



## Roderick Duane Anderson

September 19, 1945 - September 26, 2020

Obituary for Roderick Anderson, written by his second daughter Sheryl.

Roderick Duane Anderson, age 75, passed away on September 26th, 2020 at Intermountain Medical Center due to Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. He was born on September 19th, 1945 at Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles, California to Luane Roderick Anderson and Ivan Emanuel Anderson.

Rod grew up in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with his family in the hills of South San Gabriel, California. His mother's family were baptized members of the Church in 1831. Rod is a proud descendant of pilgrims, pioneers, farmers, storytellers, musicians and builders. His father designed and built Rod's childhood home and his mother played the piano, accordion and sang.

Among five siblings in total, Rod was "older brother" to Richard, Brian and Patrick and 18 months younger than his sister, Yvonne. He graduated Mark Keppel High School in 1964, excelling in football, track and shot put and astounding friends, family and strangers alike with his weightlifting and dare-devil feats, including no-net-below handstands in limbs of tall trees!

As a Marine Reserve during the Vietnam War, he was a highly skilled M-14 Sharpshooter, receiving an Honorable Discharge as Lance Corporal (E-3) in

1971. While on base, his reputation as a bodybuilder and weightlifter was made legendary as he broke the record for deadlift, just shy of 600 lbs. The discipline, fortitude and loyalty he gained as a US Marine are some of his most endearing and enduring qualities he had, besides intense and passionate nature and his incredible sense of humor.

In 1969, while attending Brigham Young University to study Engineering and Drafting, he met the love of his life Donna Lee Blackman at a Ward dance. They married in January 1970 in the Salt Lake City Temple and settled in Southern California where they had five children together: Leeann, Sheryl, Stephen, David and Christian, all of whom he entertained and loved for their individual personalities and abilities.

Rod was an incredible salesman, promoter, and draftsman. His career-life is as colorful and exciting as the man himself! He began as a door to door Hoover vacuum salesman then became a favorite fishmonger in Southern California, teaching young Patrick the ropes. Then Rod landed in promoting live performances, and booked gigs across the country for his cousin Al Carter, who was a professional trampoline artist in the 70's. He booked Ronald McDonald's Safety Assemblies all throughout LA Unified School District. His most exciting and well remembered work came as the number one pool designer and salesman for the top Southern California "pool company to the rich and famous", California Pools. Many nights he was late home to dinner because he had to "cook a deal" with a famous entertainer. His awards were many in the way of plaques, certificates and honored dinners at high profile Hollywood venues.

In 1982, Rod moved his family to Orem, Utah. He spent time with his brothers, cousins, sons, nephews and son-in-law Chad fishing, hunting and golfing. Many an incredible story has been told in homage to these great events!

In 1997 Rod and Donna divorced and he remained in Orem to be close to his brothers and daughter Leeann.

Rod was blessed as a father-in-law for three beautiful women. He has been heard to say that Kim was a good cook and seemed to have great patience for him, that Jennilyn was the best wife Steve could have, and that Sylvia's kindness was always lovely to see. As a grandfather, his dear grandchildren were always on the top of his mind and in many conversations he had with his friends at the gym and other family. The main vision for his life was to see each grandchild graduate from high school.

Since his cardiac arrest 7 years ago, Rod sustained severe nerve damage in his lower extremities, and weakened his lungs. This terrible physical impediment pushed him to develop a deep relationship to morning prayer and the Loving Kindness practice to lift, build and raise his fellow brothers and sisters, no matter how much pain he was bearing. He spent his time ministering the teachings of Christ to his family and friends, young bodybuilders at the gym, even strangers at the store. VASA Fitness became his second home to fight against his pain; he was seen benching 350 lbs just 3 weeks before he went into the hospital. Everyone in his life knew that he felt born again through the unconditional love of his Savior.

Rod is preceded in death by his parents and in their memory he would remind us that, "Life is short; learn to love one another unconditionally."

There will be a viewing held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 590 North 900 West, Orem, Utah on Thursday, October 1, 2020 from 1:00 pm-2:15 pm. Due to COVID-19 restrictions masks are required and social distancing is recommended.

The Family Graveside Service is by invitation only and is limited to 50 people at the Utah Veterans Memorial Cemetery and Memorial Park in Bluffdale, Utah.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wiscombe Memorial.

# Cemetery Details

## The Utah Veterans Memorial Cemetery and Memorial Park

17111 South Camp Williams Road  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

# Previous Events

## Viewing

OCT 1. 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
590 North 900 West  
Orem, UT 84057

## Family Graveside Service

OCT 1. 3:00 PM (MT)

The Utah Veterans Memorial Cemetery and Memorial Park  
17111 South Camp Williams Road  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ Rods Brother Richard, Great Nephew Jayden, and Nieces Husband Doug, all saluting Rod. Other Pictures include Rod’s Niece Rebecca, and his sister-in-law Patricia.



Rebecca Webb - May 26, 2025 at 10:17 PM

RW

“ Rod and I shared a special bond over last 10 years of his life. I knew he genuinely loved my son and I and we loved him hard in return. I went and visited his grave today and just miss him dearly. Having him around would light up a room. I loved his stories in general but when he spoke about his pioneer heritage and his testimony of Joseph Smith being a Prophet of God, tears would fill his eyes and you would know he spoke the truth. He also would testify of his Savior Jesus Christ often even to random people at the gym that he felt needed to know. It brought him so much joy that he could introduce others to Christ. No one tells a story like Rod did. He had awesome stories that no one else knew about our ancestors and knowing those stories has blessed my life. Rod got incredibly close to my family the last 10 years of his life as he suffered much physically and needed extra support. Bonds he built of unconditional love are the reason so many of us truly do grieve and long to embrace him one day in our resurrected state. I love you eternally my sweet Uncle and best friend Roderick Anderson. Thank you for being our guardian angel at special times in our lives. Love your niece Rebecca.

