

Sterling L. Newton

1922 ~ 2016



Sterling Leo Newton was born in Mona, Utah on December 8, 1922. Our dear dad's last few days were beautiful and peaceful. He was surrounded by family visiting with him and singing favorite Primary songs and hymns to him. His dear wife, Martha, his son, Lamar, and daughter in-law, Eileen, continued to be with him during his last night. He peacefully passed away at the age of 93 as a result of natural causes in Provo, Utah on May 10, 2016 at 10:25 pm.

Sterling was raised on the family farm in Mona, experiencing the tough lessons of the Great Depression through much of his childhood and teenage years. He said, "We were so poor we did not know what a nickel looked like, but were very rich in the things that counted in making life worthwhile." He grew up understanding the importance of family, faith, frugality, and hard work. Sterling and his three siblings were the children of Warren Harlo Newton and Rachel Hilda Carter. His two older brothers (Gerald Warren and Ross Lamar) and younger sister (Nila Emma) worked together to weed beets, haul hay, herd sheep, hoe the garden, raise chickens and turkeys, milk cows, nurture the small orchard, work the horses, and harvest crops.

Sterling always spoke fondly of the many happy times he had growing up in Mona with his siblings and many friends: swimming Burraston Pond, fishing Mona Creek and Mona Reservoir, scouting for wild mustangs in the hills, hunting, hiking Nebo and many other mountains and canyons, and playing baseball in the surrounding towns. Some of the best friends from his youth were Ned & Sterling King, Iris Kay, Robert & Vaughn Summers, Lowell Keat, Leslie "Lee" Nelson, Wells & Madge Ellertson, James Bird, and especially his double-cousin Paul Newton. Sterling and Paul had many high-spirited adventures.

Sterling often used his sense of humor to bring smiles and laughter into the lives of the people around him, especially his friends and relatives. His family will never forget the way he jolted them out of doldrums by suddenly belting out "Mairzy Doats" or "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" in his acapella baritone. He enjoyed livening up any

situation with witty remarks, and gentle jokes, such as sneaking a pinecone or some other unexpected item into people's pockets to give them a surprise later. Even strangers were sometimes surprised and set at ease with his heartfelt handshakes, hugs, and humor.

Sterling attended elementary school in Mona, and graduated from Juab High School. Sterling served as a longshoreman and crane operator for the Army in the South Pacific during World War II. After the war, he attended Brigham Young University, where he met his wife, Laura Martha Lewis, in a dance class. They married in the Mesa Arizona Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on September 22, 1947. At Utah State Agricultural College he earned a degree in vocational education. Later he earned a master's degree in secondary education at Northern Arizona University, and also became a licensed electrician. Sterling started his career by teaching shop and other subjects in two high schools in the Price, UT area. In the early 1950s, he moved his young family to Douglas, AZ, where he taught at the public schools in Elfrida for the remainder of his career. Even though he was a tough grader, he was a popular science teacher because of his humor and interactive lessons that related the subject to the lives of his students. He was famous at his school for organizing fundraisers every year that enabled the graduating class to pay their own way to Disneyland on a school bus. During the summer months, he wired new houses for electricity, and did handyman jobs. Upon retirement, Sterling and his wife moved to Provo, UT.

Sterling was a faithful member of the Church serving as home teacher, Sunday School president, president of the young men's MIA, ward clerk for three bishops, a counselor in a bishopric, ward building chairman, High Counselor, and in priesthood quorum leadership positions, and three stake missions. He said that his favorite calling was Gospel Essentials teacher. Sterling and his wife also served a full-time service mission at the Granite Mountain Records Vault.

During his final years, when life became much more difficult, Sterling continued to be playful, kind and optimistic as ever. He was also a true gentleman to the very end.

Preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Sterling is survived by his wife, Martha, and their five children: S. Lewis (Dianne), Santa Rosa, CA; M. Louise, Provo, UT; Marcia V. (George) Cahoon, Glenwood AB, Canada; Joseph W. (Tawnia), Chattanooga, TN; and W. Lamar (Eileen), Provo, UT. Sterling has 16 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

Friends and family are invited to the funeral services being held at Sterling's long time Ward (Pleasant View 4th Ward) located at 350 E. 2950 N., Provo UT, on Tuesday, May 17th, beginning at 11 a.m. A viewing will be held the day before on Monday, May 16th from 6 to 8 p.m. and Tuesday preceding the funeral services from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. at the same location. Funeral services are being provided by Anderson Funeral Home of Nephi Utah (94 W. 300 N.) and the Pleasant View 4th Ward.

Interment and graveside services including military honors will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Mona Cemetery in Mona, UT.