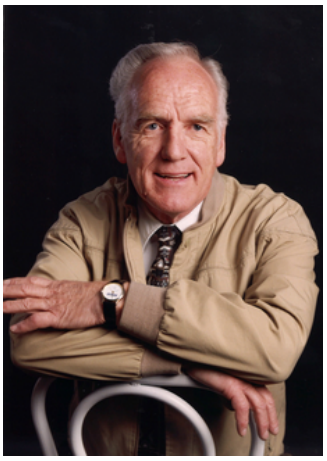


Robert "Bob" Beal Harden

January 24, 1936 ~ May 6, 2023

Robert “Bob” Beal Harden, completed his mortal journey on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Bob was born January 24, 1936, in Salt Lake City, Utah to Margaret Spencer and Robert Henry “Budd” Harden Jr. Known to his friends as “Red”, Bob was proud of his distinctive hair color even when all the red had turned to white.

His childhood years were filled with colorful experiences of time spent with his brothers, Allen, Don, and Larry. His family moved to Rose Park when he was 12. He attended West High School, graduating as valedictorian and played on the baseball, basketball, and football teams. He later attended the University of Utah.

Bob met his eternal companion, Robin Ruth, in Rose Park. They married in 1954 and were sealed for time and all eternity in the Salt Lake Temple. He loved living and raising his children in Rose Park and was proud of the life he and Robin created together.

A faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Bob loved to share the story of his baptism in the font at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, as well as his testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He enthusiastically committed to serve the best he could in his many callings, including Scout Master, Sunday School Teacher, and Bishop.

Bob was a dedicated Scouter, who was awarded the Silver Beaver award for providing distinguished service within the Great Salt Lake Council. He loved the scouting program and the many youths he had the privilege of teaching and mentoring.

As an avid sports enthusiast, Bob spent many years on the diamond, court, and field, both as a player and later as an umpire and referee. He shared his love of sports with his children and grandchildren. He loved watching them play, as well as taking them to countless games, especially those of the Utes, Golden Eagles, Bees, and Jazz.

Bob loved the outdoors, especially the Uintah mountains and the red rocks of Moab. Many hours were happily spent fishing, hunting, boating, camping, hiking, or exploring. He loved reading, especially the scriptures and Zane Grey novels. He enjoyed playing animal charades with his kids and grandchildren, telling stories, making up songs, whistling, and loved to joke with all he met. It didn’t really matter what the activity was, if his family or friends were there, he loved it.

Bob served in the Utah Air National Guard. About the same time, he began working for Coca-Cola. He worked for Coke for 25 years and loved a cold bottle of Coke. He later worked as a salesman at Arco Packaging for another 23 years. He was a hard worker, committed to providing for his family. He was a business owner of 4 Packaging Stores, enjoying the fact that these stores provided jobs for some of his children and grandchildren.

Bob and Robin served two missions together. The first as service missionaries in their stake for two years. The second as humanitarian missionaries in Sri Lanka. They immediately loved the Sri Lankan people and have many wonderful friends from their time there.

Bob is survived by his wife of 68 years, Robin; his children, John (Tracy), Rouett (Yousef) Abouzelof, Jann, Ron (Cindy), Chris (Chuck) Denny, Susan (Tom) Lynch, Don (Barb), Bob (Diane), David (Jennifer), Aline (Dave) Ashton, Patrick (Charla); foster daughter Bernina Sandoval, brother Larry (Vicki) Davis; 36 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Allen and Don, his sister Kathryn Shauna, his infant son Richard, three grandsons, and one great granddaughter.

Funeral services: Friday, May 12, 2023, 11:00 a.m. Rose Park North Stake Center, 1155 North 1200 West. Viewings at the church: Thursday, May 11, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Friday at 10:00 a.m. Interment: Salt Lake City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please consider contributing to the humanitarian or missionary departments of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The family wishes to express appreciation to our mom for all the care, love, and support she showed our dad. We love you, Dad. “Let’s Go!”