



Hugh James Baker

May 21, 1948 - June 5, 2022

Hugh James Baker died in his home surrounded by his family on Sunday, June 5, 2022. Hugh was born on May 21, 1948 in Ontario, Oregon to Thurn J. and Ardath Hoggan Baker. He grew up in Moses Lake, Washington on his father's farm. After high school Hugh spent one year at college before serving a full-time mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Sweden for two and a half years. After his mission, while attending an animal science class at Brigham Young University, he sat behind the only girl in the class and introduced himself. Not one to rush things, three years later Hugh married Lila Jean Chadwick. The professor who taught the class served as a marriage witness for them in the Salt Lake Temple on November 21, 1974.

Upon graduation from BYU with a BS in Animal Science, Hugh returned to Moses Lake to farm with his dad and brothers. Eventually Hugh also became a soil consultant for Tech Ag and finally a teacher/advisor for JATP at Big Bend Community College. Working with the students and staff at the Japanese Agricultural program brought him great satisfaction and he wished he'd trained as a teacher back in his college days. Hugh and Lila raised six children in Moses Lake and taught them to work hard and dream big. He was a wonderful grandfather to twenty-five grandchildren who loved to tinker around the shop with him, honk his nose, and get great big bear hugs from him.

Hugh spent his entire life with an unwavering faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ. This faith and love for Him inspired him to leave everyone he met a little happier and their load a little lighter. He served faithfully in his many callings in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and in the Columbia River LDS temple. As a young boy whose dad was a pioneer to the area in agriculture, he had dreamt of the day when Moses Lake would be more than fields and sagebrush and become a bustling town with enough people to support an LDS temple. He was so excited for the temple being built and undoubtedly would have continued to encourage everyone he knew to attend the open house when the time comes.

Hugh is survived by his wife Lila and his children: Haven (Teresa Pinegar) Baker of Eagle,

Idaho; Whitney (Bridget Stucky) Baker of Richmond, Texas; Ivin (Christina Richardson) Baker of Fall City, Washington; Golden (Feven Teklu) Baker of New York, New York; Cassidy (Bo) Beus of Moses Lake, Washington; and Liberty (David) Woodland of Issaquah, Washington; along with twenty-five beloved grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers Reid (Lori Jewkes) Baker of Moses Lake; Leon (Lorraine Jones) Baker of Moses Lake, Garth (Katrina Hunter) Baker of Orem, Utah; and Elizabeth Fielding also of Orem, Utah.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Claire Hess who died the day before Hugh.

Services are under the auspices of Kayser's Chapel of Memories. A viewing will be held at the mortuary Friday June 10 from 6-8pm. Hugh's funeral will be on Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 (following 9:00am viewing.) Burial at Guarding Angels Cemetery will follow,

Cemetery Details

Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **10**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories
831 S. Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA

Service

JUN **11**. 10:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Stake Center
1515 S. Division St.
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

DE

“ I've known Hugh all my life. I remember things like him sleeping in the football helmet he got for Christmas when my family came to Moses Lake to spend the holiday with the Baker family. I also remember when I was about 14 and he would have been 16 or 17, I got to ride with him in a caravan of trucks his dad had purchased and was bringing home to Moses Lake; Hugh and I listened to the Rolling Stones and I felt very grown-up. We were also in college together at Brigham Young University. One Easter someone (probably my brother) left a chick on the doorstep of my apartment; I didn't know what to do with it so Hugh took it to the house where he lived in Provo and raised it to maturity -- when I think he and his roommates ate it! One semester during finals week I went to the bookstore to sell back my books and met Hugh there just buying his books so he could study for finals! I got to know some of the girls Hugh was dating but when I met Lila, I knew she was special. I was so glad he married her! Hugh was a wonderful cousin and friend, always bubbling with fun. I know he became a spiritual giant who touched many lives but I thought it would be fun to share some lighter moments from his earlier life to show how much personality he had as well. We will all miss him very much!
Dorice Williams Elliott

Dorice Williams Elliott - June 22 at 11:38 PM

JE

“ My wife and I express our warm regards to the Baker family and our appreciation for a life long example of faithful service, dedication, obedience and sacrifice. Hugh has not only blessed our family but has blessed and uplifted the entire stake and has had a positive effect on people everywhere that he served.

Jeff and Becky Earl

Jeff Earl - June 10 at 10:24 PM

SB

“ Sharon Bryars lit a candle in memory of Hugh James Baker



Sharon Bryars - June 10 at 12:00 PM

TB

“ *My sincere condolences to all of the Baker family.*

Todd Bohne - June 09 at 07:30 PM

GF

“ *My deepest condolences 🌸 to Sister Baker and to all of Elder Baker's family and friends. I knew the Bakers when they served their mission in the Chicago 1st Ward. They helped me through one of the most difficult times of my life and we developed a friendship that will last forever. I love Elder and Sister Baker and pray for everyone who loves them. May Heavenly Father hold you in the hollow of His hands and give you the eternal peace and comfort only He can provide. Elder Baker, God be with you till we meet again, my dear valiant brother. ❤️🙏🌸🙏❤️*



Gina Focosi - June 08 at 02:32 PM

HW

“ *I loved Hugh. He was one of my favorite seminary teachers and served us in the temple after my father passed away which was a sweet tender mercy to my family and I. He reminded me so much of my Dad with his positive attitude, sweet & gentle loving spirit and his desire to love and serve the Lord and anyone else who was in need throughout his life. Just as he served us in the temple I was just reflecting on how my father and Hugh had an innate desire to help everyone know the peace and joy that comes from coming to Jesus Christ. Two of the most Christlike men I know. I'm so grateful they were friends in this life and I'm sure they are enjoying a sweet reunion as we celebrate the life of a wonderful, humble, inspiring man and disciple of Christ here on Earth. Our prayers are with Lila and all of the Baker family. We love you all and hope you feel peace and hope through this difficult time.*

Heidi McConkie Walker - June 08 at 11:05 AM



“ *Christmas 2008. Another year went by. Another great Christmas in Moses Lake with Hugh and Lila.*



Thang-Tram Nguyen - June 07 at 11:26 PM



“ Christmas 2007. I spent many Christmas holidays in Moses Lake with the Bakers, especially Hugh and Lila. We had great memories together.



Thang-Tram Nguyen - June 07 at 11:22 PM



“ My first year in the US, Hugh took me along to the Boy Scout Winter Camp. It was a great experience for someone who never saw snow before.



Thang-Tram Nguyen - June 07 at 11:12 PM



“ I haven't known Hugh long. First met him when our son David married sweet Liberty over a decade ago. I remember Hugh and Laila coming down from Washington to our home in Bend, OR bringing us apples from their farm. I remember Hugh and Laila having concern about how fast David and Liberty were getting married. We weren't as worried as we knew what a gem Liberty was and our son could have a wonderful wife and mother to their future children and our grandsons! Liberty, is a woman of many talents undoubtedly inspired and nurtured by Hugh. Hugh had this quiet but strong faith and stability that I have always admired. People just felt safe and cared for when in his presence. Going to miss Hugh!

From, Satu H. Woodland

Satu H. Woodland - June 07 at 09:01 PM



Con gái tôi Phuong Nguyen Scalf được giúp đỡ. Con trai Thang Nguyen được sự chăm sóc. Thanks a lot for everything Hugh and The Baker family do for us.

Nga Nguyen, Hoang Nguyen - June 13 at 09:26 PM