, "Charity never faileth" with empathy, humor, and tireless devotion.

In her final years, she gave her all to caring for her sweetheart in his battle with multiple sclerosis, helping him with tasks big and small, including buttoning the top button of his shirt when his surgeon's fingers could no longer manage it. Although their retirement wasn't what they once envisioned, it was filled with deeper love, mutual service, and sacred companionship.

At her core, Bonnie Parkin was a woman of deep testimony. She believed in strengthening families, serving one by one, and lifting others with both faith and action. Her life was a sermon of gratitude and discipleship. She declared, *"Jesus is the Christ. He is my Savior, my Redeemer, and I'm ever grateful for His redeeming love."*

Bonnie was preceded in death by her beloved Jim, who passed away in 2023. She is survived by her four sons, their wives, her 18 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and countless extended family and friends who were blessed by her example and love.

A viewing will be held on Friday, August 8, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 9, from 9:30–10:30 a.m. at the Salt Lake Parleys Stake Center (1870 Parleys Canyon Blvd., Salt Lake City, Utah). The funeral will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Services will be live-streamed and available for delayed viewing. Please click on the "Watch Services" link above.

Bonnie invited us to "not only love each other more but love each other better." In lieu of flowers, consider donating to Utah State University, Bonnie Dansie Parkin Endowment for Education, 1590 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT

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