

Richard Bunot Laney

June 9, 1931 ~ June 29, 2021

Richard Bunot Laney passed away early in the morning of June 29, 2021 at his residence in Bountiful, Utah. Richard was born June 9, 1931, in Salt Lake City, Utah, the son of Leland Culbert Laney and Ilene Clara Bunot. Richard was raised in Salt Lake City, attending East High School and receiving his Bachelor and master's degrees in journalism from the University of Utah in 1952 and 1955 respectively. Richard earned his Ph.D. in political science in 1966 also from the University of Utah. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, national honorary scholastic society, Pi Sigma Alpha, national honorary in political science, Kappa Tau Alpha, national honorary in journalism, and Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity, as well as the National Conference of Editorial Writers and the American Political Science Association.

Richard began his career in 1952 as a Legislative Correspondent and Reporter for United Press International. In 1958 he became the Acting Bureau Manager for United Press International in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1960, he began his career with the Deseret News in Salt Lake City first as an Editorial Writer and then as the Editor of the Editorial Page in 1968. He retired from the Deseret News in 1996. Among his many recognitions and achievements, he received two Freedoms Foundation national awards in 1962 and 1966. He volunteered at the Salt Lake Public library most of his adult life. Richard married his lifelong friend, Elenore Knowles in the Bountiful temple in February 2007. Elenore proceeded him in death in 2010.

No one has tallied the thousands of articles and editorials in his more than four decades of journalism at United Press International and the Deseret News. But taken as a whole, they represent a vast body of work far more massive than most best-selling authors or novelists would produce in a lifetime. Richard's editorials have reflected a consistent theme of conservatism. He has resisted intrusive government. He has decried waste and corruption. He has favored no political party but has always advocated honest and courageous political leadership.

Modest about his personal achievements, Richard has never touted his doctor's degree or his vast knowledge of politics, government, world affairs, Church scholarship, literature, and the arts. There are few subject areas about which he cannot carry on a very intelligent conversation. Above all, Richard has been a compassionate and caring son to his mother. He has devoted his life to her well-being. There are few sons as dedicated as he was to a mother's happiness and comfort. In addition to the extraordinary care for his mother, he cared for his grandmother, Sarah Bunot, and his mother's sisters, Inez Bunot and Lily Bunot, all of whom lived well into their 90s.

Richard is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served diligently in many callings over the years and has a fervent testimony of the restoration of the Gospel in this the dispensation of the fulness of times. Recently, at a small family gathering celebrating Richard's ninetieth birthday, he affirmed his testimony of the Savior and expressed his love and appreciation for the Prophet Joseph Smith, his great sacrifice and his role in the

restoration of the Gospel.

Richard is survived by his sister, Georgia Anderson of North Salt Lake; his niece Lisa Dawn (DaLon) Esplin, of Riverside, Idaho; his nephews Cameron Lee (Beverly) Anderson of Leesburg, Virginia; Stuart McKay Anderson of North Salt Lake, Utah; and Matthew Laney (Missy) Anderson of Humeston, Iowa.

A family graveside service will be held Saturday July 3, 2021 at 10 am. Interment will be at the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Location instructions will be posted here the day prior to services.