

Howard “Jay” Layton

June 27, 1925 ~ July 10, 2024

Howard “Jay” Layton died peacefully in his home in Millcreek, Utah on July 10, 2024, a little less than two weeks after celebrating his 99th birthday with his family. Jay was born June 27, 1925 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Howard James Layton and Mary Leone Green. Jay grew up in the neighborhoods south of the University of Utah and attended East High School where he was known to be a fast runner and excelled in track and football for the school. Shortly after graduating from High School he joined the U.S. Navy and was sent to radio communications school in Chicago, after which he was then transferred to Oahu, Hawaii to manage the Pacific Region Navy communications systems during World War II. He was one of the first recipients to receive, and then forward on, the Japanese surrender to Washington DC.

After being honorably discharged, and returning home from the War, he attended the University of Utah and graduated in Business. He joined his Father in the real estate building and construction business known as the Doxey-Layton company. He met his sweet wife, Eva Marie Weaver, at the U of U and they shortly married in the Salt Lake Temple on April 16, 1948, and moved into a small home Jay built on 17th East near Sugarhouse. A few years later Jay and Eva built their dream home in the Olympus Cove area in 1957 and raised three children there (Maree, Howard & Blaine).

Jay loved to create and build. He designed and built many homes and commercial structures in the Salt Lake Valley with his Father and the Doxey partners. One of their crowning accomplishments was the development of Foothill Village in 1956, one of the most successful multi-tenant outdoor shopping centers in the Valley. Perhaps one of his most fun personal projects was building a family mountain cabin with his Father in the Cardiff Fork area of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The 70+ year old cabin still stands today amidst all the snow and weather, and has been a legacy gathering place for over 200 of his Father’s descendants. He also designed and built a large cabin with a group of friends (aptly named the Irresponsible Associates) on the shore of Bear Lake near Garden City. The family has enjoyed the cabin for over 58 years and it has become a multi-generational gathering and water sport fun spot with many memories.

Jay was not just a builder of structures, but a builder of Young Men. He had been called to serve in Scouting and Young men organizations for most of his Church service life. He loved camping, hiking, fishing, skiing, the outdoors, and teaching life skills with the boys. He has had a huge positive impact through his example, love, shared experiences, and personal interest in their lives.

He was also known to be a fair and honest businessman, a man of impeccable character. Patience and diplomacy were special gifts he had. This brought him great success in his business dealings, and also in his personal relationships. He was unique in that everybody liked him and wanted to be around him.

Jay found great joy in being a provider and steward. He was very generous with his time, resources, and money. Helping his children and grandchildren achieve successful lives and meaningful experiences was a joy to him.

He was eternally devoted to his wife and his family. Eva's happiness and his family always came first. As such Jay has been able to navigate and overcome many personal, business, and family challenges in his life. And has set an amazing example for his progenitors to follow. We will miss his steady and warm influence, and his unconditional love.

Jay is survived by his two sons and daughter: Maree Layton Karrasch, Howard J. Layton (Lori); Blaine W. Layton (Melissa) along with ten Grandchildren and eight Great-Grandchildren.

Jay was preceded in death by his amazing wife of 67 years, Eva Marie Weaver, who passed nine years ago on July 14, 2015, also his parents Howard & Leone Layton, and sisters Jean (Wayne) Thornton, and Lucille (James) Davidson.

A viewing will be held on Sunday evening July 14, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Larkin Sunset Lawn Mortuary at 2350 East 1300 South, Salt Lake City, UT. Jay's memorial service will be Monday July 15, 2024 at 11:00 AM at the Olympus Hills Ward located at 4176 S. Adonis Drive, Millcreek, UT. A short viewing will be held at the Ward prior to the service from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM. He will be buried next to his wife at the Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park following the memorial service.

We wish to thank Bristol Hospice for their excellent care. They were wonderful to work with!