



## Forest Lybbert

December 2, 1924 - July 17, 2018

Forest Gale Lybbert

Forest Lybbert, longtime Columbia Basin farmer, devoted family man, and dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints died at home in Moses Lake on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. He was 93.

Forest graduated from Uintah High School in Vernal, Utah in 1942 and then enlisted in the Navy. During the war, much of his immediate and extended family moved to Moses Lake, Washington. After the war, Forest followed, and there met and married Betty Graham at the Presbyterian Church in Moses Lake in 1947. They celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in April.

Supporting a young family, Forest farmed in Moses Lake with his father Jacob N. Lybbert. Though a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints his entire life, Forest was not yet fully converted to the gospel, but friendships and events prompted him to think more deeply about spiritual matters.

Living next door to dear friends David and Marilyn Stevens, in Knolls Vista, was an important part of this conversion. The Stevens mentored and loved Forest and Betty.

Forest's early reluctance to commit to his faith softened when he was asked to teach a Sunday School class using the text *The Message of the Master*. Forest was intimidated by the weighty material and was certain that those 17- and 18-year-olds knew more about the life of Jesus Christ than he did. Forest's turn to faith and his conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ changed his life forever. In September of 1960, Forest, Betty, and their children were sealed together in the Cardston Alberta Canada temple for time and all eternity.

Forest and Betty always planned to serve a mission together. Starting in December 1996, they served an 18-month mission in London, England.

At the age of 40, Forest was recognized as the Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year. The Columbia Basin Daily Herald noted the award was based on "crop rotation, good irrigation and soil building practices, erosion and weed control, clean ditch banks and the plowing under of residue." For many years Forest served on the board of directors of the Sugar Beet Growers Association and negotiated beet contracts as part of his responsibilities. Forest had a particular love for the Latino families that came to the basin working side by side to build a successful agricultural community.

Lybbert's Pond was Forest's idea. He saw it as a recreation spot not only for his family but also for the community. On a hot summer day during the 70s, it was common to see cars parked around the pond and lined up toward Road O. The pond had a diving board, a raft, and later a rope swing that Forest installed when he was in his 70s.

As a teenager Forest drove truck hauling alfalfa meal from Vernal to Salt Lake City. On his return trips he hauled various provisions, sometimes those provisions were for Uncle Karl's (Goodrich) general store in Naples (near Vernal). Forest always stopped at Snelgrove Ice Cream on 21st South and

bought a quart of ice cream, placed it between his legs, and ate it as he drove up Parley's Canyon on his way back to Vernal. His early love of ice cream became a family tradition enjoyed by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Forest loved adventuring with his family and others. Notable was his love of snow skiing and waterskiing. In 1971, he bought the 'green boat' and taught his family and many others to waterski. He believed girls should learn to waterski because it put them on equal footing with the boys. His favorite ski hill was Sugarloaf at Alta, Utah. Forest skied just as he lived life: straight down the hill with no looking back.

Forest Gale Lybbert was born in Vernal, Utah on December 2, 1924. He was the youngest child of Jacob Norman Lybbert and Elma Goodrich. Forest's mother Elma died before Forest was two years old. Later Jacob married Orva Eaton. Forest had one older brother and three older sisters, and one younger brother and two younger sisters. Forest and Betty also had a son, Derek, who died at birth in 1953.

Forest passed away on July 17th, 2018. He is survived by his wife Betty; his brother Kay Lybbert of Suquamish Washington; children, Thomasene Lybbert of Moses Lake, Shannon and Bill Low of Denver Colorado, Shelly Hutchinson of Moses Lake, Dale and LeeAnn Lybbert of Moses Lake, Scott and Teri Lybbert of Kennewick, Tracy and Jill Lybbert of Pasco, Mark and Marion Lybbert of University Place, Washington, and Rodger and Kay Graham of Provo, Utah. Forest and Betty have 28 grandchildren and 59 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints at 1515 S Division at 10:00 AM, Monday, July 23. There will be a viewing at Kayser's Chapel 5:30 to 7:00 PM on Sunday July 22 and 9:00 to 9:30 AM July 23, before the funeral service, at the church.

