

Leonard Raymond Black

February 8, 1942 ~ August 16, 2025

Leonard Raymond Black, son of Archie Raymond Black and Florence May Simons Black, passed away at home, with his wife beside him, on August 16, 2025, at the age of 83.

Born February 8, 1942, in Salt Lake City, Leonard was a man of wide-ranging interests and remarkable talents. Among his greatest loves were his time as a Boy Scout, playing basketball, water skiing with his sons, creating businesses, working on cars, repairing anything that needed fixing, and his wife, Susan.

He attended East High School, where he played basketball and served on the Board of Control. His involvement with the “Board” led to his long-standing role as chairman of the East High Class of 1960 reunions, which fostered enduring and treasured relationships with his high school classmates over the decades. As a young man, he served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints among the Native American communities of the Southwest, forming precious memories of the region and the Navajo Nation. He attended the University of Utah on a basketball scholarship, where he played on two conference championship teams and competed in the NCAA Final Four. He was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, where he forged many lifelong friendships. After graduating, he joined the United States Air Force.

During his ten years of military service, Leonard completed a deployment to Vietnam earning a Bronze Star, a tour as an associate professor at the United States Air Force Academy, and an assignment in covert operations. After leaving the Air Force, he began an extensive career in business – first at the corporate level in space technology development and later in health informatics. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to found or co-found a number of diverse small businesses across various industries. Following his final venture, Leonard returned to the University of Utah as an associate professor at the David Eccles School of Business. He played a pivotal role in establishing the Utah Entrepreneur Center, developing an undergraduate major in entrepreneurship, and launching seven innovative programs that continue to benefit students and the university community.

He spent his retirement years serving alongside his wife, Susan. Together, they supported students from the Pacific Rim and Polynesia attending Brigham Young University–Hawaii, as he again, helped to establish an entrepreneurial center there. They worked on humanitarian projects on the island of Leyte in the Philippines, where Leonard was instrumental in assembling a manually operated borehole well driller to restore water access to villages affected by Typhoon Yolanda. In 2019, they served a Farmland Reserve Mission at the Navasota Ranch in Prairie Hill, Texas.

Leonard served in many callings for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was especially known for his devoted service as a Gospel Doctrine instructor, early morning Seminary teacher, and dedicated Scoutmaster. His family will remember and cherish him for the loving husband and father he always was.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings Dora Bailey, JoAn Clark, Janet Holford, James Black; and two sons, Daniel Simon Black and Jason Millburn Black. He is survived by his wife, Susan Lloyd Black; and son, Michael Raymond Black; and his sister, Florence Romney.

A social gathering will take place on Thursday, September 4th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Founders Room on the 18th floor of the Zions Bank Building, located at One South Main Street in Salt Lake City. Guests may enter through the basement entrance in the City Creek Center parking garage, near Macy's.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, September 5th, at 11:00 a.m. at the LDS Stake Center, 135 A Street. Interment will follow on Saturday, September 6th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Those wishing to view the service via Zoom can click "Watch Services" or follow the link:https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/pvdkcGm_AUtNYetfeaJ-41QTr8J33P5PUaPNWlIabjPda_c7Vd7cqcd5dMQf9Bbt.u