



William "Bill" Parr Mehew

April 25, 1921 - October 10, 2019

William "Bill" Parr Mehew, 98, passed away peacefully in Orem on October 10, 2019, surrounded by family members. He was born April 25, 1921 to Levi John "Jack" and Annie Parr Mehew in Raymond, Alberta, Canada where he was raised along with his brother, Leonard, and four sisters, Dorothy, Mona, LaVere, and Connie.

Bill met the love of his life, Melba King, during high school in Raymond, but World War II interfered and at the young age of eighteen Bill went off to war in August 1939 joining the 408th Squadron in the Royal Canadian Air Force—earning his wings within one year. As a Flight Lieutenant, he was stationed in England for five years and piloted his favorite aircraft known as the "Piccadilly Princess" Lancaster aircraft. He flew many night-time bombing missions over France and Germany during the war. Bill's life was spared during a horrific incident when faced with a crash landing of his aircraft, leaving him stunned, yet in control, thereafter, noting his new name as "Wild Bill"...not so much as being a risk-taker, but rather, taking his crew to safety and protecting them from harm's way.

The war was finally over and he arrived home in August 1945, one month later married Melba in the Cardston Alberta Temple on September 11, 1945. They shared fifty wonderful and precious years together and were blessed with six children, Randall, Elizabeth Ann, Bruce, Vonda, Nancy, and Glenn.

Bill was a local firefighter volunteer in Raymond for 12 years while building a home and working to provide for his family at the Mehew Blacksmith Shop with his father. He was willing to help those in need, building iron fences—anything iron for that matter—shoeing horses, repairing horse drawn machinery, repairs for auto machinery, and tending to pertinent needs of the community.

One bitter cold January day in 1956 a devastating accident occurred with a fuel tanker truck that caused an explosion at the Mehew Sugar City Motors Garage that completely destroyed the building. Bill was left severely burned from head to toe and hospitalized for

a time, with months of recovery at home.

Rather than rebuilding the business, Bill opted to move his young family to Provo, Utah and enroll at Brigham Young University, majoring in Industrial Arts Education. In 1963, he received his Bachelor's Degree and became a metal shop teacher at Dixon Junior High School in Provo. He later earned a Master's Degree in Industrial Arts and afterwards built the metal shop in the new Timpview High School in Provo. He spent many extra hours after school guiding and helping many young men finish their projects. He taught in the Provo School District for a total of 25 years.

Bill was a lifetime active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in many leadership positions. He was a member of the bishopric of the Grandview 24th Ward and later called as bishop of the BYU 241st Young Single Adult Ward, served on a Stake High Council, and was a scout troop committeeman for many years. In 1986, Bill and Melba were called to serve as temple missionaries in the Washington D.C. Temple; they loved serving in the temple. Afterwards Bill served 16 years as an ordinance worker in the Provo Temple.

He loved life, laughter, and most importantly, his posterity. Bill and Melba have 6 children, 37 grandchildren, 99 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren, making a total of 145 in their posterity. He always taught his children and grandchildren to live a good life, follow the Savior, find yourself in holy places, serve your fellowmen, and love one another.

He is survived by his five children, Randall King (Karolee) Mehew of Provo, Utah, Elizabeth Ann Hall-Stites (Allen) of Roy, Utah, Bruce King (Kathy) Mehew of Richfield, Utah, Vonnie Mehew Gren of Provo, Utah, and Glenn King (Mary) Mehew of Provo, Utah. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, his beloved wife, Melba, his daughter, Nancy Mehew Tanner; son-in-law, Gordon Langley Hall, grandson, Spencer Keuter Mehew, and four great-grand-children, Darius Taylor Hagemeyer, Hyrum Gordon Barker, William Max Barker, and Justin Tanner Dixon.

The family appreciates those who assisted in dad's care during his final days, Aspen Ridge Assisted Living, Summerfield Assisted Living, and Aspen Ridge Hospice Health Care.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the Grandview 17th Ward Chapel, 1122 Grand Avenue, Provo, Utah. Friends may visit with the family at the Berg Mortuary of Provo, 185 East Center, Friday, October 18 from 6-8:00 p.m., and at the church Saturday from 9:30-10:45 a.m. prior to services. Interment, Provo City

Cemetery. Condolences may be shared with the family at <http://www.bergmortuary.com>.

