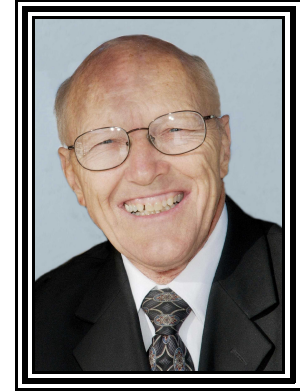


Obituary

James Gary Loftus, 71



James Gary Loftus, 71, of Blackfoot, passed away Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at his home following a valiant battle with cancer.

He was born January 4, 1939 in Moore, Idaho to James Elmer and Ellen Rebecca King Loftus. He was the sixth of eight children. Gary attended school in Moore and graduated from Butte High School in Arco, in 1957. While in high school he joined the Army Reserves, attended basic training and summer camps but didn't serve any active duty as his unit was dissolved.

Gary served a mission from 1960-1962 in the Central Atlantic States. On April 26, 1963 he married Betty Goff in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple.

He attended Ricks College and Brigham Young University where he received his BS degree in Industrial Tech. in 1969. He accepted a teaching position in the Snake River School District that fall, teaching shop and other related classes at the Junior High level. He taught there for the next 30 years, retiring in 1999. While teaching he was active in the Teachers Association, serving in both local and regional leadership. He also spent many summers working on maintenance for Snake River School District.

Gary was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving in many positions, including scout master, Bishop, High Counselor and executive secretary to the Blackfoot East Stake Presidency. In 2001 he and Betty served a full-time mission to the Cape Town South Africa Mission, they also served as temple ordinance workers in the Idaho Falls Temple. He had recently been called as a Volunteer Assistant Recorder in the Idaho Falls Temple.

Gary was a talented wood craftsman and enjoyed gardening, snow skiing, golfing and being a general handyman. His most favorite times were spent with his family.

Gary is survived by his wife, Betty, of Blackfoot; six children, Carrie (Shaun) Garner, of Idaho Falls, Shelli Loftus, of Salinas, CA, Ryan (Wendy) Loftus, of Ucon, Lisa (Rick) Lawrence, of Blackfoot, Angela (Dave) Treasure, of Pocatello, and Aaron Loftus, of Hastings, Nebraska; three brothers, Lynn (Nelda) Loftus, of Bountiful, Utah, Earl (Janene) Loftus, of Orem, Utah, Bill (Linda) Loftus, of Almogordo, New Mexico; two sisters, Betty Schwartz, of Moore and Naomi (Stephen) Kleinlein, of Salt Lake City, Utah and 14 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Eldon and Owen Loftus.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, June 21, 2010 at the Blackfoot East Stake Center, 1289 Mt. Putnam Dr., Blackfoot, with Bishop Collin Cook conducting. The family will meet with friends and relatives from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, June 20, 2010 at Hawker Funeral Home and again for one hour prior to services at the church. Graveside service will be at 4 p.m. Monday, June 21, 2010 at the Lost River Cemetery in Moore, Idaho. Condolences may be sent to the family at: condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions be made to either, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Perpetual Education Fund or to Creekside Hospice, 4425 Burley Dr., Chubbuck, Idaho 83202.