

Elden A Brown and Joyce Patterson Brown

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With love and longing we as a family announce the passing on April 9, 2025, of Elden A Brown and on April 11, 2025, of Joyce Patterson Brown.

Elden was born November 29, 1926, to Joshua Elden Brown and Rose Vilate Andrus in Twin Falls, ID, but the family ultimately settled in the rural community of Draper, UT. As the oldest child, he fired up the cooking stove, milked the cow, and practiced the violin early each morning. He was a good student, a hard worker, and a respected member of his community. Their family would grow to include Donald (1928-2017), Gloria (1930-2007), Reid (1933-2020), and Ruel (1935-2022).

As a youngster, Elden did babysitting, had a paper route, worked at local gas stations, worked at a feed plant, and drove the gasoline delivery truck to several of the gas stations in the county. He also learned to tune pianos from his father. Music was always an important part of his life. He played the trumpet and violin in a number of dance bands and orchestras and became the principal second violinist for the Westminster Community Orchestra (now Wasatch Symphony) where he played for nearly 30 years. He also loved to sing and was the president of the ward choir for many years.

Elden served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed in Nuremberg, Germany for a time. Following his honorable discharge, he served in the Northern States Mission, sometimes being assigned to go “without purse or scrip,” meaning they regularly traveled on foot from farm to farm for weeks without benefit of either a predictable place to eat or sleep. He then returned to the University of Utah where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business in 1952.

Joyce was born August 29, 1929, to William Joy (“Pat”) Patterson and Aurora Call in Salt Lake City, UT, arriving 5 minutes before her identical twin sister, Janyce (1929-2004). The two were virtually indistinguishable and inseparable throughout their lives. In fact, at one point they decided to each go downtown shopping for a new dress alone. To their surprise, they returned with exactly the same dress! The family grew to include their brother, Bill (1937-) and their sister, Claudia (1944-).

Joyce was an excellent student at school and became interested in music early in her life. She became an accomplished pianist and organist and a much sought-after piano teacher, mentoring as many as 50 students at a time. She graduated from the University of Utah with a major in elementary education and a minor in music. In later years, she studied the organ under Bonnie Goodliffe and, as the stake organist, played the Assembly Hall organ. She was also a beloved organist in her ward for decades. She served as President of the Salt Lake Chapter of the Utah Music Teachers’ Association and as secretary of the same organization at the state level. She also taught second grade for one year and third grade for two years at the Douglas School.

Elden and Joyce met at a dance as students at the University of Utah, but they really began to become acquainted when he visited her at the end of many teaching days at the Douglas School. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on November 17, 1951. They lived in several homes in Salt Lake City and Bountiful and eventually settled in their current home on Edgecombe Drive in 1965. Their daughter, Rosanne (J. Devn Cornish), was born in 1954; Julie (Paul Peaden) was born in 1956, and Stephanie was born in 1960. Julie and her husband, Paul, brought the Browns 4 grandchildren (Rebecca, Nathan, Allan, and Benjamin) who have in turn brought them 7 great grandchildren (Austin and Emma; Abbey, Thomas, David, and Hannah; and Jameson).

Elden pursued a career as a residential and commercial appraiser and was widely respected in his field. He was also an avid golfer. Joyce, as mentioned, was a busy piano and organ teacher. Both have served continuously and faithfully in the Church. He served in six bishoprics/branch presidencies, including as the bishop of the Young Single Adults ward, and also as a counselor in the stake mission presidency, ward mission leader, high councilor, stake executive secretary, and stake clerk among other callings. She served as ward and stake organist, choir organist, a teacher in several organizations, on the stake Young Women board, on the General Music Committee of the Church (responsible with her twin sister Janyce for organizing the hymns in our current hymn book), and as a member of the General Sunday School Board under the then-President, Russell M. Nelson, among other callings. Together they served in one of their most cherished callings as the office couple in the Kentucky Louisville Mission (1993-1994).

Elden and Joyce Brown are among the most respected and beloved people we have known. They will likely not be remembered for newspaper articles or Internet posts about them. They neither sought nor valued such recognition. But when after this life things are seen in their proper perspective, these two saintly people must come to be known as among the true nobility of heaven. They did well and faithfully the things that matter most. They lived with absolute integrity. They fashioned an exemplary marriage of more than 73 years and raised a noble, faithful family. They honored the priesthood and kept their covenants. They loved and served and sacrificed for others and for the cause of Christ. We are honored to be their family.

A viewing will be held at the Larkin Mortuary at 260 E. South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, from 7:00-8:30 pm on Friday, April 18th. A second viewing will be held from 9:30-10:30 am followed by a combined funeral service for Elden and Joyce at 11:00 am on Saturday, April 19th at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 155 N. Sandrun Rd., Salt Lake City, Utah. The funeral proceedings will also be available on Zoom through the Larkin Mortuary.

Those wishing to view the service via Zoom can click "Watch Service" or follow the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81973371776