Rebecca Webb - May 26, 2025 at 10:09 PM



“ *Roderick Duane Anderson*

October 22, 2023 at 08:21 PM



“ *Roderick Duane Anderson*

October 05, 2023 at 07:13 AM

“ I have a long story of Rod ... as I met him in final times of my life history that I chanced to rub shoulders with famous look alike personalities ... My mother red head was perhaps Jeanette McDonald, my dad smile of Maurice Chevallier...a cousin Rock Hudson , first husband married 1969 Jimmy Stewart, myself Lady Diana, oldest boy Prince William, second son Ricky Nelson, adopted daughter Shirley Temple.... on and on I chanced upon celebrates in my associates. My first marriage was byu 1969...we parted after five children final one adopted... in 1989. He remarried an Anette Funicillo who was high school love. I was placed in a rescue marriage to a Richard Dreyfus who had 3 children the ages of my seven year old and my oldest son on a mission. 15 years on that marriage

So I had a good R. Anderson friend and wife who divorced in my Oregon town sons Lincoln, Roman, Jacob and Brigham... We were friends he moving to Utah and so did I in year 2005.

Rod was at dances and resembled my Oregon friend . two years later Rod stepped into a print shop and I said, oh I know you from dances... what is your name... then he had the identical name or about... Of Oregon now Utah friend. So . the girl standing by me at the print shop...said to me , Was that Rod Anderson... I babysat for him in California and his wife was a pretty carol Burnette. Destiny was that I knew Rod five years or so prior to health reverses... He was the Spartacus in movies... I took this an very standard for my life. Words to me is that "Rod is sensitive to you"... we had a sweet friendship and perhaps I was a mother figure to him...I liked sweet little sons. A life time of rubbing shoulders with interesting celebraties... two letters from Lady Diana because I published poetry on motherhood I felt would help her. then letter from her son William at his wedding as I sent poetry again across the Atlantic . my grandmother two times great was 7th great granddaughter to edward the III... royalty traced to Adam. So many wonderful friendship times with Rod that ended at his health crisis years ago cheers to his loved ones I looked up his dates last week on family search and found he lived only one week past his 75th birthday.... Sometimes I gave him a birthday present... Special times with

Rod...

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**Fran Elizabeth Pyper** - April 23, 2021 at 01:57 PM

RA

“ *In his late teens, Rod's nickname was "The Machine". When he pumped iron he looked like a machine! Rod was pretty much a power lifter all his life.*

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**Richard Ivan Anderson** - December 11, 2020 at 12:38 PM

DB

“ *I am a cousin to Rod. I'm 10 years younger so over the many sleep overs we had at the Anderson home i often heard the exploits of Rod because his younger siblings idealized him, we all did. Disbite the age gap i was never treated any different then his friends except for his weights. Rod had a way about him that you felt a genuine love.*

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**Delray Bassett** - October 03, 2020 at 06:48 AM



“ *Sending condolences to family and friends of Rod. I was a distant acquaintance, who was saddened to hear of his passing.*



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**Ron Hammond** - October 01, 2020 at 09:25 PM

MT

“ My name is Marshall Thompson and I felt it was important for me to share who Rod Anderson was to me and my family. For as long as I can remember Rod was more than just a family friend. He was often over to our home having dinner with our family. I can still picture seeing Rod and my Dad talking after dinner hours after the rest of the family had finished eating and left the table. I think my Dad felt a special kinship to Rod when he found out Rod was born the day he and my Mom were married at the end of WWII.

For me personally, Rod was the closest thing to a super hero I've ever known. Even though I'm short in stature, Rod taught me to work out hard, strengthen my mind and body, and believe I could compete with anyone. My journey through athletic competition, and my 45 years as a high school wrestling coach has a lot to do with the inspiration he had in my life at a young age.

Rod is loved by my family, that includes my wife Keri, my parents Sam and Ruth (deceased), my brothers and sisters, and my cousins who know him in both California and Virginia. All of us will miss him.

Rod had a great life, I believe he was an inspiration to an unimaginable number of people. I also believe our Father in Heaven and son Jesus Christ treasure the influence for good he has had on so many.

On behalf of my wife Keri and our family I wish to express our love and sympathy for the loss of your brother, Dad, Grandfather, and friend.

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**Marshall Thompson** - October 01, 2020 at 05:36 PM

JT

“ Back in the late 60’s I was a student at the ‘Y’ in Provo 700 miles from South San Gabriel. I got a knock on my apartment door and much to my surprise there was Rod and Art Rios, my close friends. They had driven all night from Petrillos, a pizza parlor in San Gabriel. I was happy to see them to say the least. A joyous occasion.

*In the scriptures we read about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He returned to his Apostles. They were overjoyed to see Him. He had returned from the dead and was now the Living Christ. We must be believing. God lives. He loves us, and He has a mission for us to do. Because He returned we will return also. I will see you again Rod and it will be great. You are indestructible Rod because Jesus loves You as He loves all of us. He died for our sins and through Him we glimpse eternity.*

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**Jerry Thompson** - October 01, 2020 at 12:10 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Roderick Duane Anderson.



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September 30, 2020 at 01:51 PM