

Gerald Rich ‘Skip’ Daynes

December 20, 1938 ~ June 28, 2024

Gerald Rich ‘Skip’ Daynes passed away June 28, 2024. He was born in Salt Lake City on December 20, 1938, to Ethel and Jerry Daynes. He was named after his father but was only referred to as Gerald by telemarketers. Everyone who knew him called him Skip.

Skip spent his youth on the Wasatch Back herding sheep for his Uncle Tom Jeremy. His shepherding days remained fond in his mind his entire life. Every grandchild has heard the fantastic stories from Jeremy Ranch. From trapping bears, to saving orphaned sheep, he was a cowboy at heart.

He served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Uruguay and Paraguay. He strongly requested this mission because he thought the missionaries rode horses. Though this rumor was unfounded, his time on the mission was very successful. He was instrumental in getting the chapel in Rocha, Uruguay built amongst much religious animosity.

Skip attended East High School and The University of Utah. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He met his sweetheart, literally the girl next door, Susan Ellsworth. They married on June 8, 1964, in the Salt Lake Temple. They recently celebrated sixty wonderful years together. He joined his father at Daynes Music Company and soon was leading the charge. Daynes Music is the oldest retail establishment in Utah and the oldest music company west of the Mississippi.

Skip’s legacy was music. In particular, Steinway Pianos. It is said that he sold more Steinway Pianos than any other person in history. He had a passion for the arts, music in the schools, and civic responsibility. He was an avid supporter of the Utah Symphony, Utah Opera and Ballet West. He was the major sponsor of the Gina Bachauer Piano Competition and the Moab Music Festival. Both likely would not exist without Skip’s patronage. He was a lifelong member of Rotary and served as its president. He served on multiple boards and committees throughout the Salt Lake Valley.

Skip was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served in various callings including as bishop of a singles ward at the University of Utah. Many former members still reach out in gratitude for his diligent service. He formed lifelong friends through his church service.

Skip loved boating and for a short time actually owned a boat dealership. He would usually fish with his life long friend and vice president, Kerwin Ipsen. The family is very grateful for this dedicated friendship.

He is survived by his wife Susan, his children Tracy, Todd (Andrea), and Tim (Karen). His brother Rodney, Seven grandchildren Britni, Shelbi, Hunter, Brandon (Alex), John (Addie), Abby (Summit), and David (Kate) and 2 great granddaughters, Amelie and Daylan. Though Skip filled the valley with music, his family was his true passion. He will be sorely missed.

Though we feel immense sadness in his passing we take comfort that he has found rest with the great sheepherder who tends after all His sheep even Jesus Christ. The viewing will be held at Larkin Sunset Lawn 2350 E 1300 S, SLC, Utah on Friday, July 5, 2024, from 6-8 pm. Funeral services will be July 6th at 11:00 AM at the Bonneville Stake Center 1535 E Bonneview Drive, SLC, UT with a viewing an hour before.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Gina Bachauer Piano Foundation, (https://bachauer.com/donate/) The University of Utah Piano Department, (ugive.app.utah.edu), for the purchase of a Steinway Spirio Piano as a gift to the piano department in honor of Skip Daynes or Intermountain Therapy Animals (therapyanimals.org)