



## Robert Wilford Beckstead

May 12, 1931 - April 3, 2018

Dr. Robert W. Beckstead passed away on April 3, 2018 at the age of 86. Dr. Beckstead was a native of Nephi, Utah, the son of Dr. Francis Hamilton Beckstead and Edith Belliston Beckstead. He graduated from Juab High School. He attended the University of Utah where he earned both a B.S. in economics and a Masters of Business Administration. He then attended the University of Illinois where he received a PH.D. in economics. He also obtained diplomas from the Pennsylvania State University Executive Management Program and The Industrial College of the Armed Forces Strategic Logistic Program. Later he was granted an honorary diploma from La Escuela de Defensa Nacional of Argentina.

Dr. Beckstead has served on the economics faculties of Tarkio College, New Mexico State University, The Industrial College of the Armed Forces, The George Washington University, The University of Southern California, The University of Denver, and the Capitol College. He was awarded the J. Carlton Ward, Jr. Distinguished Professorship while serving as a professor of economics at The Industrial College of the Armed Forces, (ICAF), National Defense University in Washington, DC. He was a visiting scholar at The National Defense University of Korea and the Korean Institute of Defense Analyses, both in Seoul, Korea, and at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. His teaching, research and writing career have focused on national economic issues, national defense strategy, international economic policy, and

managerial economic decision making. He has distinguished himself as a scholar, author, lecturer and world traveler. At the time of his retirement from ICAF in July 1998, he was the senior faculty member.

In addition, Dr. Beckstead has served as a consultant to the Office of Research Analyses of the Department of the Air Force, the SAFEGUARD System Evaluation Agency of the Department of Army, the Energy Policy Office of the Department of Defense, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), and the War Gaming Division of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He married Doris A. Shaw, also a native of Nephi, Utah in 1955. They have four daughters, Karen A. (Bruce) Bennett, Charlotte K. (John) Ferguson, Sandra L. (Larry) Hepworth and Linda E. (David) Spencer; thirteen grandchildren 9 great grandchildren and one on the way. They have been residents of Fairfax, VA since 1973.

After his retirement from college teaching in 1998, Bob devoted most of his time to the duties of a patriarch in the Oakton Virginia Stake and as a sealer in the Washington, DC temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The family will receive friends at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2719 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA on Sunday, April 8, 2018 from 6-8 PM where funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM Monday, April 9, 2018. Interment Nephi Utah.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to either the Humanitarian Fund or the Missionary Fund of the above mentioned church at [lds.org](https://www.lds.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
2719 Hunter Mill Road  
Oakton, VA

## Service

APR 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
2719 Hunter Mill Road  
Oakton, VA

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ *The Carver family loves this amazing man. Most of our six children received their Patriarchal Blessings under his inspired hands and three of our children were sealed by him for time and all eternity in the beautiful Washington DC temple. For the more than 40 years that we had the privilege of living near Bob, he continually inspired us to be better people. He made the world a better place. We'll miss him.*

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**Dean W. Carver** - April 11, 2018 at 09:18 PM

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“ *Nearly 24 years ago, Patriarch Beckstead gave me a Patriarchal Blessing that has lifted my life these past 2 decades. I am so grateful to him for his kindness to me. Most such blessings are given when a person is of younger years than I was. At nearly 50 years of age, the blessing he provided from the Lord influenced me for good and helped me face important challenges without any fear. I knew they were experiences for my benefit having been prepared by this special Patriarchal blessing from a loving Heavenly Father through His faithful servant, Patriarch Beckstead. I know that he has gone forward to a better place and is continuing his service to the Lord with the same kind of loving commitment he exhibited in this life. Thank you, dear Patriarch Beckstead, for a life well lived. It did not go unnoticed. I will never forget you. Sister Susan Hooker (Sutton) before I returned to my maiden name.  
PS May God bless your dear family and may they remember you with love.*

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**Susan Hooker (Sutton)** - April 10, 2018 at 12:26 AM

DH

“*Forgot to make mention of Doris Beckstead in the notes I just wrote. She was my protector from many things that cause undo stress in a mother's life. She was often in our home also, encouraging me, supporting me, and helping to keep me sane in the midst of turmoil and confusion. She had a very calming spirit. I loved her so much. I missed her passing, and I miss her too. What a wonderful family!*

*Diane*

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**Diane Henry** - April 07, 2018 at 08:26 PM

DH

“*The Beckstead's moved into Fairfax County the same year we did. We moved into Greenbriar from another Fairfax address one year later and met them. When our children ask me how we ever managed to raise our large family, I often tell them it is because of the help from the Becksteads - all of them. Such kind and caring people they always were. We didn't know Karen that well, but the other three girls were often visitors, if not mainstays, in our home and family. Brother Beckstead gave blessings to most of our children and always his good advice. I loved to hear him bear his powerful testimony at church: "G-O-D--- L-I-V-E-S! JE-SUS IS T-H-E CH-R-I-S-T!"*

*He is definitely still a great influence for good in the the lives of all our children. May God bless all of his family and comfort them in their loss. I miss them all.*

*Diane*

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**Diane Henry** - April 07, 2018 at 06:38 PM

KE

“ *Brother Beckstead was so very kind to us and always greeted us warmly when we went to see him. Just a few weeks ago, he asked, despite his weakened condition, if he could do anything for us. He knew his time left was getting shorter, but he still sincerely cared about others. We will miss having him nearby and we are thankful for the association we shared with him.*

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**Keith** - April 07, 2018 at 09:58 AM