Share a memory at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne  
Moses Lake, WA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 22. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

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

## Visitation

JUL 23. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (PT)

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

## Service

JUL 23. 10:00 AM (PT)

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



# Tribute Wall



“ When we moved to Moses Lake from Idaho in 1969 we were in the 4th Ward and Bishop Lybbert gave us a warm welcome. I remember cleaning out the bottom of his cement ditches with a shovel. Spent days doing that. My brother David and I took a motorcycle ride up from Vancouver. We met Forrest out working in his garden picking Tomatoes. We had stopped by to cool off in the pool that we'd spent time in for many hot Summers. He wanted to show us a book he had on the history of the Grand Coulee Stake. It was wonderful to visit with him and know him through the years as a great example and long-time Bishop. He blessed everyone he came in contact with. We will all miss him.

*Sincerely respectful, The Tanner Family.*



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**Philip Tanner** - July 23, 2018 at 01:40 AM

PT

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Philip and David Tanner** - July 23, 2018 at 12:28 AM

RW

“ I was lucky enough to know “President” Lybbert my entire life, as my Bishop, member of my Stake Presidency, my home teaching companion, friend, and father influence. I owe much of what I am to his example and influence on me. I always knew that he loved me and was concerned for me and was always there for me. I saw his example in service, and his spiritual influence on me and others. Returning from a camping trip once he taught me to say the alphabet backwards which I still remember how to do today. He took me to my first general conference including Priesthood Meeting. He took me water skiing behind the famous “green” boat. He loaned me skis and boots for my very first snow ski trip. I swam in the famous Lybbert pond. He showed me by example the importance of working hard and then playing hard. I also learned his example of church service. He taught me to be compassionate and thoughtful of others. He and I home taught sister Wanda Michel, an elderly widow in our ward. He assigned me to take my mom and Sister Michel out on a date. As a 15-year-old I did “not” want to do that and I remember thinking how annoying this was. The only thing I could think of was to take them both bowling. I dreaded going and was hoping for it to be over quickly. It ended up being a great experience and we had a wonderful time and Sister Michel talked about it for months whenever she saw me. I am so grateful for the example that Forest Lybbert has been in my life as well as the example his wonderful wife Betty and their children have been as well.  
Roger Wright

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Roger Wright - July 22, 2018 at 06:44 PM

CV

“ Forest was about life, the now and hereafter. He was a man of God who lived the way he talked. He had a kind spirit and never met a stranger. They took me under their wings and help me understand things about life and living as a good person that I did not know yet. There creative way for me to get off coffee, Sunday dinners, conference talks and a trip to Fall conference with an ice cream social and a "very near miss" with a fire truck, and farming with him on his family garden plot, have been blessings in my life because of him of Forest and Betty. A great man has gone off to a better place. Gone, but never forgotten. Love you Forest. See you later.

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**Cheryl Volk** - July 22, 2018 at 03:08 PM

JP

“ Forest was kind hearted and dedicated to uplifting everyone around him. Even though he was quite busy with many responsibilities, he took the time to get to know so many of us personally, and as was his way, he so often would make a point to offer his insight, wisdom, support and encouragement to us individually. Forest truly made the world a better place. Thank you, Forest, for your friendship and kindness.

*Jim and Luray Plaisted*

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**James Plaisted** - July 21, 2018 at 01:33 AM

BO

“ The further I moved away from things, the closer he seemed to draw to that part of me which remained uncertain, partisan, and lacking in perspective. He was a gentleman. He was a disciple. He was a farmer. A kind man, who walked with the garment of love and caring.

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**Bill Olsen** - July 20, 2018 at 06:23 PM

MM

“ Our condolences to all of Forrest’s family. “Uncle Frosty “ as we and the Simmons kids called him has been a big part of our lives from a very young age. I would say that he lived life well.  
*Marlo and Carol Merrell*

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**marlo merrell** - July 20, 2018 at 04:11 PM

LP

“ I remember how kind he was to always let us go swimming at Lybert’s pond. His beautiful rows of corn near by and how hard he worked .  
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**Linda Duvall Phillips** - July 20, 2018 at 01:16 AM