

Tanumafili Peni

February 25, 1964 ~ March 13, 2025

Tanumafili Toatasi Laufau Peni, a beloved father, son, and friend, passed away peacefully on March 13, 2025, at the age of 61 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Born on February 25, 1964, in Tuana'i, Samoa, Tanumafili was a vibrant individual who greatly impacted the lives of those around him. His parents, Toatasi Laufau Peni and Taugata Savea Tamapolutele, instilled in him strong values of family, community, and perseverance, which he carried throughout his life.

From a young age, Tanumafili demonstrated a deep sense of connection to his cultural roots. Growing up in Tuana'i, he experienced the warmth of a close-knit community. His upbringing in Samoa was marked by traditional customs, rich storytelling, and the importance of kinship. These experiences shaped his worldview and produced a man who valued relationships above all else. As he matured, he relocated to Compton, California where he sought opportunities that would allow him to provide for his family and embrace a new life.

Tanumafili was a remarkable individual whose life was defined by his passions, family, and profession. Born into a world rich in potential, he grew up with a love for basketball that quickly became apparent. The court was not just a place for him to play; it was a sanctuary where he honed his skills, celebrated victories, and forged friendships. His competitive spirit was matched only by his enjoyment of card games, with solitaire being his favorite. This game not only entertained him but also showcased his strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Tanumafili was deeply rooted in his faith as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. His beliefs guided his actions and relationships, serving as a foundation for his family life. He shared a loving partnership with his wife, Polisia Peni. Together, they built a fulfilling life and raised seven wonderful children, consisting of two boys and five girls. This large family was a source of pride and joy for Tanumafili, who cherished the time spent with each of his children, instilling in them the values of hard work, integrity, and compassion.

Tanumafili’s life was characterized by his dedication to his family. He worked tirelessly to provide for them, instilling in his children the importance of education and perseverance. His home was filled with laughter and wisdom. He often shared stories from his youth, teaching valuable lessons about loyalty and respect. His children remember him as a source of strength, an unwavering support system through life’s challenges. Each of his seven children, now embarking on their own paths, carry his teachings with them, hoping to make him proud in their journeys.

Professionally, he made significant contributions as a worker for Airgas, a leader in gas production. His dedication to science was evident in his work, where he applied his knowledge and expertise to enhance processes and ensure safety. The appreciation he had for the field was reflected in his efforts and the respect he earned from his colleagues. He was not just a worker; he was a mentor who inspired those around him with his enthusiasm for discovery and growth.

He is survived by his devoted wife, seven children, and six siblings who cherished every moment spent with him. Despite having a total of twelve siblings in his lifetime, six of whom have sadly passed away, Tanumafili remained deeply connected to his roots and his family. His spirit lived on through the love and values he instilled in his children, who will carry forward his legacy of kindness, hard work, and resilience.

As we remember Tanumafili, we celebrate a life well-lived, filled with love, laughter, and enduring connections. He will be dearly missed but forever cherished in the hearts of his wife, children, and many others. His memory serves as a reminder of the strength that family and community provide, and his spirit will live on in the stories shared and the lessons imparted.

His services:

Date: March 22, 2025

Time: 8a-1p

- Family Service: 8a-11:30a
- Bishop Service: 12p-1p
- Burial: 1:30p-2:30p

Locations:

- Funeral Service: Oquirrh 11th| 3750 W 6200 S Taylorsville, UT 84129
- Burial: Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E. 10600 S. Sandy, UT