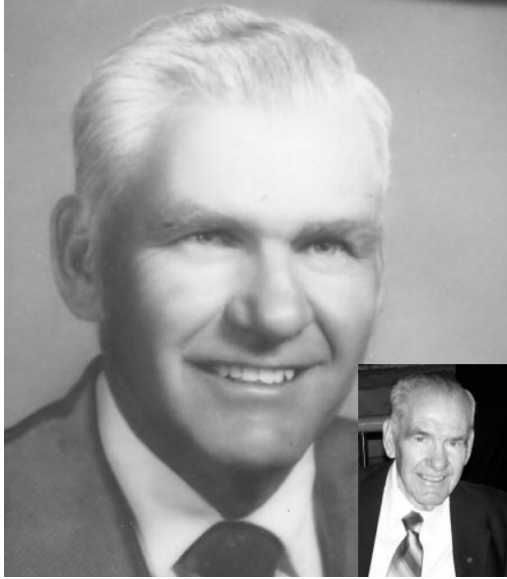


LELAND RAY SAUNDERS

1922 - 2015



Leland Ray Saunders was born in Ogden, Utah, 15 November 1922, to Edward Thomas Saunders and Marcia Ann Slater. The family resided at 433 20th Street. Leland lived in Ogden until he joined the Navy

He attended Dee and Madison Elementary Schools, Central Junior High School, and graduated from Ogden High School. He loved sports, and ran the mile on the track team at Ogden High, the year they were state champions. He also played on the basketball teams for both the 4th and 18th LDS wards in the All Church tournament.

As a young boy, during the depression years, Leland worked on his father's farm in South Weber. As a teenager, he worked for the Saunders Construction Company, which his father owned. In 1941, he worked at the Hill Field Signal Section in radio and radar where he met Leila Porter. They were engaged in October and married in the Salt Lake Temple, 6 November 1942. He received his draft notice two weeks later. After a six month deferment, he joined the Navy. He was chosen as Honor Man in boot camp at Farragut, Idaho.

Leila and their baby, Marilyn, joined him in College Station, Texas, in December 1943, and they were together most of his remaining time in the service at Corpus Christi, Tex, Oakland, California, and Alameda, California. They returned to Ogden where he was discharged with the rank of Aviation Electronics Technicians Mate, 1st Class. They resided in several locations in Ogden before moving to Harrisville in 1957. They moved into an old home which was built about 1860 by his father's oldest brother, William G. Saunders. They later built a new home just east of the old homestead.

The Saunders family name has been connected with Harrisville since the 1850s when Leland's grandfather moved to the small settlement north of Ogden, which was named Harrisville in 1862. The settlement was incorporated as a town in 1962, and became a city in 1966. Leland was instrumental in the incorporation of Harrisville and served as president of the Town Board until it became a city. The citizens then voted him in as Harrisville's first mayor. He was on the National Board of Cities and Towns and received a plaque in appreciation of service to the community. He also received several awards of recognition for his work in scouting.

His leadership positions in the LDS Church have included Elders Quorum President and 1st Counselor in the Bishopric of the Ogden 18th Ward, Stake MIA Superintendent of the South Ogden Stake, member of the Farr West Stake High Counselor, and 2nd Counselor in the Far West Stake Presidency. He served as bishop of the Harrisville Ward, as well as Aaronic Priesthood Advisor, Young Men’s Mutual President, and High Priest Group Leader. He also served as a stake patriarch.

Leland took over the Saunders Construction Company from his father in 1970, and turned it over to his son, Edward, in the 1980s. He continued to work for the company.

In 1990, Leland and Leila served an LDS mission in Brisbane, Australia. They traveled throughout the mission with Leland giving patriarchal blessings to over 100 member of the church who would not have had the opportunity otherwise. Leila served a scribe and typist for each blessing.

The children of Leland and Leila are Marilyn Saunders Cheney (1943), Janet Saunders Van Alfen (1946), Joy Saunders Wiese (1949), Kevin (1952), Gary (1953), Edward (1955), Ronald (1957), Lori Saunders Robertson (1960), Roger (1962), and Alan (1964).

Leland died 5 January 2015, in Harrisville, Utah, and he is buried the Ogden City Cemetery. Leland and Leila have always been involved in church and community and are loved and respected by all who know them

SOURCES

Obituary of Leland Ray Saunders. Standard Examiner. Ogden, Weber, Utah. 5 January 2015.

Wiese, Joy Saunders. *Personal Biography of Leland Saunders*.

Porter, Beverly	Saunders, Gary
Porter, Kathleen	Saunders, Janet
Porter, Kenneth	Saunders, Joy
Porter, Lloyd	Saunders, Kevin
Porter, Lois Rogers	Saunders, Leland Ray
Porter, Virginia	Saunders, Lori
Porter, Willard Warriner	Saunders, Marilyn
Rogers, Lois	Saunders, Roger
Saunders, Alan	Saunders, William Gill
Saunders, Edward	

