



Helmut Radtke

JAN 1, 1970 - MAY 18, 2010



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Helmut Radtke

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Helmut Alfred Radtke, Born January 15, 1924, in Elbing, East Prussia, to Karl and Elfiede (Neiss) Radtke. Died suddenly on May 18, 2010, in Millbrae, California. Preceded in death in 1999 by his wife, Heidi (Sommerfeld) Radtke, and his younger brother Horst Radtke, who tragically went missing and was never heard from again at the end of the Second World War. He was drafted into the Wehrmacht and served on the Russian Front during the war. Sometime in 1944, during his last leave home from the Russian Front, he was baptized into the Church of Latter Days Saints and he was an active member of the LDS Church until his health deteriorated and prevented him from attending services. After returning to the front in 1944, he was taken prisoner by the Red Army and spent the next 18 months in a Soviet Labor Camp. Upon returning to post-war reformed Germany, he met his future wife and they fell deeply in love. The couple soon married and immigrated to the United States, settling in Salt Lake City, Utah. The couple remained married for 49 years until his wife's untimely death. After settling in Salt Lake City, he went to work repairing B-52 Bombers at Hill Air Force Base. When the airlines began expanding their operations with jet aircraft, he was hired by United Airlines and relocated to Belmont, CA. He retired from United in 1988 after spending 32 years working on aircraft. But his greatest passion was the pursuit of knowledge. He was a voracious reader and once confided that he would have loved to work as a librarian. A kind and loving husband and father and friend to all who knew him, is survived by his children, Dennis Radtke of Millbrae, CA, Norbert Radtke of Winston/Salem, NC, and Stanley Radtke of San Anselmo, CA; and by his grandchildren, Shalia, Daniela, Douglas, and Katarina. A closed family memorial will be held at the Deseret Mortuary in Salt Lake City, Utah. Interment will follow at City Cemetery.



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Uncle Helmut was always fun to be around. His humor and wit were amazing. He was well read and self taught in many things, and his knowledge and understanding were vast. He was courteous and sensitive to the beliefs of others. He taught his three sons to be respectful as well. Many will remember him for his remarkable sense of humor. He spiced up life with it. But he was also a deep thinker and often reflective. He was a wonderful story teller. Aunt Heidi was truly a giving woman. She loved to cook and do crafts. She blessed the lives of everyone with her good food, and her artistic talents. She fed our souls as well with her firm faith and her dedication to her church and her family. She loved Helmut, Dennis, Norbert, and Stanley, and their families more than anything. I am certain that she is happy to have Helmut back with her again. When I was engaged, Aunt Hedi gave me \$50 to help me buy a plane ticket to go visit Bob. She told me not to tell Uncle Helmut, that he could give us another wedding present. When young Michael went to visit Uncle Helmut a few years back, he had no concept of how large California is. Michael convinced Uncle Helmut that they should come visit us in Highland, California. So they drove one day, spent the evening with us, and drove back the next morning. Truly remarkable people. I will be happy to meet them again.##imported-begin##Heidi Sommerfeld Stevenson##imported-end##

May 20 at 4:16 PM



Anonymous posted:

Helmut on our visit also took Mary and I to Monterey California. Absolutely beautiful!! I thank him, and I so enjoyed it. Thank you Helmut :)##imported-begin##Kathy Hildebrand (Sommerfeld)##imported-end##

May 20 at 11:31 AM



Anonymous posted:

I have many memories, yet this one is present in my mind today. My cousin Mary and I took trip to visit Helmut after the passing of his sweet Hedi. We ate together. We went through some of Hedi's clothes, Helmut said we could take what we wanted. I took a few things, one article of clothing I cherish is a blue jacket yellow crest that she wore in a choir there in San Francisco. We also visited the Redwood forest. Helmut didn't drive much anymore and asked that I drive. So I did. We laughed and joked. We talked of Hedi, religion, politics. When I got tired of driving I said maybe Mary should drive awhile. Helmut said no I only trust one that has driven so many times from Albuquerque to Salt Lake. So I was the designated driver. Stan and Gayla took us out to a fancy restaurant where I became fond of Creme Brulle... I enjoyed China town with Helmut, Dennis, Ira and my dear Mary. I have been around the world and can honestly say because of Helmut, with his personality, that this was one of the best trips ever. Gott sei mit euch Hedi and Helmut bis aufwiedersehen. Love Kathy##imported-begin##Kathy Hildebrand (Sommerfeld)##imported-end##

May 20 at 11:21 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Through deed and thought may his memoires live through you##imported-begin##Anthony
Zopolos##imported-end##

May 20 at 10:30 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Helmut by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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