



Robert Howard Foster

November 4, 1920 - March 30, 2016

Robert Howard Foster was born 4 November 1920 in Monroe, Georgia to Robert Claude Foster and Bessie Maude Peters. He was the oldest of five sons and three daughters. The Fosters were hard working common folk. They relied on farming and growing much of what they needed. On the farm he picked cotton, plowed corn fields, harvested fruit, cut fire wood, harvested pigs, and did all of the chores of farm life. He attended Monroe High School where he was on the football team, as evidenced by several false teeth. He graduated from high school in 1937 and went to the University of Georgia. At the University he was on the football team and participated in the horse cavalry ROTC program. In 1939 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. When WWII broke out in 1941 Robert was sent to Salt Lake City to train in P-39 fighters. It was there that he met Delora Larsen, the love of his life. His unit was transferred to Louisiana to prepare to be sent to North Africa. Delora followed him there, and, on 28 February 1942, they were married at an LDS Gold and Green Ball. Their honeymoon didn't last long. Robert was transferred to England in July on 1942 and would spend the next 2 ½ years there in support of bombing and fighter missions during the war. After the war he was transferred to the air field at Wendover, Utah. In 1950 he, Delora and two boys (Steven and Clyde) were transferred to Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington. During the Korean War, Robert was sent twice to Korea where he participated in bombing the North Koreans and Chinese along the DMZ. While in Spokane he joined the LDS Church and He and Delora and two boys were sealed in the Manti Temple in October 1951. In 1953 a third son (Sam) was born to the family. In 1955 he was transferred to Hurlburt Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. In February 1956 a fourth son (Dan) was born to the family, and Robert and family was transferred to Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico. In 1958 Robert was transferred to Hunter Air Force Base in Savannah, Georgia. The family was active in the LDS Church and fond memories were made traveling numerous miles on his church assignments. In 1960 instead of being sent to Toole, Greenland he put in for retirement. Robert moved the family to Athens, Georgia where he enrolled at the University of Georgia. After studying Geography for four years he graduated with a B.S. degree in 1964. Afterwards, the family moved to Provo, Utah and he enrolled at Brigham Young University. In 1966 he received a Master's Degree in Geography and in 1968 he received

a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Botany. Upon Graduation Robert was hired as an Assistant Professor at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The family moved to Kentucky and Robert taught at the university for eight years. In 1970 he became the LDS Patriarch for the newly organized Nashville, Tennessee Stake. In 1976 he retired from the State of Kentucky and moved permanently to Provo, Utah. For the next 35 years he and Delora spent fun filled days doing environmental and vegetation studies for Brigham Young University and the National Park Service all over the Western United States. He also taught on the faculties at Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University. In 2011 he fell and broke a hip, thus ending a marvelous capability to travel and enjoy the great American out-of-doors. He died on March 20 due to complications with his heart.

Robert loved his membership in the LDS Church. Over the span of his life in the mission field, he and Delora were responsible for the building of eight new LDS chapels in areas where none had previously existed. He served as a Branch President, Bishop, in various bishoprics, various District Presidencies, on numerous Stake High Councils, and as a Stake Patriarch.

Robert is survived by two sons Steven (Peggy) and Dan (Trena), a daughter-in-law (Maria Foster) one sister Sara Dial, two sisters-in-law, 29 grandchildren, and 53 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at the North Park Stake Center, 1066 West 200 North, Provo, Utah. Friends may call at the Berg Mortuary of Provo, 185 East Center Street, Monday from 6-8:00 p.m. and at the church Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. prior to services. Interment, Mt. Pleasant City Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant, Utah. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.bergmortuary.com.

In lieu of flowers please contribute to your local ward missionary fund.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Pleasant City Cemetery

800 South 100 East
Mt. Pleasant City Cemetery, UT 84647

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Berg Mortuary of Provo - East Room
185 East Center Street
Provo, UT 84606

Visitation

APR 5. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

North Park Stake Center
1066 West 200 North
Provo, UT 84601

Funeral Service

APR 5. 11:00 AM (MT)

North Park Stake Center
1066 West 200 North
Provo, UT 84601

Tribute Wall

SM

“ *Scott Miller lit a candle in memory of Robert Howard Foster*



scott miller - April 04, 2016 at 09:37 PM

SM

“ *Bob was the first one to give me a priesthood blessing. He ordained me to the priesthood. He help me threw some of the worst times in my life. He is the reason I am still here. It is my pray that I can be 1 10th the man he was. Thank you for blessing my life. Till we meet again dear faithful serve the. Rest in peace.*

scott miller - April 04, 2016 at 09:36 PM

LB

“ *This is a good man who loved his Family, teaching / working with young people and simply life in general. He could walk through a beautiful canyon meadow or over the sun-baked crust of the most barren desert and find so much to talk about and appreciate with every step. He is extremely bright and knowledgeable, but in my experience, never sought to enforce his views or opinion on others.*

He had the voice you would expect from a commanding General seated atop a white horse, with cape and sword, preparing to lead his forces in to battle. And so much more. . .

