



## Ted Gordon Rusk

May 20, 1948 - November 3, 2020

Ted G. Rusk

Ted Rusk (aka Santa Ted) finished his earthly journey November 3, 2020. He stepped over into heaven to be greeted by a host of friends and family already there.

Those celebrating Ted's legacy are: his wife of 30 years, Keitha; sons, Mathew and Jeffrey Rusk of Cheyenne, WY; stepson, John Oliver of Trail, OR; siblings, Rodney Rusk of Cheyenne, WY; Gary Rusk of Edgewater, FL; Paul Rusk (Susan) of Payette, ID; Gregg Rusk (Alex) of Avondale, AZ; and Elaine Beecher (Gregg) of Aztec, NM. He has many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Ted was born May 20, 1948 in Ft Collins, CO to Alvin and Marie Rusk. When Ted was 5, the family moved to Cheyenne, WY. He was a 1966 graduate of Cheyenne East High School.

Ted never knew a stranger, and everyone was his friend. He was a born salesman and could sell you anything (even if you didn't need it). His employment started out at Safeway when he was a teenager. Other places he worked were Rocky Mountain Snacks, Wynn's Automotive and Newport Fastenal, which he retired from in 2014.

Ted's relationship and love for Jesus Christ was the core driving force of his life. He loved praise and worship and sang on a worship team at his home church, the Waldport Foursquare Church in Waldport, OR. He also loved motorcycles and found a way to combine these two passions when he

became a member of the Christian Motorcyclist's Association in 1987. CMA's vision is changing the world, one heart at a time through evangelistic outreach to the motorcycling community. Ted took his part in this ministry very seriously, going with his wife, Keitha, on two mission trips to Central America to present motorcycles to pastors there, giving them a much needed means of transportation. He also attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally every year for 18 years, involved with their street ministry. He did not miss an opportunity to pray with and share Jesus with his biker brothers. He completed one of the things he had on his bucket list when he rode his motorcycle in the 36th Annual 3 Flags Classic (the Iron Butt Classic) in 2011 with his son, Jeff, his brother, Gary and good friend of his, Mark Kemper. They road 2227.2

miles together from San Ysidro, CA to Penticton BC, Canada. One of his favorite sayings was "We don't stop riding because we get old, we get old because we stop riding".

Ted was a fan of old cars. He had many stacks of old car magazines and attended as many car shows as he could. He liked watching NASCAR races, especially after the company he was working for, Fastenal, sponsored Carl Edwards for 17 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Races in 2012. His favorite NFL football team was the Denver Broncos and he liked to wear his Bronco hat and shirt to church just to get a rise out of the Seattle Seahawk fans who attended there. He also enjoyed fishing. He used to say, "There's nothing like reeling in a salmon!"

After retirement, Ted wanted to do something to bring joy to people's lives and so he went to the International University of Santa Claus in Seattle, WA to become a professional Santa Claus. He was proud to be a long standing member of the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas, Santa's PAC, and the Santa Claus Conservatory. Some of his Santa appearances include the Hood River RR "Polar Express", the Springfield Creamery, Johnson Brothers Nursery in Eugene and Christmas Storybook Land in

Albany. He held many a child on his knee and heard their Christmas list, ate lots of cookies and milk, and received many carrots for the reindeer.

Ted was a gentle, kind and loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend who was loved by all who knew him. He is greatly missed!

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ted's honor may be given to the Mario Pastega House in Corvallis, OR, or Christmas Storybook Land in Albany, OR.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 2021 at Newport Foursquare church, 215 NW 15th St, Newport, OR 97365. Please RSVP to Keitha 541-487-4787

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN **26**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Newport Foursquare Church  
215 NW 15th Street  
Newport, OR 97365

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Ted's Celebration Information*



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - May 26, 2021 at 07:21 PM



Sammy  
Jamison

“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Sammy Jamison - May 06, 2021 at 12:37 AM

