

David Preston Jonsson

August 7, 1941 ~ April 19, 2024

David Preston Jonsson, 82, died April 19, 2024. He was born to Rueben L. and Kathryn Preston Jonsson, in Buffalo, New York, on August 7, 1941, four months before Pearl Harbor. His family lived in Buffalo and Williamsville until 1946 when his father accepted a transfer back to his home state of Utah. When the family arrived in Salt Lake City, there were just two houses available for purchase: a chicken farm in Kearns, and a small cottage on H Street. His dad chose the latter.

David attended Longfellow Elementary School, Bryant Junior High School and East High School, graduating in 1959. He enrolled at the University of Utah and due to his love of photography, became involved in the Daily Utah Chronicle and the Utonian Yearbook. He was head photographer of the Utonian in 1963.

David's dad had died in 1956, and his widowed mother had a meager income so David worked from the time he was 15. In college, he had up to three jobs at once, and as a result, it took him five years to graduate with a degree in Journalism. For a summer, he was a photographer for the Murray Eagle.

In 1964, David landed a dream job with The Salt Lake Tribune almost simultaneously with marrying Leigh Ann Best whom he met at a student orientation in the University of Utah Student Union. He was first a photographer for The Tribune, but soon became a reporter. It was a career that put food on the table for 30 years.

David also became a member of the board of directors of the Newspaper Employees Credit Union, and was its chairman when, in 2016, it merged with a larger credit union that offered its members vastly increased and improved services.

In 2009, David became the volunteer editor of the monthly newsletter of the Greater Avenues Community Council, a role in which he served for ten years.

David always loved repairing things and do it yourself projects. He regularly took his family camping around Utah, with his great friend James “Jim” Johnston and his family. He dabbled in short film-making on Super 8 film, model airplane building, and CB radio, where his handle was “Snapshot,” but most of all, he loved photography and developing his own pictures, back in the day when film was king. His son Jeffrey inherited his love of photography, and followed in his footsteps also becoming a yearbook photographer, and then writer for the Daily Utah Chronicle.

David made many life-long friends at The Tribune and continued organizing regular lunch dates with a group of them until very recently.

David’s life was his family, and loved spending time with them most of all, attending plays in which his son Jeremy and several grandchildren performed, assorted school programs and recitals, and gathering all together as often as possible.

David is survived by his wife of 60 years, Leigh Ann, and sons Jeffrey (Launie Hansen) and Jeremy (Jennie Tobler) and five spectacular grandchildren: Ellie, Gwen and Preston and Katie and Maggie. He is also survived by a sister, Carolyn Wright, and brother-in-law Robert H. Best. David was predeceased by a sister Nancy Handley, and his brother-in-law Dennis Wright.

Friends may call Thursday April 25, 2024, 6:00-8:00pm at Larkin Mortuary, 260 E South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111, and a funeral service will be held on Friday April 26, 2024 at 11:00am, also at Larkin Mortuary. This will be followed by interment at Salt Lake City Cemetery. For those unable to attend, services will be live-streamed via Zoom. Please click on the "Watch Services" link above.