

Harold (Hal) Malzahn Rueckert

February 16, 1942 ~ October 26, 2024

Hal Rueckert, 82, beloved husband, father, brother, and grandfather, passed away peacefully on October 26, 2024, at his home in Sandy, Utah, while doing what he loved.

He was born on February 16, 1942, to Harold Rueckert and Hertha Olga Malzahn Rueckert at Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City. The oldest of five children, Hal dearly loved his siblings: Dean Rueckert (Inger), Elizabeth Wilson (Dave), Christine Keyser (Scott, decd.), and Maryann Symkoviak, decd. (Gary).

As a child, Hal attended Holladay Elementary School, and when his family moved to St. George in 1951, he helped his parents run the family business, Rueckerts' Dixie Laundry & Dry Cleaners, until 1963, and also worked as a delivery boy for the local newspaper. During this time, he attended Woodward Jr. High and Dixie High School, graduating in 1960. These experiences taught Hal the importance of hard work and finding purpose and joy in working diligently, an attribute admired by his family and friends still today.

While in school, he made time for fun by playing third base and outfield in baseball, participating on the church softball team, and playing on the basketball team at Woodward Jr. High. Hal maintained a love of sports throughout his life and enjoyed watching ball games on TV while sitting in his favorite chair.

Hal developed additional discipline and deepened his commitment to hard work when he joined the Utah National Guard in St. George, completing six months of basic training at Fort Ord, California.

He was especially proud of his service as a full-time missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1961 to 1963. He was called to labor in the West German Mission, Frankfurt am Main Germany Mission. Hal loved the German people and took pride in both his missionary service in Germany and his German heritage throughout his life. After returning from his mission, he completed two and a half years of study at the University of Utah.

On June 19, 1970, he married his eternal companion, Phyllis Ann Frisby, in the Salt Lake Temple. They shared a wonderful life together for 54 years. His legacy is carried on by her and their three children—Suzanne Richins (Samuel), Brad Rueckert (Courtney), and Julie Embley (Bryan)—as well as their nine grandchildren.

Hal deeply cherished his role as husband, father, and grandfather, creating special memories with his family that they will treasure forever. He loved reminiscing and reliving memories with his family and enjoyed making new ones on vacations, holidays, and at family events.

Hal worked for 38 years in the Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, and Utah State courts in the third district, including 19 years as Probate Clerk for Salt Lake County. Hal was proud to be an American and voted in every election during his lifetime in which he was eligible, a point of pride he specifically noted. He loved reading, particularly about the LDS Church and American history, and always kept up with both local and national news.

He was a dedicated servant of the Lord, serving in various church callings, including meticulous and wholehearted clerkships under four LDS Stake Presidents. Hal was especially known for his musical abilities; he was a talented and experienced organ and piano player, helping others feel the spirit through his music. This special legacy continues through his two daughters, Suzanne and Julie, and several of his grandchildren.

Hal was a man of enduring benevolence and unyielding devotion to serving his God, family, and friends. He always had to be working and doing. He never wavered in his commitment to his beliefs and ideals and, most importantly, to providing for and protecting his family.

Hal is survived by his wife, Phyllis; his children, Suzanne Richins (Sam), Brad Rueckert (Courtney), and Julie Embley (Bryan); his siblings, Dean Rueckert (Inger), Elizabeth Wilson (Dave), and Christine Keyser; his brother in-law Gary Symkoviak; and his grandchildren, Landon (Siera), Logan, and Reagan Richins; Summer, Hunter, and Lyla Rueckert; and Daniel, Megan, and Taylor Embley. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Hertha Rueckert; his sister, Maryann Symkoviak; and his brother-in-law, Scott Keyser.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Hal's name to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at https://donate.churchofjesuschrist.org/contribute/church?cde2=807

Funeral services will be held at Larkin Sunset Gardens funeral home on Friday, November 1, 2024, at 11:00 AM, located at 1950 E 10600 S, Sandy, Utah, 84092. A viewing will be held that morning before the service, from 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM, at the same location. Interment will follow at Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery at 12:15 PM.

To watch the service via zoom, please click on the tab above that says "Watch Service" or follow this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85274066919