



Elijah Reed Heywood

July 24, 1939 - April 25, 2016

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Like his grandfather and namesake before him, Elijah Reed Heywood was born on July 24 --- known as Pioneer Day in his native state of Utah. As a child, Reed always believed that the Pioneer Day parades and celebrations were meant just for him. For those who knew and loved him throughout his life he truly was a pioneer, so often going before and showing the way. His was an exemplary and truly blessed life.

Originally from Panguitch, Utah, Reed spent most of his young life in Cedar City where he was actively involved in sports, music, theater, student government and academics. From the age of 13 he played saxophone in the family dance band, providing excellent fun throughout Southern Utah and developing a strong work ethic at an early age. After graduating from Cedar High School in 1957, Reed joined the army where he spent time in Fort Ord, CA and Fort Sill, OK, completing Field Artillery Survey School with distinction, always planning one day to become a civil engineer.

After a spring quarter of playing baseball at the College of Southern Utah, he transferred to Brigham Young University where he studied for a year before enjoying the opportunity to serve a mission for the LDS Church in the West

Central States Mission. Returning to college two years later, he continued to play baseball at which time he was invited by the Yankees to attend spring training. Although he had already decided not to pursue a career in baseball, throughout his life Reed enjoyed wondering "what if?" and he continued to be a dedicated Yankees fan until the end.

In 1962 Elijah Reed Heywood married his high school sweetheart, Eleanor Grimshaw, and together they began the joyful work of raising and supporting a family. Reed spent many years as a student at the University of Utah pursuing his medical education as well as graduate work in education administration. In his chosen profession as an OB/GYN, Dr. Heywood became a beloved physician and master teacher. Like the true pioneer he was, he had the courage to step into the unknown later in his career when he and Eleanor felt inspired to leave their beautiful home in Salt Lake City. Accepting education administration opportunities at both Syracuse University and West Virginia University, Reed opened the door for his family to experience many new adventures and important friendships. From 2002-2005, as one of the highlights of their lives, Reed and Eleanor were asked to preside over 485 young missionaries in the San Jose, California mission of the Church. The experiences and bonds of love formed during this time continue to bless the Heywood family to this day.

Reed valued education and hard work. He was a gifted teacher and speaker with a tender heart and passionate nature. He had a ready laugh but was never afraid to cry. Apart from his family, Reed's greatest joy came from serving the Lord. He had unwavering faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Of the many opportunities he had to serve in the LDS Church, including 3 times as a bishop and many other leadership positions, Reed found the most joy in being a Sunday School teacher and a missionary. He loved to study and share his faith and he blessed many people with his deep spiritual understanding until the end of his life.

Elijah Reed Heywood passed away peacefully in his home on April 25, 2016 after many challenging years of living with ALS. He will be remembered for his unflinching generosity, integrity, courage, and commitment.

Reed was preceded in death by his sweetheart Eleanor Grimshaw Heywood, parents Austin Heywood and Nellie Mandana Haycock Heywood, his brother-in-law Lloyd Games, and brothers Austin Garn and Richard Dan Heywood.

He is survived by his son David Reed (Jennifer), son Samuel Greg (Shari), daughter Jennifer, and grandchildren Christina Morgan (Blaine), Gabrielle Kathleen, David Reed Jr., George Theon, Jeffrey Gordon, Austin Reed (Aubree), Alexandra Wright (Cameron), Samuel Ernest, 2 great grandchildren, Luke Russell Morgan and Elijah Pyne Heywood, as well as his sister JaLene Games, sisters-in-law Jenean and Julie Heywood, his brother Robert Heywood (Christine) and many beloved nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank all the doctors, nurses, health care workers, and church members who made his life more comfortable.

Funeral services will be held in West Virginia on Saturday, April 30, at 2:00 p.m. in the Teays Valley building of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (1068 Mt. Vernon Rd, Hurricane, WV). Friends may visit beginning at 11:00 a.m.

An additional service will be held in Spanish Fork, UT on Wednesday, May 4th at 12:00 p.m. (541 West Center Street). Friends may visit from 10:00-11:30 a.m. A visitation will be held Tuesday, May 3rd from 6:30-9:00 p.m at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East Dimple Dell Road (10600 S) in Sandy. Burial will follow the funeral in Sunset Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to may make a contribution to one of the following funds: the General LDS Church Mission Fund (through your local LDS congregation) or to the WVU Foundation, Department of OB/GYN, Charleston Division. (Mail to WVU School of Medicine, Office of Philanthropy, 3110 MacCorkle Ave., SE, Charleston, WV 25304)

Cemetery Details

Larkin Sunset Gardens

1950 East Dimple Dell Road
Sandy, UT

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 30. 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
1068 Mount Vernon Road
Hurricane, WV 25526