JC

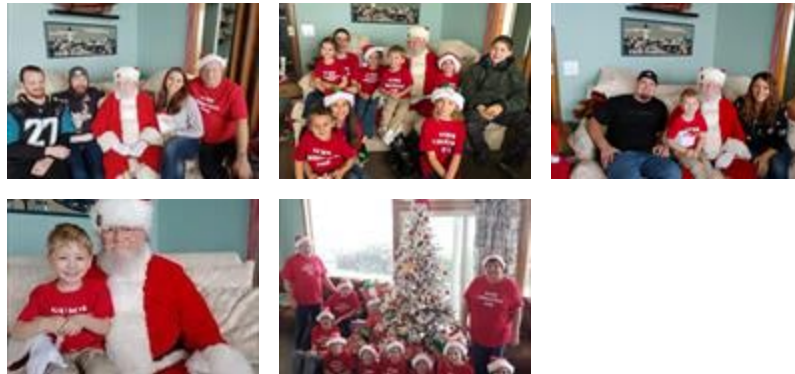
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jody Campos - December 15, 2020 at 11:47 AM

JC

“ *Santa Ted became a part of our family Christmas get together for 6 years. Our kids and grandkids loved him handing them their gifts. He always took time with each child to see what Santa had brought them. My family is deeply saddened to hear of his passing. RIP Santa Ted we love and will miss you so much.*



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**Jody Campos** - December 15, 2020 at 11:41 AM

GW

“ *My heart breaks along with you and my prayers have been with you and the family. I knew Ted only briefly in his and Keitha's visits to Phoenix to visit family. He made me feel at home right away with his sense of humor and his teasing. He was a good man and I highly respected him and Keitha, beautiful people. My love and prayers for God's touch continue to go out for you. May God fill those empty places with His love and the comfort of His presence.*

*Glenda Wahlen*

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**Glenda Wahlen** - December 12, 2020 at 05:45 PM

KR

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Keitha Rusk - December 02, 2020 at 11:37 AM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Keitha Rusk - November 30, 2020 at 02:03 AM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Keitha Rusk - November 29, 2020 at 08:31 PM

KO

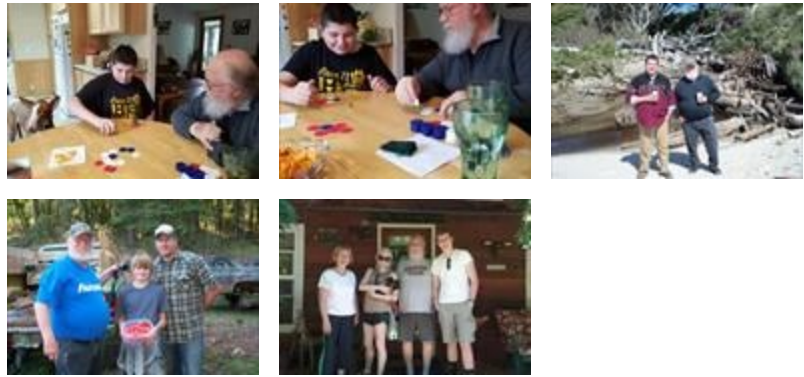
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kathleen Oliver - November 28, 2020 at 11:34 AM

KO

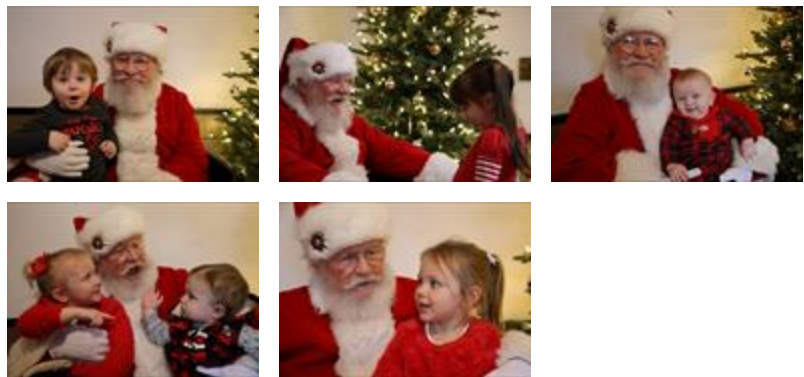
“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Kathleen Oliver - November 28, 2020 at 11:28 AM

KR

“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



keitha Rusk - November 27, 2020 at 05:48 PM

EB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Elaine Beecher - November 23, 2020 at 09:33 AM

EB

*This will forever be one of my favorite pictures of Ted with my husband Gregg Beecher.*

Elaine Beecher - November 25, 2020 at 09:51 AM

Reitha  
McCabe

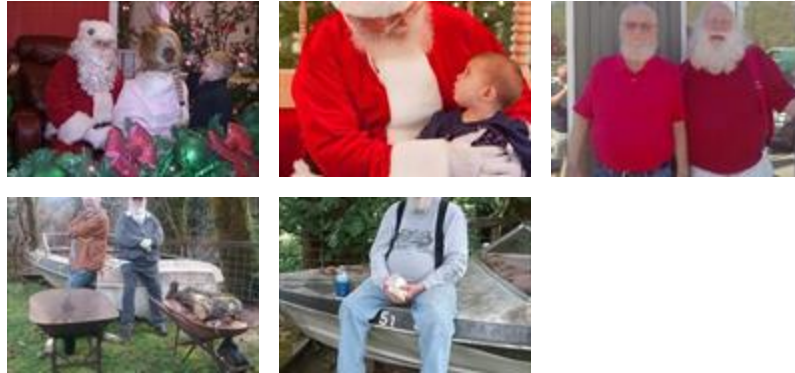
“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Reitha McCabe - November 21, 2020 at 01:39 PM

KR

“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Keitha Rusk - November 20, 2020 at 10:11 AM

EB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Elaine Beecher - November 19, 2020 at 12:00 PM

EB

This is a picture of Ted with J.C. Penney

Elaine Beecher - November 19, 2020 at 12:01 PM

EB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Elaine Beecher - November 19, 2020 at 11:53 AM

EB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Elaine Beecher - November 19, 2020 at 11:52 AM

JB

“ Ted, you are in the arms of Jesus now and what a loss for those of us on earth, what a gain for Heaven! Marie is probably rejoicing to have her son home. Brent and I remember the story you shared of Keitha and you "loving" your motorcycle. You had us in hysterics! What a joy you were to your family. Brent and Jan Birkemeier

Janet Birkemeier - November 18, 2020 at 10:20 PM

EB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Elaine Beecher - November 16, 2020 at 08:12 PM

CB

“ Claudia Botner lit a candle in memory of Ted Gordon Rusk



Claudia Botner - November 16, 2020 at 08:44 AM

EB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Elaine Beecher** - November 15, 2020 at 07:58 PM

EB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Elaine Beecher** - November 15, 2020 at 07:39 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Keitha Rusk** - November 15, 2020 at 07:01 PM

EB

*I love this picture!*

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**Elaine Beecher** - November 15, 2020 at 07:25 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Keitha Rusk - November 15, 2020 at 02:09 PM

KR

“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Keitha Rusk - November 14, 2020 at 07:39 PM

EB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Elaine Beecher - November 14, 2020 at 07:38 PM

EB

*A very treasured visit in July 2019*

Elaine Beecher - November 14, 2020 at 07:39 PM

EB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Elaine Beecher** - November 14, 2020 at 12:24 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Keitha Rusk** - November 14, 2020 at 10:23 AM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Keitha Rusk** - November 14, 2020 at 09:00 AM

KR

*Ted and Keitha with friends Mark and Mickey Kemper at CMA Changing of Colors rally in Hatfield, Arkansas, Oct. 2013.*

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**Keitha Rusk** - November 14, 2020 at 10:29 AM

EB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Elaine Beecher - November 13, 2020 at 08:29 PM

EB

*The Rusk boys and then the Rusk men. Then came along little sister.*

Elaine Beecher - November 13, 2020 at 08:34 PM

PW

“ *I have so many memories of the Rusk family and all good!! Ted was so funny and full of joy! This of course, came from our Lord!! He loved his family so much. Keitha, you will be in my prayers with love! I have been blessed by a man who lived his life well and was an example of what it means to love Jesus!! Hugs, Penny*

Penny Watson - November 13, 2020 at 07:30 PM

Reitha  
McCabe

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Reitha McCabe - November 13, 2020 at 05:24 PM

 Reitha  
McCabe

“ *In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Pastega House, Corvallis, OR.*

*<https://www.samhealth.org/find-a-location/m/mario-pastega-house?fbclid=IwAR1pgkUhK0TVp-2AuHwQ1GsGp2sU07vHUcxmI-tqpcNxaUCQyLdt7s8Czg>*

*or*

*Christmas Story Book Land, in Albany, Oregon*

*<https://christmasstorybookland.org/>*

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**Reitha McCabe** - November 13, 2020 at 05:19 PM

 K(

“ *Ted was one of my best friends ever we had many motorcycle trips together, we hunted and fished with GREAT memories. We drifted apart but he was always in my heart!!!! Ted was one of the best men I have ever known. Rest in PEACE my Brother. You will be missed!!!!*

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**Ken Foist (Grizz)** - November 13, 2020 at 11:26 AM