

Ray Walter Lambert

May 14, 1936 ~ December 22, 2020

Ray Walter Lambert, 84, passed from this life at his home in San Jose, California on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and brother. Ray had battled multiple infections, and recently been diagnosed with lymphoma in the last few months. He has been relieved of his pain and will be greatly missed by his family and especially his beloved wife of 62 years, Marilyn Wilcox Lambert.

Ray was born May 14, 1936 in Salt Lake City, Utah to William Patten and Diana Reid Lambert. He was the youngest of 3 children. Ray attended South High School where he met Marilyn and they began dating during the summer before their senior year. After graduation, Ray had been accepted to Stanford but turned down the opportunity to attend the University of Utah with Marilyn. This was one of the defining decisions of his life. As a Sigma Chi and Marilyn as a Tri-Delt, they became officially engaged their senior year and were married in the Salt Lake City Temple on August 4, 1958. One year later, Ray completed his Chemical Engineering degree (graduating number one in his class), while Marilyn taught 2nd grade to support the newlyweds.

After graduation, Ray and Marilyn moved to Richland, Washington in 1959 when he began a career with General Electric. Their three sons (David, Steven and Brent) were all born in Richland. Ray's career with GE focused on nuclear fuel processing and storage. In 1964 the family moved to Santa Clara, California, where Raelynn joined the family in 1968. In the summer of 1969, the family moved to Joliet, Illinois where Ray was appointed manager of engineering for a large new facility. This assignment concluded five years later in 1974, when GE moved the family back to San Jose where their new home became a beautiful landmark in the neighborhood for over 45 years. Ray always excelled in academics and completed an MBA degree at Santa Clara University while working full time for GE. Ray left GE and joined the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in 1982 and over a span of 32 years became a national authority in spent nuclear fuel storage. He officially retired in 2014.

Ray loved being involved in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in numerous positions including Elders and High Priest leadership, bishoprics, ward mission leader, gospel doctrine teacher, and many others. He was always very meticulous in completing detailed tasks and making sure that everything ran smoothly. If you ever wanted to get something done, you assigned it to Ray. He and Marilyn made a dynamic duo and worked together tirelessly on many church assignments and activities. Service is their middle name.

Throughout his life, Ray loved various athletics, gardening, golf and travel and particularly enjoyed being with his children and extended family and watching them progress and grow. He was blessed with and was grateful for a kidney transplant from his daughter-in-law, Sheri in 2009 that extended his life for over 11 years.

Ray is preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his wife Marilyn Wilcox Lambert, and their children; David Wilcox (MariAnne), Bellevue Washington; Steven Reid (Sheri), Brentwood Tennessee; Brent Walter, San Diego California; Raelynn (Spencer) Woolley, Orem Utah; 12 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; and his sister

Jean Weiler and brother William Lambert.

Interment in Salt Lake Cemetery, Salt Lake City Utah.

A viewing will be held on Friday, January 8, 2021 from 10:00 - 10:45 am at Larkin Mortuary, 260 E South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111. Funeral services to follow at 11:00 am at the same location.

Recorded Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/l6Hr_V0RlnkiP1oaVqauF-U_uN9dg_ghEp5uHpEQ-W13octcPpwsRkCdFhHi7LwU.sqH