

# Ross Alan Cheesman

*September 14, 1947 ~ May 25, 2021*

Ross Alan Cheesman returned to his Heavenly home with the love of his life by his side on Tuesday, May 25th, 2021.

Ross was a larger-than-life personality. Whether it was planning his wife's 60th birthday or a Sunday family dinner, he was the life of the party and loved being with people. He went out of his way to meet someone new and made sure to say hello to anyone he recognized. His smile was contagious, and even through his physical challenges, he managed to choose optimism.

He was born in San Diego, California on September 14, 1947, to Paul and Millie Cheesman. His childhood years were spent in Southern California, until they moved to Miami, Florida where many of their days were filled with the beach and swimming in the pool they built as a family. Being the second oldest of six kids, he often cared for his younger siblings. The family later moved to Orem, Utah where he graduated from high school.

In 1966, Ross served an LDS mission in Richmond, Virginia, where he touched many lives with his strong testimony. His faith was a core part of who he was.

He attended BYU where he majored in Zoology, and then went on to the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. He fell in love with Gail Simmons, and they married in the Logan, Utah temple on March 10, 1976. He often felt like he won the lottery with Gail and it was a privilege for their children and grandchildren to witness their unconditional love for each other.

They were blessed with six children, all of whom carry on his spirit; Ryan (Kamber) Cheesman, Alicia (Sean) Wolfert, Melanie (Michael) Lemon, Alan (Karas) Cheesman, Kevin (Katie) Cheesman, and Jake (Jessica) Cheesman. He was preceded in death by his father Paul Robert Cheesman and his mother-in-law, Jean Foster Simmons. He is survived by his mother Millie Cheesman (age 97) and his 19 cherished grandchildren.

He spent his career growing his private dental practice and loved to dabble in all sorts of entrepreneurial endeavors. From running his own toffee business, to real estate investing, he was a visionary and thrived on creating business opportunities for himself.

Ross was passionate about documenting (especially family pictures) and cheering on his beloved BYU Cougars and Utah Jazz. It wasn't uncommon to find Ross belting out a classical song from his favorite musical, or snacking on black licorice by himself in a movie theater. He also loved cooking and was known for his prime rib and famous waffles.

At 6' 4", he was a gentle giant and could be spotted in a crowd by his unforgettable ample eyebrows. He sported a crooked middle finger (from a previous softball injury) and an 18-inch scar on his femur from falling out of a tree in his youth.

He served in various church callings throughout his life and had the opportunity to serve as a bishop, high counselor, ward mission leader, and gospel doctrine instructor. He loved serving and influenced many people. In 2008, Ross and Gail served together in the Jamaica, Kingston mission.

Ross miraculously recovered from COVID-19 in October, after a two-week stay in the ICU. He struggled with diabetes, a transplanted pancreas and kidney, and ultimately succumbed to renal failure. He was blessed to spend the last few days of his life surrounded by his wife, children, and grandchildren in the comfort of his home.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, June 1st, at the Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E 10600 S, Sandy, UT 84092 at 11:00 am, with a viewing prior to the funeral from 10:00-10:45 am.