Funeral Service

APR 30. 2:00 PM (ET)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
1068 Mount Vernon Road
Hurricane, WV 25526

Visitation

MAY 3. 10:00 AM - 11:30 PM (MT)

Larkin Sunset Gardens
1950 East Dimple Dell Road
Sandy, UT

Funeral Service

MAY 4. 12:00 PM (MT)

Spanish Fork Church
541 West Center Street
Spanish Fork, UT

Tribute Wall



“ *Elijah Reed Heywood*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Dr. Heywood was such a wonderful physician. He delivered my son on Christmas night and told me it was a privilege to deliver a healthy baby boy on Christmas! He was concerned that I had missed my Christmas dinner and I told him I was sorry he missed his as well. It was special having him deliver my son as a partner to Dr. Richard Hebertson. Thank you Dr. Heywood for your kindness. I'll always remember you! Celia A. Cutler 4/22/2021*

Celia Cutler - April 22, 2021 at 03:54 PM



“ *When our last son Evan was born in August of 1978, my regular OB Dr. Hebertsen, was unavailable, so his partner, your father Dr. Heywood, (whom I had never seen) came for the delivery. He was the cutest man. I now know that he was only 39 at the time himself, just older than we were. He took the baby immediately, leaving the nurses to care for me, and walked around the delivery room holding and cuddling and talking to him for several minutes before he would give him to his dad and return to his job. I never saw that again after that, but always remembered how sweet it was and wondered if all the babies he delivered got such a warm introduction to the world.*

*Sherry McMullin
Salt Lake City*

Sherry McMullin - June 02, 2016 at 07:45 AM

DW

“Reed was our young men basketball coach in the Ensign Ward. This was during his residency at the LDS Hospital in SLC. We all loved Reed. Because of that love we learned to listen when he spoke and never wanted to disappoint him. In those days church basketball was our extracurricular life. We participated in stake and invitational tournaments as well as the All-Church tournament. We always did very well thanks to Reed.

Reed also taught us many life-lessons. I remember Reed telling us that if we wanted to be successful and please Heavenly Father we will not do our school studies on Sunday. Heavenly Father would bless us for it. That has always had an impact on me.

After I was married and my wife didn't have a OB/GYN she knew or with whom she felt comfortable, I suggested Dr. Heywood. He was very gracious and accepted her as a patient. He delivered all 5 of our children.

We missed Reed when he left SLC. We would occasionally see his name pop up in the Church News when called to a Stake Presidency or as a Mission President. Those times always brought back a heartbeat of love from the past.

With fond memories,
David Wolfgramm

David Wolfgramm - May 01, 2016 at 12:41 PM

MF

“ My name is Michael Mulliner Frame and I grew up in Cedar City, Utah with both Reed and his wife, Eleanor. We were close friends and I played with Reed on all the varsity teams at Cedar High School. Reed was our Senior Class President but he was only able to attend 1 or 2 class reunions over the years.....we will hold our 60th class reunion in the summer of 2017 and I am supposed to make it happen.....many of the class will no longer be around to attend. Reed was always a class act and an example of true Christian living. He never did anything half way but did his best at everything he was involved in. I'm sure He and Eleanor have had a joyous reunion on the other side of the vale. I am glad that he no longer is burdened with ALS and is looking forward to the morning of the 1st resurrection. He will be missed but never forgotten and we will certainly remember him next summer at the reunion.

Michael M Frame - April 30, 2016 at 09:25 PM

CW

“ I have many fond memories of Reed not only as my OB/GYN but as a nurse working with him in his office practice. My condolences to his wonderful family

Cyd Wolfgramm - April 30, 2016 at 02:11 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elijah Reed Heywood.



April 29, 2016 at 05:51 PM

SA

“ I'll always remember watching President and Sister Heywood dance while we waited for the special celebration for Joseph Smith's birthday while serving in San Jose, California. They loved so completely. It was truly a joy to watch them together. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Sarah - April 29, 2016 at 02:44 PM

TO

“ Dear Shari and family,
I was sorry to read about the passing of your father-in-law. What a lovely obit. I can see how his beautiful traits shine through your wonderful children. What a fine example he set for them. Please extend my sympathies to your family, as I will be unable to pay my respects in person.

So 2 down, 1 to go in marriage. Tell Austin, Alex and Sam that it was an honor and a pleasure to have been their librarian at SAHS. They will always be special to me.

I am retiring in June. It is bittersweet, as the librarian position will then be cut.

Take care. God bless you all, especially now. May his memory be eternal.

Sincerely, Terry O'Fiesh otrip@yahoo.com

Terry O'Fiesh - April 29, 2016 at 12:29 PM

PD

“ Sorry for your loss Greg. Your father was a great man and physician. I respected him and enjoyed working with him at women and children's. Patty Dillon LPN

Patty Dillon - April 28, 2016 at 05:06 PM