Cemetery

Provo City Cemetery

610 South State Street
Provo, UT, 84606

Events

OCT 18 **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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

OCT 19 **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:45AM

Grandview 17th Ward
1122 Grand Avenue, Provo, UT, US, 84604

OCT 19 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

Grandview 17th Ward
1122 Grand Avenue, Provo, UT, US, 84604

Comments



“ Like many others I was lucky enough to have Mr Mehew as a teacher at Dixon Jr High and Timpview High. He taught me a lot more than just metal working. He's a great man I will always remember and appreciate. Condolences to his family.
Dave Stringfellow - Timpview '79

Dave Stringfellow - October 21, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ I was a student of Mr. Mehew at Dixon Junior High School from 1971 to 1973. Mr. Mehew and I had a good relationship because: 1) we were fellow Canadians (I am from Cardston); 2) we both loved airplanes; 3) I was a World War 2 history buff.

He was one of the finest teachers I ever had. That includes elementary thru graduate school. I still have most of the projects we built together including a treasured etched aluminum tray.

I can still remember how to use the common tools in a metal shop and that knowledge has helped me greatly through the years.

But what was most important to me was the kind of man he was and is. I always felt I was important. I felt that he loved me and was interested in my growth and happiness. He was unbelievably patient with boys who should have been dragged behind a shed and beaten soundly. I know few men who could have handled those troubled boys as well as Mr. Mehew.

I always held Mr. Mehew in awe. He was a bomber pilot, combat veteran and a genuine war hero. We talked enough about his experiences that I knew that about him. If anyone doubts that, they should read Max Hastings book called Bomber Command about the British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand bomber pilots, their commanders and experiences. It is a miracle that he survived. Most only lived a few weeks after their arrival in the bomber fleet. It was so bad that veteran pilots often didn't bother to learn the names of the replacements. They suffered a higher causality rate than British combat infantry. The Lancaster bomber was probably the best bomber of the war. He got to fly mythical bomber.

Mr. Mehew made a comment to me once I have never forgotten. The British conducted area bombing of population centers at night. The Americans conducted "precision bombing" during the day. The results were basically the same: large civilian casualties. Mr. Mehew commented to me "That we will never know how many people died under the bombs we dropped." He was genuinely grieved by the suffering and deaths of those who once had been his enemy and who would have killed him without hesitation.

Heaven has gained a Saint. We have lost a giant. God bless him and his family.

I am blessed to have known him.

Sincerely,

Randall Nish
Dixon Junior High School
1971 thru 1973



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Parr Mehew.



October 18, 2019 at 03:24 PM



“ We're so glad we had the opportunity to get acquainted with both Bill and Melba when our son married into the family! What a long, well-lived life--you can be truly grateful for such a Dad and Grandpa. Love and condolences from Wayne and Sharon Jarvis

Sharon Jarvis - October 17, 2019 at 06:04 PM



“ Randy & Karolee Mehew family purchased the Ever Upward Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" Parr Mehew.



Randy & Karolee Mehew family - October 17, 2019 at 08:09 AM



“ I had Bill for shop at Dixon Jr. High. What a great man. I remember his kids. Sorry for your loss, he was a wonderful example to all

Rich Lowe

Richard Lowe - October 16, 2019 at 03:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Parr Mehew.



October 16, 2019 at 11:21 AM



“ What an incredible man! I went to Dixon and Timpview so I knew Mr. Mehew as being a teacher there, but never having shop, I did not have him. It was wonderful to learn so much about him through this tribute. It just reminds me that everyone has a story and everyone is so special! What a wonderful dad you have!

Joani Smith - October 16, 2019 at 08:07 AM



“ I remember Mr. Mehew very fondly as a teacher at Dixon Jr. High School. What a great teacher and truly kind man. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Todd Billings - October 16, 2019 at 08:03 AM



“ I have memories of a great man from my early years growing up in Raymond. I still remember the day of the garage explosion. A great reunion for Bill and Melba.

Warren Depew - October 16, 2019 at 06:35 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Randy Mehew - October 14, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ I was born in the Taber Hospital and went to school with Randall at Provo High. We were born the same year, 1946. I remember Randall well and to read the obituary on his dad helps me understand better the kind, and wonderful person his son is. I wonder if my dad, Burl Peterson, knew your father? They were born just one month apart. Good luck to saying goodbye to this wonderful man. We had a great reunion at the new Provo High school in July. I noticed you weren't there, it was so much fun, except not seeing you!! Kent Peterson, class of '64.

Kent Peterson - October 16, 2019 at 11:38 AM