



Edwin Blackhurst Morrell

February 9, 1929 - December 31, 2017

Edwin Blackhurst Morrell passed away peacefully following a stroke on December 31, 2017 in Provo, Utah. He was born in Worland, Wyoming on February 9, 1929 to William Ernest Morrell and Margaret Blackhurst Morrell Bird. He and his older siblings, Eleanor Morrell Balls and Grant Morrell, were raised in Salt Lake City by their beloved mother with the help of their grandmother, Mae Blackhurst.

Ed graduated from East High School and attended the University of Utah, where he chose to study Russian as his foreign language, before being called to serve a mission to Czechoslovakia in 1948. Before leaving Salt Lake City, he was invited to eat dinner with the parents of his mission president, Wallace Toronto. There he met Wallace's sister, Norma Toronto, who was to become his wife.

Ed and his fellow missionaries were expelled from Czechoslovakia by the Communist government, and Ed completed his missionary service in England. His experience in Czechoslovakia as a young missionary proved to be a pivotal experience in his life, leading to a PhD from Harvard in Russian Studies and a career at Brigham Young University as a Political Science professor, specializing in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

After returning to Salt Lake City in 1954, following his mission and military service in Germany, Ed reconnected with Norma Toronto. They were married three months later in the Salt Lake LDS Temple, on September 10, 1954.

Norma and Ed loved to travel together, especially while engaged in church service. They served two times as mission president and mission mother, first from 1981-84 in the East European and Austria Vienna Missions and then from 1996-98 in the Czech Prague Mission. They were perfect companions; Ed was talented with languages, and Norma communicated with love. Ed treasured his opportunities to serve in the church. Most recently he served as a sealer in the Provo Temple.

Ed is survived by his sister, Eleanor Balls; his daughters, Ann (Ryan) Thomas, Barbara Morrell, Kathleen (Dave) Lynch, Susan (Scott) Cherry, and Betsy (Lance) Redford; 18 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his dear wife, Norma, their daughter, Christine Morrell and their grandsons, Sean Thomas and Mitchell Cherry.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 5, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Provo Peak 2nd Ward Building, 965 N. Locust Lane, Provo, UT. Viewings will be at Berg Mortuary, 185 East Center St., Provo, UT on Thursday, January 4, 2018 from 6- 8:00 p.m. and at the church on Friday from 10- 10:45 a.m. prior to services. Interment, Provo City Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed at <http://www.bergmortuary.com>.

In Lieu of flowers, please donate to the LDS Church Missionary Fund.

Cemetery

Provo City Cemetery
610 South State Street
Provo, UT, 84606

Events

JAN 4 Visitation 06:00PM - 08:00PM

4
Berg Mortuary of Provo
185 East Center Street, Provo, UT, US, 84606

JAN 5 Visitation 10:00AM - 10:45AM

5
Provo Peak 2nd Ward
965 North Locust Lane, Provo, UT, US, 84604

JAN 5 Funeral Service 11:00AM

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Provo Peak 2nd Ward
965 North Locust Lane, Provo, UT, US, 84604

Comments



“ We were delighted by president Morrell's kindness and hospitality when we came to SLC to bring our daughter home after her mission at the Temple Square. He gave us generously of his time and he took us around SLC and Provo and showed us all the great things the Church does. It has made such a difference in our lives and we will cherish these memories for ever.

Anatolij and Valentina Volf, Czech Republic

Eliska Neckarova - January 08, 2018 at 04:15 AM



“ I delighted in getting to know Ed a bit at Cove Point. A week before his second stroke, I was chatting with him and he asked me if my wife was totally inactive, as he didn't think he had seen her at sacrament meeting. I told him that I would point her out at the next meeting. That Sunday I connected them! How thoughtful of him to think of her. The next Sunday we received word he was passing. I shall miss my fellow BYU professor. Deepest sympathy to his family, but oh how delightful his reunion with Sister Morrell must have been, for I know he missed her deeply.

Steve Duncan

Stephen Duncan - January 05, 2018 at 08:42 AM



“ Ed and Norma have been dear friends. He was a great mentor and colleague for many years. His contributions to the university were certainly noteworthy. Ann, you have a remarkable father and have been blessed by his influence. Our deepest sympathies go to you, Ryan, and family for your loss. Your friendship and neighborly kindness shall always be remembered. Unfortunately, my health circumstances won't permit me to attend the viewing or funeral.

With warmest regards, Doyle and Sonnie Buckwalter

Doyle W. Buckwalter - January 04, 2018 at 08:37 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Edwin Blackhurst Morrell.



January 04, 2018 at 11:38 AM



“ As a young kid being baptized at the end of 1995 when 12 years old, I will always cherish president and sister Morrell as an inseparable part of my life. Their enthusiasm, positive spirit and love to me, my family and the then a small branch in Prague, Czech Republic will forever be part of our heritage.

Love them both forever,

Brother Jiri Matejcek and family

Jiri Matejcek - January 04, 2018 at 02:01 AM



“ Love and condolences to the family. President Morrell was a kind loving individual and he played a pivotal role in my life while I was serving in the Czech Republic as a full-time missionary.

Jared Austin - January 03, 2018 at 02:17 PM



“ Ed Morrell was a pillar in the community. We shall miss his influence. Three times serving as bishop, also in the stake presidency, and, through his profession and church service, an influence for good internationally.

Colleen and I send our condolences and best wishes as you remember this great man, now united with Norma. Our love to the entire family.

Ron and Colleen Smith

Ron Smith - January 03, 2018 at 12:10 PM



“ I first knew Ed as Bishop Morrell, when he became my BYU ward bishop. Since we shared the same last name, people often wondered if we were related. (Actually, he and my father had known each other for many years.) Since his daughter, Barbara, and I share the same first name, we had some pretty humorous experiences of people thinking we were the same person!! He was a very caring bishop and I loved knowing him and his sweet wife, Norma, along with then-teenage Betsy.

Please accept my love and condolences on the passing of your sweet father. (Barbara, I expect that some people may think it is my father who passed away! Your father was very kind when my father was going through Alzheimer's, prior to his death in 1994.) I know the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true and that gives us all such hope for a glorious resurrection with our loved ones. May His peace be upon you and your loving family!

Barbara Morrell Higinbotham

Barbara Morrell Higinbotham - January 03, 2018 at 11:27 AM



“ So sorry to have missed the final tribute to this wonderful friend and former Bishop! To all the Morrells- we loved your parents dearly and were so very glad to be among them for so many years. They were wonderful examples to us. How wonderful that they are together again! Until we meet again Ed and Norma! Keith and Debbie Mildenstein

Deborah Mildenstein - January 08, 2018 at 11:04 AM