

Keith Taylor Jeppson

November 8, 1956 ~ July 17, 2021

On July 17th 2021, our dear Father and Husband returned to his loving Heavenly Father at the age of 64.

Keith was born on November 8th, 1956 to Dr. Edward Mayer and Elizabeth Whittaker Taylor Jeppson. He was the youngest of 13 children, lovingly referred to as Elizabeth's "Baker's Dozen." Keith was raised in a home filled with the gospel, beautiful music, adventure, and loving siblings who taught him to work hard and play harder.

Keith had a fun and wild childhood making memories and mischief, from picking pineapples in Hawaii to accidentally flooding the neighborhood gully and nearly burning down Kristie Lane. Many summers were spent with siblings and cousins working on the family ranch in Cokeville, Wyoming. He attended Curtis Elementary School, and wrestled at Clayton Middle School.

While he was blessed with wonderful childhood experiences, Keith and his family also endured numerous tragedies, including the death of his Father and disappearance of his brother, Reed, when Keith was at the tender age of 8. The time following these events lead Keith to have a deep and reverent love for his mother and a curiosity about the Spirit World.

In his high school years Keith continued living adventurously. Many weekday nights you could find him riding his dirt bike through the foothills of the Wasatch Front. Looking for excitement, Keith always knew how to push the envelope. On many occasions his adventures landed him in hot water, but he somehow found a way to avoid being caught or punished. His unique ability to escape punishment earned him the nickname "weasel" among his friends.

Once, without permission, Keith and some friends went to Hawaii with limited resources. While in Hawaii, he spent weeks picking pineapples to earn his way back home. Keith also greatly enjoyed high school football, reaching the state championship his last two years at East High. Partway through his Senior year Keith broke his leg while playing against Olympus. Weeks later, he cut off his own cast in an attempt to show he could still run onto the field and play in the State Championship game with his friends. While he ultimately was unable to play in that game, Keith once again showed his level of dedication to those he loved.

Coming from a musical family, Keith gained a love for singing early in his life. He shared his musical talent in high school singing baritone in the East High School Acapella and Madrigals choirs, performing around the Salt Lake Valley. Music was an integral part of Keith's foundation. For him, it invited the Spirit and strengthened his testimony of his Savior. The Lord blessed Keith with a beautiful singing voice which he used to lift and bless the lives of others. Each of us can recall hearing him sing, and feeling our testimonies strengthened as he bore his through song.

After high school, Keith served a full-time mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Oakland California from 1976 - 1978. It was there that he grew a deep and profound love for our Heavenly Father and Savior Jesus Christ. He came to know the power of the Atonement and expanded his knowledge of the gospel as he studied diligently and taught throughout his life. Keith also graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Utah and earned his CPA.

Keith met his partner-in-crime, and love of his life, Karen Kennington at the age of 24. When his sister Suzanne met Karen for tennis lesson, she returned home and declared to Keith, "I just met your wife!" She convinced him to join her in the next lesson. Keith knew a good thing when he saw it and didn't waste any time in asking her to marry him after just one month of dating. They were sealed 8 months later in the Salt Lake City temple on March 25th, 1981.

Keith and Karen created a beautiful, idyllic childhood for their five children. They were raised in the same home Keith was and with the same spirit of work hard play harder. Keith worked hard to create an inviting place where friends and family could congregate and make memories. Just a few features of the Jeppson compound included a long sledding hill with ski jumps, trampoline, hot tub, giant sandbox full of Tonka trucks, fire pit, 2-story playhouse, mud wrestling pit, paintball course, and his famous tennis court-length vegetable garden. Keith took great joy in teaching and sharing the things he loved with his family, including: skiing, camping, boating, four-wheeling, cooking, coaching soccer and football, Sunday and birthday dinners, Christmas traditions, fireworks, paintball, and enjoying God's creations in the outdoors.

Keith had a competitive and passionate spirit. When he discovered a new hobby, he figuratively "canon-balled" straight into it, often with significant success. Keith qualified for the Boston Marathon and took first place in the National Pickleball Games with his wife, Karen. He was an incredible cook, and making friends and family a delicious meal was one way he demonstrated his love for them. In recent years, Keith channeled this hobby into a barbeque Instagram account with over 30k followers. He loved the many great memories and friendships he created through these hobbies including: pickleball, racquetball, tennis, football, skiing, riding motorcycles, and running.

Keith loved spending time with his Grandchildren who lovingly referred to him as "Cool Paps." They are going to miss him greatly and we will miss seeing him teach his Grandkids all of the fun hobbies he enjoyed.

While we are devastated and our hearts ache to think of the future without him, we take comfort knowing that he is with his parents, siblings, and other loved ones who passed before him. Through this experience we have gained an increased appreciation for our Savior's atonement, as its comforting and healing power has allowed us to navigate these turbulent waters, buoyed our broken spirits, and strengthened our familial relationships. We rejoice knowing the weight of his life's burdens have been replaced by the warm embrace of our Heavenly Father. We greatly anticipate the glorious day when we are able to meet again, we love you Cool Paps.

Keith is survived by his wife Karen; children: Paul (Jen); Jake (Brittany); Jane; Craig (Anna); Scott (Scarlet); grandchildren Whitaker, Porter, Parley, June, Jordan, Harvey, Ellie, Reese, Grace, Jonas, and Bailey; siblings: Patricia (Paul); Edward (DeeAnn); Sally (Marlow); Suzanne (Warren); Christine (Ron); Jon (Bonnie); Daniel (Susan); Becky (Damon)

He is preceded in death by Edward Mayer Jeppson, Elizabeth Whittaker Taylor Jeppson, Phillip Taylor, Helen Marie, Reed Taylor, Taylor Alan (Linda).

Funeral Services will be held Friday, July 23, 2021, 11a.m. at the Foothill 7th Ward, 2215 East Roosevelt Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108. Friends and family may call Thursday evening from 6:00 - 8:00 at Larkin Sunset Lawn, 2350 East 1300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, as well as Friday morning at the ward building from 9:30 - 10:40. Interment will be at Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park. To watch recorded funeral service, click the "Watch Service" link above (a zoom account is required).