

Fern Elaine Carlow Walter

May 9, 1928 ~ April 8, 2024

Fern Elaine was born in the early morning of May 9, 1928, in Rochester, Emery, Utah. She was to be the oldest of 4 children of James Mark and Elda Minchey Carlow. She passed away unexpectedly, quickly, and peacefully on April 8, 2024.

She attended her early school years through the 8th grade in Rochester, Emery, Gordon Creek and Aurora and Salina, Utah. She was Valedictorian of her 8th grade class. She attended Jackson Junior High in Salt Lake for her 9th grade year and then graduated from West High School. She went on to attend the A C in Logan (Utah State University) for a short period of time before returning to Salt Lake to assist her family with some financial needs.

In 1947, she met LaVarre Johnson Walter. Their stories differ as to the exact time and details of how they first met, but meet, they did. LaVarre was home on leave from the Navy. After his discharge, they dated until Fern received a call to serve a mission.

In January 1950, she left to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Eastern Canadian Mission. Her mission president asked her to extend her mission to help with the training of some Sister Missionaries, so was not released until September of 1951. During her mission, she received word of her father's baptism, which become a real highlight for her for the remainder of her time in Canada.

In December of 1952, LaVarre proposed, and they were married on September 11, 1953. They had a double wedding with her sister, Reva, and her spouse, David Morris Grant. A honeymoon followed a trip to Southern Utah. A small Army Surplus pup tent was their shelter, and meals were cooked over a fire.

Six children, 2 girls and 4 boys, were to join their family. Fern was a wonderful mother, homemaker and cook. Her cooking was unsurpassed and her attention to family needs was unparalleled. She transported children to work, school, music lessons, sports, church activities and all else that came with being a Mom.

Fern and LaVarre and family spent much of their life in the Avenues area of Salt Lake City. This was a magical time with many great friends and neighbors. Many of those friends have passed on now, however their influence in the family's lives was immense.

She served faithful as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and held many Ward and Stake callings. She served as Primary President (Ensign 3rd Ward), Stake Primary President (Ensign Stake), and as Relief Society President of the Ensign 3rd Ward.

Fern and LaVarre served a mission in the Quezon City West and San Fernando Missions from June 1990 through November 1991. She served in helping in the Relief Society, Primary and Young Women's while LaVarre served as a District President.

She was active in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers where she also served as President of the North Salt Lake Company. She spent many hours making sure that DUP was running and following the handbooks. She was a hard worker and organizer while she served.

Traveling was an enjoyable activity for both Fern and LaVarre and they were able to see family as well as many parts of the world.

She was preceded in death by her parents: James Mark and Elda Carlow, Sister Reva Grant and her brother Rulon Carlow, daughter-in-law Gwen Smith Walter (first wife of Steven Walter), granddaughter, Emily Walter, Great Granddaughters Mara Adams, Everly Fern Walter, and Esther Fern Walter.

She is survived by her loving and caring husband, LaVarre. Additionally, her sweet sister, Carolyn Carlow, and close friend Sheryl Boehme. Carolyn was born on Fern’s 12th birthday which she was so proud of and told all who she introduced Carolyn to. She is also survived by her 6 children and spouses - Cindy (Mike) Goleman, Trina (Jay) Bair, LaVarre Jr (Sharon), Brent (Marilyn), Steven (Becky), Mark (Jill), 27 Grandchildren and 59 Great Grandchildren plus one that was born just after her death.

We wish to thank those who have rendered services to her at Sunrise of Sandy and the friends she has made during the past year.

We would also like to recognize our caring father who has rendered unending time and loving devotion to our Mother. Our father has devoted all attention and energy in caring for his wife and attending to her every need over the past several years.

There will be a viewing Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:40 pm at the Emigration 21st Ward at 668 2nd Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah. Funeral services will be held at the same location and same day immediately following at 1:00 p.m. Interment to follow services at Holladay Memorial Cemetery, 4900 South Memory Lane, Holladay, Utah.

Those wishing to view the COMPLETED service via Zoom can click "Watch Service" or follow the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/apHsELIVH9sFMyeHB19WMTYkMAI9akp_k4tY3rSoiKSvQXBOBhBnL1wGtJRKthbB.