R. Jay Tuft

December 7, 1928 ~ August 25, 2018

Reed Jay Tuft peacefully passed away on August 25, 2018 surrounded by loving family. Jay was born on December 7, 1928 to Hans Albert Tuft and Vivian Lois Reed. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Jay served active duty as a diesel mechanic in the Korean War until he was later discharged. Jay loved to operate heavy machinery. His dedication to success ran deep, especially in terms of business. Jay was also known for his love of dancing. Jay married Dora Deane Christensen in the 1950's, had two children, and later divorced.

As one of the first developers and entrepreneurs in Utah, Jay established his own excavation company, Jay Tuft and Company, where his slogan was "No job is too tough for Tuft." His work experience with Kennecott only intensified his interest. Fortunately, this lead him to the love of his life, Nora LaRue Tuft, who he married in 1966. LaRue served as Vice President for his company for over 20 years. Between their love for construction, they equally shared a unique love for each other. With hard work, time and effort they both understood that together they achieved more.

His grandchildren and great grandchildren describe him as the \"Best Gampy ever!\" due to his heavy involvement in their lives. Evidently the company slogan "No job is too tough for Tuft." applies throughout everything Jay lived and stood for. Jay Tuft was a remarkable individual and his legacy will live on through his children and grandchildren.

Jay was preceded in death by his parents, Hans Albert Smith and Vivian Lois Reed, siblings, Leland, Avis, Joy, O Noel and Sharon and his wife, LaRue Tuft. Jay is survived by his daughter, Kathleen (Lorin) Robinson, and his son, Craig Tuft, and Julia Robison Tuft along with his sister Fairie Tuft Hawkins, and his brother, Don Tuft (Nadene). Additionally, he is survived by his grandchildren; John Williams, Sheena Tuft, Shantel Tuft Pettit (Brady), and Brittany Tuft. A viewing will be held from 11:00 to 12:30 on Saturday, September 1st, at the Draper 7th Ward chapel located at: 12353 S 600 E in Draper, Utah with a funeral service to follow beginning at 1:00 p.m.Graveside service will be held at Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery.