



## Leelin Vernon Summers

April 2, 1938 - September 22, 2021

Leelin Vernon Summers, 83 of Newton, Utah, was born April 2, 1938 in Paradise, Utah, and passed away on September 22, 2021 surrounded by his family. He attended elementary school in Paradise, and graduated from South Cache High School in 1956. Vernon attended basic training for the US Army in Fort Ord, California, and served in the Army Reserves for eight years.

Vernon served a full-time mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Northern California Mission and later completed a bachelor's and a masters degree in science education from Utah State University. While attending Utah State, Vernon met Verla Ritchie at a dance, and they were later married and sealed in the Logan Temple on Dec. 18, 1962. To this union were born Maree, Shane Ritchie, and Trent Lee.

Vernon spent his career as a biology, zoology, and botany teacher at Sky View High School in Smithfield, Utah for 35 years, with one year at Mountain Crest High School for its inaugural year. His friendships and acquaintances gained while teaching were cherished and innumerable. During his teaching career Vernon was involved in the Science and Man's Environment program, was honored as Utah Science Teacher of the year, traveled to Russia to instruct the Russian educators about the Academic Olympiad program, and partnered with Utah State University in developing science curriculum for High School FFA programs.

After the passing of Vernon's first wife Verla, he was introduced to Margot D. Beldon. They were married and sealed in the Logan Temple on November 17, 1982. To this union were born Kelli June and Charles (Chuck) Dunham.

Vernon wore out his life in service to others. First and foremost he sacrificed to provide for his family. He served many years with the Boys Scouts of America, being honored with the Silver Beaver Award for his years of dedicated service. He was a valiant disciple of Jesus Christ as he served in various church callings, including Home Teacher, Missionary, Young Mens, High Council, Bishop, and most recently as a Patriarch in the Benson Utah Stake.

He served in the temple for almost twenty years, with the exception of the eighteen months he and his wife, Margot, served in the South Africa Johannesburg Mission. His testimony of the restored gospel and his Savior Jesus Christ was never questioned.

Vernon began his artistic medium in barbed wire while contracting with the South Cache Cattlemen. This led him to a cherished partnership with the Rigby's of Newton as he purchased property on which to build the family home, built miles of fence, ran cattle, and developed his love of the outdoors and horsemanship. He also loved growing a large garden, mowing his lawn, and writing poetry about his many life experiences.

Vernon was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Virginia Summers, his wife Verla Ritchie Summers, son-in-law: Scott Carlson, and son-in-law: Tini Salanoa.

Vernon is survived by his wife Margot Beldon Summers, children: Maree Carlson Salanoa, Clarkston, Utah; Shane (Celia) Summers, North Logan, Utah; Trent (Wendy) Summers, Rexburg, Idaho; Kelli (Shaun) Powell, Rexburg, Idaho; Chuck (Shelly) Summers, New Albany, Indiana. Siblings: Crystal (Harvey) Mohr, Providence, Utah; Ramona (Gary) Lemon, Hyrum, Utah; Vaughn (Gwen) Summers, Paradise, Utah; Loyal (Julie) Summers, Roosevelt, Utah; Ed (Annette) Summers, Clarkston, Utah, 17 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and another on the way

A Viewing will be from 6:00 to 8:00pm Wednesday, September 29th, at the Newton Ward Chapel. The Funeral will be the following day, Thursday, September 30th, at 11:00am, with a viewing prior to the funeral from 9:30 to 10:30am. Interment will be at the Newton, Utah Cemetery. Funeral services will be available via Zoom for those not able to attend. The link is: <https://zoom.us/j/96886057344?pwd=L3dXdW9qNUIEcU9INFZMOFIxUkw1UT09> Meeting ID: 968 8605 7344 Passcode: 984361

The Family would like to offer a special thank you to: Cache Valley Mortuary, Air Idaho Rescue, Encompass Health and Hospice, the doctors and nurses at Intermountain Medical Center, and the numerous prayers of family and friends.

# Cemetery

---

## Newton City Cemetery

1005 North 100 West  
Newton, UT, 84327

# Events

---

**SEP 29** **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

---

Newton City Cemetery  
1005 North 100 West, Newton, UT, US, 84327

**SEP 30** **Viewing** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

---

Newton LDS Church  
90 South 100 West, Newton, UT, US, 84327

**SEP 30** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

---

Newton LDS Church  
90 South 100 West, Newton, UT, US, 84327

# Comments

---



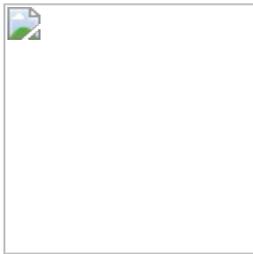
“ My heart goes out to you, Margo and the family. I had not heard of Vernon's passing and it shocked me to see his picture here. What a wonderful man! Heaven certainly has gained the best in all things. Hugs to all of you!  
Karalee and Jed Ransom

**Karalee Ransom** - October 06, 2021 at 11:23 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Service



**Cache Valley Mortuary LLC** - October 05, 2021 at 04:46 PM

---



“ Dear Margot -

I am so sorry to hear of Vernon's passing. His love for you was always so apparent when I had the privilege of spending time with you. My deepest sympathy.  
Amy Anderson

**Amy Anderson** - October 05, 2021 at 04:19 PM

---



“ I loved Mr Summers. He was one of my favorite teachers and even after I graduated from Sky View and went to college, he helped me with my biology classes.. He was always willing to help and he was able to teach because he understood what he was teaching - one of the few great teachers.  
So sorry for his family - Lots of comfort wishes to all  
Janet C Campbell

**JANET** - October 01, 2021 at 10:24 AM

---



“ Kelli and Chuck and family,  
I'm so sorry for the passing of your Dad. He was such a nice man and had a wonderful family. I hope you can feel comfort right now and in the coming time ahead.  
Love ya!  
Jamee (Drake) Braegger

Jamee Braegger - September 30, 2021 at 12:04 AM

---



“ Margot, Doug and I are very sorry for your family's great loss. Vernon was a great example and has served our town and citizens in any way he could. He will be missed

Margaret Griffin - September 29, 2021 at 10:30 PM

---



“ Dear Margot and Family,

Thank you for being such wonderful people! Michelle and I will always be grateful for your kindness while we lived in Logan. It was so fun to join you for General Conference and dinner. I remember Uncle Vernon telling jokes at Sunday dinner, and being dedicated to God, family, and community. I remember Aunt Margot's kindness and humility, and how graciously she adopted all of us. I remember how as a teenager, Maree was patient and kind and mature. I appreciate her example of love and faith as she has dealt with huge trials. Shane helped me survive a Genetics class “when you fall asleep in class, just put your head back so you don't bob it up and down trying to act like you're not sleeping “. He reminds me so much of my dad. Trent and Chuck and Kelley - somehow you didn't seem to inherit the “Ritchie shyness genes” - I admire your outgoing personalities.

Thank you all for your examples of faith and humility! I am grateful that Families are Forever, and am grateful to be a part of your extended family. May God bless you with peace and comfort as you celebrate Uncle Vernon's life.

Love,  
Karl and Michelle

Karl Ritchie - September 29, 2021 at 09:28 PM

---



“ I first met Vernon in a Summer Science program from school when I was a young girl. The bus would pick us up early in the morning at our individual communities. We always packed our own lunch and headed up Logan Canyon for the day. He was the teacher and guide for all of the kids on the bus. We spent many hours hiking to find fossils or exploring a cave or hiking up to Old Juniper to see the tree. As I look back on this experience I am amazed that one person would take this task on. He did it willingly and was happy to be there, reciting knowledge of ecosystems , history and biology. I will never those fun times. He moved to Newton with his wife Verla and young family not to many years after that. I got to know he and his family on a more personal level. I attended Shy View High and had him as a Biology Teacher. He was a tough teacher and expected you to study and learn. His matter of fact teaching techniques were easy to follow and I found myself enjoying the class. You always knew where you stood with Mr. Summers! After Verla’s passing, Vernon was introduced to Margot. They were married and we as a community were very blessed to get to know her and enjoy her many talents. Their family is very dear to me. My condolences, for the loss of this great man. Sincerely Heidi Maughan DeBruin Lundberg

Heidi Lundberg - September 29, 2021 at 11:24 AM

---



“ Mr. Summers was my biology teacher at Sky View High School in 1973. He was a very good and decent man, liked by all his students. I remember several personal conversations with him in which he shared with me very sound and much-appreciated wisdom. I knew he cared about my well-being, which meant a lot to me. I especially remember him telling our class about a fence in his front yard, which he jumped over every morning and which he intended to leap over every morning. He theorized that if he jumped that fence every day for the rest of his life, when he eventually reached old age he would remain fit and spry as evidenced by his remaining able to jump that fence. That plan so intrigued me. I hope it worked for him. I'm thankful to have had Mr. Summers as a teacher. The world is diminished by his passing.

