



Ira Backes,

August 18, 1939 - August 9, 2008

BACKES, IRA PHILLIP, JR., passed away on Friday, August 8th, at midnight, following surgery for brain cancer. He was born August 18, 1939 in Klamath Falls, Oregon to Ira Phillip Backes, Sr. and Theresa Loree Boyd Backes. They relocated to Grants Pass, Oregon in 1946, and Phil attended schools there, graduating from Grants Pass High in 1957. He entered the Air Force and served in Texas for 4 1/2 years. After his honorable discharge, he attended Brigham Young University (B.Y.U.) for a year, and then served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in New Zealand for 2 years. Returning to B.Y.U., he graduated with a degree in Social Work in 1972, leaving twice to earn money to attend school. He was married to Barbara Crowson, from Birmingham, on January 26, 1967 in the LDS Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah. They moved to Grants Pass, Oregon in August of 1972 where he worked for the State of Oregon for 25 years, retiring in 1999, after which he and his wife served for a year as missionaries on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. In November 2006, they moved to Morris, where he loved to garden and serve in the LDS temple. He is survived by his wife of 41 years; his children; Cirkle Lee Backes, of Morris; Stefani Alis Backes, of Greenville, South Carolina; Ira P. Backes, III of Parachute, Colorado; Amy Loree Backes, currently of Poptun, Guatemala; Sierra Eileen Veek, of Grand Junction, Colorado; his 3 sisters: Joan Shelley of Grants Pass, Oregon; Karen Carton of Clarkston, Washington; Evelyn Bruner of Salt Lake City, Utah; 4 grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be Wednesday, August 13th at 2:00pm at the Gardendale LDS church, family will receive friends one hour prior to service. Burial will follow at Morris Cemetery. Gardendale Funeral Home directing.

Tribute Wall

JW

“ *BARBARA, SORRY WE COULDN'T BE THERE FOR YOU.*

JIM WHALEN - August 19, 2008 at 03:54 AM

BC

“ *Both Dean and I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Barbara and Family on Phil's passing. Our love and Prayers are with all.*

Sincerely, Brenda Bogart & Dean L. Craven

BRENDA BOGART & DEAN L. CRAVEN - August 15, 2008 at 03:52 PM

MP

“ *Dear Barbara, Circle, Stefani, Trey, Amy, Sierra & family, How sad we are to hear of Phil's passing, it was a shock to us all. What a great person he is and all of you. We will miss his great spirit, we will always hold a special place in our heart for all of you. We enjoyed our times together and our friendship. I feel like a part of the family has passed on. Phil has always been a great friend, bishop, hunting buddy, fellow softball player and neighbor. The memories go on. We are so thankful to know him and all of you. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you. May our Heavenly Father bless you with the peace and comfort you need at this time and later when things are tough. We love you and pray for you. Take care, Leonard and Mary Ann & Family*

Mary Ann Pariera - August 15, 2008 at 12:49 PM

GM

“ *My the peace of God be with you in your time of grief. I am praying for you and your family.*

Glen E. Moyer - August 14, 2008 at 11:09 PM

GH

“ We just learned of Phil's passing today. So sorry for your loss. He will be greatly missed.

Glenn & Peggy Hixson - August 14, 2008 at 10:10 PM

LO

“ Phil was such a wonderful brother-in-law and we are lucky we had him in our family 41 years. He was such a patient and caring person and loved his children and wife dearly. He was always willing to help anyone in need and did so with a smile. My sister was very blessed to find such a caring and loving man that truly loved his church and devoted much of his time mentoring young people to become christian adults. We will miss him very much but I know that he has gone to be with our Heavenly Father.

Linda O'Daniel - August 14, 2008 at 01:45 PM

CM

“ I remember Phil as that great guy from Grants Pass, Oregon who always had a smile on his face and a great personality. Although I wasn't living on Base very long, I would see Phil and the gang at work. My heartfelt prayers to you and your family. Phil will never be forgotten and will be always loved by those who knew him.
"God Bless",
Clark Moody

Clark Moody - August 14, 2008 at 04:43 AM

GM

“ Ira Backes,

Gordon Mittelsteadt - August 13, 2008 at 09:12 PM

AJ

“ So very sad about the passing of our dear friend .He was a very sweet man ,very likable and thought highly of by many.May God Bless you all and help you through the rough times,he will be greatly missed

Alice Crouse Johnston - August 13, 2008 at 05:43 PM

HH

“ I havent seen Phil since 1960 when I was discharged from the A.F. but certainly never forgot him. He was a great guy as you all know. I did talk with him briefly over the internet shortly after the 05 reunion. One of the girls hooked me up with Phil & we had the opportunity to talk for a few moments.
If any of his old buddies can help you can always get in touch.
Herm & Carolyn Hubbard

Herm & Carolyn Hubbard - August 13, 2008 at 05:16 PM

FS

“ My condolences go out to the Backes family on the loss of a caring and wonderful person. I had the pleasure of meeting Phil in the USAF when we were stationed at Perrin AFB. I will treasure the time and memories we shared during Phil's visit at the last reunion. God Bless the family and you will be missed my friend.

Frank Sofijczuk - August 13, 2008 at 04:58 PM

DH

“ My prayers are before the throne of grace for your family.

Dianne Hobbs - August 13, 2008 at 01:50 PM

CT

“ I sorrow at your loss. You and the family are in my prayers.

Clyde "REB" Turner - August 13, 2008 at 12:09 PM

JC

“ Barbara, We are so sorry to hear about Phil. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jean & Carson Coe - August 13, 2008 at 11:56 AM

BS

“ Dear Barbara and Family, We are so sorry to hear of Phil's passing. We will miss his genuine smile, his enthusiasm and happiness, and his kindness. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord bless you in this time of sorrow and may you find peace in knowing of our Heavenly Father's love and His eternal plan of happiness for all His children. All our love and sincere sympathy, Brett & Barb Sharp

Brett & Barbara Sharp - August 13, 2008 at 11:34 AM

GM

“ Barbara, You spent 41 years with one of the best men I've ever known. He will always be missed but never forgotten. Phil is with our heavenly father and we need to be happy for him. May the Lord comfort you and family and help you through this time. Gary & Linda Miller

Gary Miller - August 13, 2008 at 08:52 AM

MR

“ Sorry to hear of Phil's passing. He was a super nice person and will be missed by his family and many friends here in Texas. My heart goes out to you and your family.
Thoughts and Prayers
Melanie Ford Raney

Melanie Raney - August 12, 2008 at 06:48 PM

SB

“ *My prayers are with Barbara and the family. Phil will be greatly missed by many friends.*

Sue Campbell Byrd - August 12, 2008 at 11:57 AM