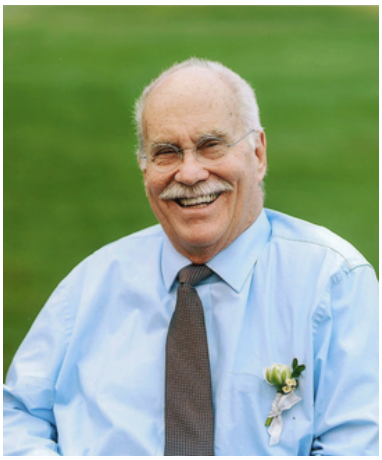

Richard W. Nielsen

January 15, 1944 ~ October 31, 2022

Richard W. Nielsen “Rick” was born in Rochester, Minnesota on January 15, 1944, the first son of Wendell Lorenzo and Janet Keeney Nielsen.

His early childhood was spent in Lima, Peru where his father worked as a physician. After several years the family relocated to Idaho where Rick graduated from Idaho Falls High School in 1962. He later enrolled at the University of Utah where he graduated with honors in Biology.

On June 10, 1967 he married the love of his life, Maralyn Jensen Nielsen. They were later sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on May 12, 2009. Rick attended Creighton Medical School and completed a residency in Otorhinolaryngology at the University of Utah. After completing his medical training he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for two years in Frankfurt, Germany. After his military service he settled in Salt Lake City where he joined the Ear, Nose and Throat Center as a partner.

Rick was a practicing physician in the Salt Lake Valley for over 40 years. He was loved and respected by his patients and colleagues. His love of humanitarian work took him all over the world. He served the people of Chile, Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia, Philippines, India and Nepal.

He will be remembered for his infectious laugh, positive attitude, passion for service, and love of skiing. He was an avid reader and had the amazing ability to recall information. He was a conversationalist and amazing story teller. His greatest passion, outside of his family, was traveling the world in search of the perfect powder run. His greatest quality was his good nature, generous spirit, and ability to find the good in all situations.

Rick’s greatest source of pride and joy were his three adoring grandchildren; Emma, Ben and Isabelle. They were the light of his life. He taught each of them how to ski and never missed an athletic event, recital, play, dance performance or graduation. He was the ultimate grandpa! We love you always and forever.

Rick was preceded in death by his wife, Maralyn and son, Jason. He is survived by his son, Christian (Elizabeth); sisters Suzy and Johanna, brother Robert; three special and beloved grandchildren; Emma Jane, Benjamin and Isabelle.

We are forever grateful to Dr. Fred Gottlieb of the University of Utah for not only being Rick’s physician but dear friend.

Our family would also like to extend our appreciation to the Staff of Spring Gardens Senior Living for the loving care they provided Rick.

VIEWING: Friday, November 11, 2022 6:00-8:00 p.m. Federal Heights Meeting House, 1300 East Fairfax Road, Salt Lake City.

FUNERAL SERVICE: Saturday, November 12, 2022 10:30 a.m. Federal Heights Meeting House, 1300 East Fairfax Road, Salt Lake City.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Huntsman Cancer Institute in memory of Richard W. Nielsen.

For those wishing to virtually attend services through zoom please click the "Watch Services" button above or the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85902048143