Jordan Funk - September 28, 2021 at 04:25 PM

---



“ Dear Margot and family,  
Our deepest sympathies go out to you. Vernon was always so happy and kind, a joy to be around, and Christlike in every way. He will be deeply missed. May you feel the Lord's loving arms around you during this difficult time and always.

With Love and Concern,  
Kent and Mary Lou Heaps

**Mary Lou Heaps** - September 28, 2021 at 09:26 AM

---



“ Dear Margot and Family,

We were very sorry to hear of Vernon's passing. He was just a great person and loved by so many of us. He was the bishop I grew up with, and Patti's neighbor our in Paradise. We certainly look up to you and Vernon, and appreciate your wonderful example.

May the Lord bless and comfort you during this time.

Kurt and Patti Petersen

**Kurt Petersen** - September 27, 2021 at 01:18 PM

---



“ Dear Margot,

We were so sorry to learn of the passing of your sweet husband. We loved working with you both in the temple and miss seeing you there. You were such dependable and caring workers. May the Lord bless and keep your family at this time.

Stan and Gayle Buxton

**Gayle Christensen Buxton** - September 26, 2021 at 08:54 PM

---



“ We will miss Vernon and he is always so friendly and kind when we see him. such a great example for us. we send our condolences of his passing. we will miss seeing him.

Janel and annette Heaps

janel and annette heaps - September 26, 2021 at 02:25 PM

---



“ With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Leelin Vernon Summers.



September 25, 2021 at 05:53 PM

---



“ I enjoyed so much knowing Vernon. As a fellow science teacher in the Cache District, we shared many ideas and thoughts. His character was one I always wanted to emulate because he was so Christlike in all he did. Everyone he met was a friend. When he received the Utah Teacher of the Year, I was on the board who selected him and it was an easy choice. Working with him in the temple was an added blessing for many years. God bless his beloved memory and may He be with you Margot as you go forward with faith until that blessed reunion. Larry Larson

Larry and Arlene Larson - September 25, 2021 at 10:37 AM

---



“ One of the best scout leaders, young men leaders, bishops and friend you could ever ask for. I also had Mr. Summers in high school and being from Newton you were always held to a higher standard and I always appreciated that from him. His son Trent and I grew up together what a great family. He will be missed.

justin griffin - September 24, 2021 at 06:56 PM

---



“ I never liked science, but I did like Mr. Summers. He and my Dad were on the high council together, so he knew who I was, but didn't cut me any favors. One day at the beginning of class, he mentioned that he was in a partnership with the Rigby's in a non-profit cattle venture. I was the only who laughed, and he laughed with me. Whenever he saw me, he would say hi and we'd catch up.

James Jardine

James Jardine - September 24, 2021 at 06:37 PM

---



“ Vernon was a great friend, we ate lunch together for many years at Sky View, Then work together at the Temple, I think of Vernon has great Example of a Christ like person. Ruth and I want to express our love to all of Vernon's family. Scott Fife

Ruth Fife - September 24, 2021 at 05:39 PM

---



“ I really don't know where to begin in expressing my love and admiration for Vernon. He has been such a cherished friend and mentor for most of my life. The many personal interactions through Scouting, particularly Woodbadge, are priceless. I've had a close connection with Vernon since I was in high school. Many of my most tender, spiritual moments of life were shared with Vernon. He will be deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Margot and the rest of the family. God bless until the day you are reunited with your dear loved one.

Bruce and Leanne Traveller - September 24, 2021 at 03:56 PM



“ I have known Vernon for most of my life and have always liked and enjoyed being around him. I am so sorry for your loss, Margot. I know the Lord will help through the heartache and loneliness. I pray that you will have that blessing and the support you need. Love you, Margot.

Tamara Grange - September 25, 2021 at 02:34 PM