

# Eddie Arnold Isaacson

*October 30, 1929 ~ September 15, 2021*

Eddie Arnold Isaacson was born October 30, 1929, in Moroni, Utah. His parents were Eddie Isaac, and Ida Arnold Isaacson. It became apparent early on in his years that Arnold had a systematic mind, that he enjoyed knowledge, and that he excelled in many areas of life. Arnold always believed that it was good to share his talents, and he loved to serve others. He often stated that it didn't matter who got the credit for a job well-done, it just mattered that the job was done well.

Among his many talents was playing the piano. He shared his talents as the Ward Sunday School Pianist as an Aaronic Priesthood holder. He also played piano solos in church and in school. Arnold was an "A" student all during his school years, with the exception of Latin, which he said pulled the curve down, four years in a row!

Extra-curricular activities were pleasurable for Arnold during his growing up years. He threw newspapers, played the trombone, was a marching band drum major, and lettered in football, basketball and baseball.

Over the years of his life, Arnold enjoyed many hobbies. He built model airplanes, was a champion marble shooter, enjoyed studying rocks and creating mosaic rock art, and eventually became an expert gem cutter of semi-precious and precious stones. He supported many missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with these beautiful gems.

Because Arnold enjoyed school, and learning, his parents encouraged him to continue his education beyond high school. He graduated from the U. of U. with a B.S. degree in Experimental Biology. Arnold also believed in working to get through school and enjoyed a variety of jobs. Stocking the University bookstore, as a custodian on campus, and as student lab assistants in experimental biology and genetics, mixing and distributing reagents to other student labs, he learned and earned his way through school. In his systematic way, he was fortunate to have his name on several published research papers while still an undergraduate student.

Perhaps one of his much loved and life-changing experiences was serving and completing an honorable mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the country of Finland. Arnold learned the language well and was able to speak and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people in this part of the world, even though The Book of Mormon was not available in this language for the two-and one-half years he served.

During his mission years, Arnold also coached the Finnish National Basketball Team. This was a treasured experience. As a young missionary, he was entrusted to accompany the team to Paris, France. Here the players won seven of their nine games and were recognized as the most improved team in Europe that year. The previous year they had not won a single game! Before leavening Finland, Arnold was decorated by a member of Finland's Parliament (Herra Jussi Lappi-Seppala) with the Finnish National Basketball Association's Silver Medal of Honor for his contributions to Finnish basketball.

Arnold always felt that the best decision he ever made was to marry Donna Bernice Johnson, in the Salt Lake Temple. Their date of marriage was August 27, 1952, and they were married 64 years before her death in 2016. Within ten weeks of their wedding day, Arnold was ordered to report for active duty in the United States Army. After serving active duty for 22 months, he was given an honorable release. During this time, Arnold earned the rank of Corporal, earned an expert marksman medal, and enjoyed serving as a Chaplain's assistant. Arnold worked diligently on the then, home-teaching program. Many young men became part of their branch, and many life-long relationships were built. It was wonderful to be of service in his church and to his country. Arnold transferred to the Army Reserve to complete eight years of mandatory service, with his final discharge from the Army in December of 1960.

Arnold earned an M.D. degree from the University of Utah in 1959, interned at the LDS Hospital in 1960, completed an MPH Degree from University of California (Berkeley) and a Preventive Medicine Residency from the California State Health Department in 1962, and was a Board-Certified Specialist in Preventive Medicine and Public Health.

Dr. Isaacson served as the Director of Health in the Davis County (Utah) Health Department twice, as the Arizona State Health Department Deputy State Health Commissioner, the Director of Local Health Services for the Utah State Health Division, Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine at Texas Tech School of Medicine in Lubbock, Texas and was Texas State Health Dept. Regional State Medical Director for the 44 Counties in the Panhandle and South Plains of Texas, and was a medical public health consultant to several local, state and national health organizations.

Arnold loved his profession. He worked diligently to improve the health of the people, to improve local health departments, and to improve emergency medical services throughout Utah. Because of his diligent efforts and successes, many recognitions came his way. Among them were the Utah Public Health Association's and the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association's highest awards (the Beaty and Sippy awards) for his contributions to the public health of Utah's people.

Arnold loved cars. He liked to drive them, research them, talk about them, and play car dominoes with them! This was a game that his children and grandchildren also learned to enjoy.

During his life, Arnold has been spiritual and has always been active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Positions of service have included family home evening teacher, ministering brother, YM advisor and leader, Sunday School Teacher, Bishoprics, Stake callings, and President of the Finnish Mission from 1981 to 1984. He also had the privilege of serving with his beloved wife, Donna, for nearly twelve years in the Salt Lake and Bountiful Temples.

Arnold was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Donna and is survived by his six children: Susan I. Wayman, Dr. Bruce (Nan), Dr. Mark (Lezlie), Nancy I. Hansen (Doug), John (Jennifer), Linda I. Price (Chad), 24 grandchildren, and 52 great grandchildren.

As a medical doctor, Arnold served as a public health director for over 40 years. In his honor, the funeral services will follow Covid guidelines and be limited to immediate family only. Funeral and graveside services will be broadcasted. Services to be held on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 11:00.

For those who wish to view the recording of the FUNERAL services may do so here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/fNjH_VJjRqNZM-JQKbF419CV13Lnkyma8doDLd615CkH1MuLighB97YtiYmhuw1t.Qj0

For those who wish to view the recording of the GRAVESIDE services may do so here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/lueFPobajG3rbF0YIatbhyL2rCE78JwPfCjamnZmfmyybzrcduHW4vmnAuef7BPT.PQ9y

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