

Dr. Alan Tunis Rappleye

January 30, 1947 ~ March 7, 2026

Alan Tunis Rappleye, our "Superman," passed away peacefully on Saturday night, March 7, 2026, at the age of 79. He was surrounded by his loving family, holding his sweetheart's hand until the end. Born January 30, 1947, in Salt Lake City to Horace Naylor Rappleye and Myrtle Hess Rappleye. Growing up in the Canyon Rim area, he was highly involved with many musical opportunities and sang in multiple quartets. He cherished summers visiting family in Kanosh, Utah, and was a proud member of the first graduating class of Skyline High School in 1965.

Alan served a two-and-a-half-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the South American regions of Uruguay, Paraguay, and northern Argentina. This experience fostered a lifelong compassion for others and a fluency in Spanish that allowed him to connect more deeply with many patients throughout his career.

After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Utah in just three years, Alan entered medical school in 1970. His training took him to Torrance, California, for his internship, followed by a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology back at the University of Utah. After medical training, he served for two and a half years in the United States Air Force in Chandler, Arizona, where he delivered an incredible 45 babies each month and cared for countless military families.

Returning to Salt Lake City, Alan established his private practice at Old Farm Obstetrics and Gynecology. Throughout his 48-year career, he never failed to recognize the joy and sacredness of each delivery. Patients valued Dr. Rappleye's shared excitement with each pregnancy and often expressed gratitude for his warmth and his calm, reassuring presence in the delivery room. Dr. Rappleye was a physician who often stayed at the hospital for his patients even when he wasn't on call.

He was a pioneer in his field, lecturing globally on laser surgery and statewide on robotic surgery. For many years, he was a community educator on a KSL talk show where he would share his knowledge on important medical topics. In the final years of his career, he also served as a hospitalist in Yuma, Arizona, and at Lone Peak Hospital in Draper, Utah, continuing to care for patients and support families until the very end of his professional life. By his retirement at age 79, he had delivered nearly 13,000 babies—a population he lovingly called his "small town." In addition to his formal medical practice, he was always on call for family, friends, neighbors, or anyone in need of medical assistance or counsel, and he did so willingly and graciously.

Alan married his sweetheart, Arlene Leona Ohlson, on September 16, 1970, in the Salt Lake Temple. Together they raised five children: Chad, Laura, Karen, Melissa, and Julie. He was a doting "Papa" to 17 grandchildren—12 of whom he had the distinct honor of delivering himself. Alan and Arlene were recently blessed with one great-granddaughter.

To Alan, family always came first. Whether gathering for weekly Sunday dinners or vacationing in Newport Beach, San Diego, Hawaii, or Lake Powell, he had a way of making every child and grandchild feel like his "favorite." He loved traveling the world, exploring his European ancestry, and relaxing and scuba diving in tropical locations.

Alan's life was defined by his unwavering testimony of Jesus Christ. He had a deep love for and trust in the Savior and willingly served wherever he was called. He served faithfully in many capacities, including a counselor in the bishopric, high counselor, gospel doctrine teacher, and 10 years as a dedicated ordinance worker in the Salt Lake Temple. A natural teacher and disciple, Alan loved nothing more than sharing his testimony and his deep-seated love for the Savior's teachings with everyone he met.

Alan is survived by his sweetheart, Arlene; his children: Chad (Tiffany) Rappleye, Laura (Scott) Driggs, Karen (Chris) Coleman, Melissa (Tyler) Perry, and Julie (Mike) Murdock; and his siblings: Caralyn (Mike) Skousen, Nola (Dave) Watson, and Kent (Nancy) Rappleye. He was preceded in death by his parents, Horace and Myrtle Rappleye.

Alan will be remembered for his boundless kindness, his sense of humor, and a rare gift for making everyone he met feel like family. His legacy lives on in the thousands of lives he ushered into this world and in the family he loved so deeply.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 14, at 11:00 a.m. at the River Ridge 12th Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (1244 West Chavez Drive, South Jordan, Utah).

Viewings will be held at the same location on:

• Friday, March 13: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

• Saturday, March 14: 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (prior to the service)

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the University of Utah Heart Center, an organization whose work and exceptional care granted Alan—and his family—many precious extra years together.

https://donate.utah.edu/campaigns/53721/donations/new?designation_id=MD02755-40165