There are many good people, but there are only a few of really, really good people, perhaps even "Exceptional people." This is one of those who was and yet is exceptional. My life was significantly influenced for good by this man and his dear Wife!

Dear Foster Family, please accept our sympathy and sincere best wishes. We will all miss him, but cherish our memories of his life and example.

*Lewis K. Billings
Provo, Utah*

Lewis Billings - April 04, 2016 at 07:35 PM

LO

“ We share our heartfelt joy at having known Bro and Sis Foster. When they moved to Bowling Green, Ky, Bob and Dee, and our parents, Lawrence and Geneva Boone, became fast friends. There was an eternal connection between our families. They were great servants of our Heavenly Father and taught our family and the Bowling green Ward to love and serve the Lord. Wow! There was a great reunion in heaven! We love this family so much.

Children of Lawrence and Geneva Boone

Lola, Lewis, Linda, Lana, Leta (gone ahead), Larry, Danny (gone ahead), David, Tim, Lori

Linda Oar - April 04, 2016 at 12:52 PM

BD

“ What a great man!! We have known Bob and De for many, many years. We love the entire Foster family and will always cherish our memories of each one of you. Our prayers are with the family as they say good bye to their Dad!!

Bill and Shirley Decker - April 04, 2016 at 12:11 PM



Thank you Dawn..for sharing his memory..what a life he had...you are blessed...he is so very cute in that hat!!!

Shannon Erickson - April 04, 2016 at 02:45 PM

LJ

“ This is truly a great man! He was a servant for the Lord, his country and his fellow man!

Thank you!

L. Jex - April 04, 2016 at 12:03 PM

CG

“ I had the privilege of being one Dr. Foster's students at UVU. Every since then I found myself looking back at the time spent with him and find myself wondering how I am doing with what was taught and more importantly could I look Dr Foster in eye and say "thank you for your support and as a mentor to me have I taken your example into my life" Thank You for the life and the part you shared with me.

c gomez - April 03, 2016 at 05:03 PM

DA

“ I took a couple classes from Bro. Foster at UVU. Recently we were travelling through Zion's Park and I explained to my family things I had learned from his classes about the formation of Utah's mountains and Lake Bonneville. He had such a passion for geology. I said at that time that I supposed he had passed away some time ago.

I also listened with much pleasure when he spoke about the South, his grandparents diverse farms and the traditions of the area.

His memory will always live on with me.

Donalda De Adder

DONALDA De ADDER - April 03, 2016 at 09:48 AM

MF

“ Blessed to have known Uncle Bob. Doubly blessed to have had him as a professor and that he always remembered me and my children in that class. My daughters first professor at a young age:)...what a joyous reunion in heaven.

Thank you Aunt Dee and Uncle Bob for setting a great example of family, music and love of the Saviour.

Love,

Monique Memmott Fausett

Monique Fausett - April 02, 2016 at 03:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Howard Foster.



April 02, 2016 at 01:15 PM

RM

“ You will be missed. Say hi to aunt Dee. Thank you for putting the beautiful headstone on grandma and grandpa Larsen's grave in Mount Pleasant. Enjoyed having you as a history teacher when I attended UVU. Love Ramona

Ramona Memmott - April 02, 2016 at 11:55 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Howard Foster.*



April 02, 2016 at 10:25 AM

MB

“ *My Patriarchal Blessing was the 15th Blessing given by President Foster in Bowling Green, KY in 1971. He was an Amazing Teacher in College and in Church. I took his class at WKU. I believe he was voted Teacher of the Year at WKU. My sister Lavern and I took our Dorm Mother to church one Sunday night. Bishop Foster spoke and Mrs. Beard was so impressed with his talk. All the YSA loved the Fosters. They were so much fun together and what Joy for them to be Together Again. When my husband Danny and I would travel to UT I would drive Granny Boone down to see the Fosters. These visits were laughter and fun filled each time. Once President Foster cooked a delicious lunch for us. How exciting for the Boone Family and the Foster Family and all their other acquaintances to laugh and share Memories On The Other Side. I know as Patriarch of the Foster Family he will never be very far away from his Beloved Family on both sides of the Veil. Our thoughts and Prayers are with All of You. Sincerely, Mabel R. Boone*

Mabel R. Boone - April 01, 2016 at 02:33 PM