

Kenneth Horace Beesley

November 14, 1926 ~ March 27, 2022

Kenneth Horace Beesley, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully at home March 27, 2022 of natural
causes.

Kenneth was born November 14, 1926 in Salt Lake City to Alvin Douglas Beesley and Theresa McAllister Beesley. He grew up in Salt Lake City, the fourth of seven children, and graduated from West High School. He served honorably in the US Navy during World War II and returned to serve in the LDS Northern States Mission and earn a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Utah. He met Donna Deem on a blind date, and they married December 1, 1950 in the Salt Lake Temple. They remained faithful members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and would eventually have five children.

Ken and Donna then moved to New York City, where he served as a counselor in the bishopric and earned a Master's Degree and an Ed.D. (a doctorate in Education) at Teachers College, Columbia University. Upon graduation he was hired by the College, eventually serving as Assistant Provost and Registrar. After fifteen years in New York, the family moved to California for four years, where he served as Executive Dean of Fresno State College (now Fresno State University) and as an LDS bishop.

He next served as an Associate Commissioner of Education for the Church, serving under Neal A. Maxwell and Jeffrey R. Holland, with responsibility for schools and colleges in Latin America and the South Pacific, including the Church College of Hawaii (now BYU Hawaii). He served on the Sunday School General Board. He culminated his career in education as president of the LDS Business College, now Ensign College, retiring at the end of 1991.

In 1992, Ken and Donna started their next great adventure when they were called to be the very first LDS missionaries to Mongolia. They learned to say, "We've been called on a mission to Outer Mongolia, and that's not a joke." As there was no mission established yet, Ken was designated as Lead Elder. On their return, Ken and Donna served for several years as ordinance workers in the Bountiful Temple.

He was a hard worker who overcame a difficult childhood in a disadvantaged family, worked his way arduously through school, and suffered a number of health problems through the years without complaint. Ken and Donna did volunteer work at Red Butte Gardens, and Ken also volunteered to do family counseling at LDS Hospital. He enjoyed gardening and fishing, but his main satisfactions came from promoting education and being a loving support and inspiration to his family.

He was a good man. The world is better for having had him, and he will be long remembered and sorely missed.

He is survived by his loving wife Donna; four children, Kenneth Reid (Sharree) Beesley, Rulon Deem (Sharon) Beesley, Tamara (Clay) Thornton, and Ellen Christine (Gill) Halford; 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Daughter Diane (Thomas) Creighton preceded him in death in 2017.

Viewings will be held Friday April 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and Saturday April 9 from 9:30 to 10:30 AM at the LDS "White Chapel," 3350 South 100 East, Bountiful, Utah. Services will be held April 9, 11:00 to 12:00, also at the White Chapel, and will also be available via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87015749911

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