



Orvil G. McKenzie

May 19, 2025

After years of fighting with health challenges and battling them so well, Orvil Gerald McKenzie passed away on May 19th, 2025, at the age of 83 in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Orvil leaves behind Linda (Coates), his wife of almost 60 years, and their three daughters. Trisha (Kevin) LeBaron with their three children, Parker (Emily), Chase (Alyssa) and Aislynn LeBaron (Mason) Tenge. Nicole McKenzie-Biggs (Paul) with their children, Colin and Lucas McKenzie. Angie McKenzie with her three children, Shea, Ava and Dean Ryan. He is also survived by his daughter, Skye, from a previous marriage, as well as his siblings, Lee (Barbara) McKenzie, Sherrie Cummings, and Cleo (Mark) Cohen.

Family meant everything to him, and he proved it with his lifetime of loving acts of kindness and his devotion to them.

He was an active life-long member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with a strong testimony of Jesus Christ and a history of serving people by loving them and helping them become better fathers and husbands.

In his younger years Orvil was an athlete, adventurer and amateur mechanic. He served young teens in his church as a Scoutmaster, taking the boys on

weeklong hiking adventures at Philmont Scout Ranch, as a basketball coach, softball coach, and regional athletic director in New Mexico, as a CES missionary and in the Bishopric of his family ward and in the YSA ward.

His lifelong love of sports spawned generations of Broncos fans and encouraged all his children and grandchildren to participate in sports including basketball (we weren't tall enough, but he made us try), softball, soccer, baseball, tackle football and volleyball which his daughter, Angie, still participates in as an adult. He made us all try golf, but none of us had the talent for what became his favorite sport later in life.

Later in life according to his daughter's nephew, he "came in soft and gentle at a time when we lost our grandpa. A daunting task, not to replace but to fill in where needed. I will be forever grateful for his love and support through all those years. He was a great example to me." This was a common sentiment from men who spent time with Orvil. He would take them on hunting trips where the only thing caught was great conversation, pull them on tubes behind a speeding boat to teach them a little humility, and serve as an example of how to be a father. He was always generous with his time and talents.

He loved hunting, snow skiing (in general and as a ski patrol member in his younger years), boating (scary tube rides were his specialty), water skiing (he could single ski step start off a dock), camping, golf and off-road vehicles (he brought the first homemade sand rail to a camping trip where we laughed from our 4-wheelers at the start of the trip and all went home and bought sand rails for our next trip.) He also could fix up most anything and loved to teach those skills to his family and friends.

You might be amazed to find out that Orvil had four daughters and no sons. It will not surprise you that he taught his girls to drive boats, motorcycles and

stick shift cars and, by example, the type of man they should marry. And, in doing so, he got sons by marriage.

Orvil loved work and was willing to try new jobs. He was a restaurant fry cook, car wash manager, sold women's foundations (bras and underwear), automobile salesman, Cartridges for Kids school program representative, and a lawn care service owner happy to employ young men who needed a summer job.

Although he had many occupations, the most significant one was in the automotive paint business, starting out as a salesman for the Dupont Automotive Paint Division and later opening Car Color Specialists, a business in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he supplied the body shop community with automotive paint and supplies and provided them with workshops and training to help them be more successful. And, yes, we had cool paint jobs on our cars as a result.

He loved our mother fiercely. There was never a moment when we doubted his love for her, and we watched as he smiled and adored her even as he struggled to remember other things. He loved her all his life. He provided for all of us in every way possible.

We were amazed by the many comments we received on social media about his passing. He was remembered fondly by so many. Each of us has received phone calls and visits from people wanting to talk about Orvil. He touched the lives of those we never knew. We loved hearing stories about him that we had never heard before.

He will be missed terribly, but he understood how to build a legacy that will continue in his absence.

A celebration of Orvil's life will be held on Saturday, June 7th at 2pm, 1320 W Harmony Rd, Fort Collins, Colorado. All who knew him are invited. Please bring your memories of Orvil to share; we would love to hear them.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 7. 2:00 PM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1320 W Harmony Rd
Fort Collins, CO 80526
(970) 226-1806

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *Uncle Orv! Rest in peace.
Aaron DeSpain*

AARON J DESPAIN - August 09, 2025 at 02:13 AM

KT

“ *I remember Orvil as one of the first people I met when we moved to Fort Collins. He welcomed me and made me feel at home. Through the years he would playfully tweak me about my "toys". He kept asking me about getting jet ski until I got one. He heard I was thinking about getting a truck and he started touting the features of his Honda Ridgeline. He even let me test drive it. He was sorely disappointed in me when I bought a Toyota Tacoma.*

Through the years we had many conversations and I came to know what a spiritual man he was and how much he treasured his family. He would always tell me what the girls were doing. Truly one of the noble and great ones. I will miss him deeply.

Ken Tidwell - June 06, 2025 at 10:39 PM

SH

“ *I remember many rounds of golf with Orvil and his buddies--my father-in-law Merril Hardy and Uncle Ray. We always joked that it took all of us to count Ray's actual strokes. I bought a Yonex 4 wood from Orvil that is still in my bag. I just took it out with more tenderness than before. Such a wonderful soul. Blessings forever.
Steve Hitz*

Steven Hitz - June 04, 2025 at 09:38 AM

GB

Our family was genuinely blessed for knowing this remarkable man. His wisdom, generosity and love of others touched all who knew him. He had a gift for helping young men find their Savior and understand their own potential.

He leaves a legacy that will endure.

Our family will always remember him and look forward to his eternal friendship.

Gloria Brown - June 05, 2025 at 03:06 AM

GB

Our sincere condolences to Orvil's devoted wife, Linda, as well as to his daughters and their families. I'm certain that the Lord will use Orvil's remarkable talents to lift, strengthen and help His children, from the other side of the veil. Sending our love.

Gloria Brown - June 05, 2025 at 03:16 AM

KB

“ Orvil was like a second dad to me. And a best bud for my dad. He was talented at everything he did and he dabbled in everything! Many great hours spent at the McKenzie home and on the boat. He will be missed but his legacy will live on!

Kelly Brink - June 03, 2025 at 01:18 PM