

Bruce Elden Stacey Jr.

June 14, 1959 ~ March 7, 2025

After a year-long battle with ALS, Bruce Elden Stacey Jr. returned to his Father in Heaven early in the morning on March 7, 2025. He was 65 years old.

Bruce was born on June 14, 1959, to Bruce and Ellen Stacey in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In his youth, his happiest years were spent in Wyoming with his paternal grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. He loved working and playing on the ranch in McKinnon.

He later moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he attended junior high and high school. It was there that he met Kristine Wittwer, his future wife. While they didn't date during high school, their connection would grow after graduation. Bruce was a standout athlete, playing football and wrestling for South High. He continued his athletic pursuits by playing football at Ricks College while studying Psychology. Later, he attended Southern Utah State College, where he continued to play football and completed his degree in Police Science.

Bruce and Kristine were sealed for time and all eternity on September 10, 1984, in the Salt Lake City Temple, surrounded by family and friends. They lived in Hayward, California, until they bought their first home in Pittsburg, California. Bruce began his career as a correctional officer at San Quentin State Prison. It was during this time that they welcomed their firstborn, Jonathan and their second child, Stephanie. The family's journey continued when Bruce transferred to Pelican Bay State Prison in Crescent City, California. It was there that they welcomed their third and fourth children, Michelle and Travis, completing the Stacey family.

The family spent the next 25 years in Crescent City, California. After working for 30 years as a correctional officer, Bruce retired at the age of 55. When he added in all his overtime hours, he really worked closer to 40 years. After Bruce retired, they moved to South Jordan, Utah to be closer to family.

Bruce served in many callings for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints including primary teacher, youth Sunday school teacher, Elder's Quorum Presidency, and temple ordinance worker.

Bruce was deeply passionate about being a father and loved nothing more than being actively involved in his children's lives. He imparted to them the importance of hard work and dedication and if they didn't do it right the first time, they had to redo it. He loved being a baseball coach for his boys from little league to high school. When he wasn't coaching, he attended every baseball, basketball, and softball game; every soccer match (despite his belief that soccer wasn't a "real sport"), piano/saxophone recital and choir performance. Bruce was always there, supporting his children with some intense sideline coaching and loud cheering. Bruce was dedicated to ensuring his children's success, financially supporting them through college so they could graduate debt-free.

While Bruce's love for his children and grandchildren was undeniable, it was the bond he shared with his lovely wife that held his heart above all else. He was continually in awe of her incredible ability to wear so many hats and do it

all with love and dedication. They were complete opposites, yet they completed each other perfectly. His toughness softened by her gentleness and her patience calming his temperament. It has been said that experiencing ALS both as an individual and a caregiver is one of the hardest trials a person can face on this earth. They endured alongside each other a hardship that tested their limits, demanding courage, patience, and profound strength at every turn. Their love, tested by the unimaginable, will endure for all eternity.

Bruce will be remembered not only for his devotion to his family, but for his passion for powerlifting. You would often find Bruce rocking out to ACDC in their home gym as he lifted weights. He participated in many weightlifting competitions and won awards. Bruce enjoyed being physically active and loved golfing, biking and playing sports with his children. Uncharacteristically, he was also known for producing some beautiful cross stitched pieces. He was a lifelong Packer fan and passed that love on to his children and his grandchildren. He lived a very active lifestyle revolving around sports; but when he retired, he was very proud to have earned his time in his recliner with his remote.

He was gruff on the outside, a big sarcastic tease, but was truly the biggest teddy bear on the inside. It took a lot to get past his barriers, but once you were in, it was for life. Relationships included a little love and a little fear. If you received a nickname from Bruce, you knew he truly loved you.

The Stacey mantra that he instilled in his children was “be an engine and not a caboose”. He was unapologetically himself and he wanted his children to be leaders among their friends. He was affectionately known as The American Dream by those he worked with and those who loved him. Although he's physically gone, the lasting impact he had on those around him will live on. Long live the American Dream.

Bruce is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years, Kristine; their children, Jonathan, Stephanie (Donald Peterson), Michelle (Nua Poteki), and Travis (Anginae); and nine precious grandchildren: Calvin, Brock, Jackson, Keasi, Ty, Amanaki, Aniston, Lolohea, and MisiMae. He is preceded in death by his parents, Bruce Elden Stacey Sr. and Ellen Swift.

A funeral service to celebrate Bruce’s life will be held at the Parkway 4th Ward, 3407 W 9625 S South Jordan, UT 84095 on Saturday March 15 at Noon. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests the option of donations to the ALS United Rocky Mountain in Bruce’s honor.

Link for ALS donations: https://alsrockymountain.org/donate/