

Obituaries 2025

The Ogden Surgical-Medical Society extends its sympathy to the family and friends of our colleagues who have passed on. Their presence and contribution to medicine will be momentarily missed.

John “Sandy” Stanley Friden, MD

August 6, 1947 – October 20, 2025

John Stanley Friden, lovingly known as Sandy (aka Stash, Louis, and Chief), passed away on October 20, 2025, after a decades-long battle with Parkinson’s disease and surrounded by his devoted family. Born on August 6, 1947, in Oakland, California, John was the cherished son of Stan and Jane Friden. He unapologetically described his youth as a golden childhood—filled with adventure, travel, car races (and crashes), mischief with his five brothers, and the tender memory of his baby sister who left this world too soon. Their life in the Bay Area, shaped by the legacy of the Friden Calculator Company, was made even more magical by summers at the family ranch in northern California. Eventually, the family moved there permanently—a place Friden made sure became part of his children’s storybook. A piece of his heart always remained at the ranch.

Dr. Friden has a brilliant mind and an unmatched memory. He thrived academically, graduating from San Ramon High School before attending the University of California, San Diego. Later, he attended Brigham Young University, majoring in Chemistry. Though he considered a career in agronomy—the science of soil—he ultimately felt called to medicine and attended medical school at UC Davis. His passion for medicine and his memory helped him graduate Summa Cum Laude. While at BYU in 1970, Friden met Peggy Parsons from Brigham City, Utah, on a blind date. That date led to an April Fools’ Day proposal, and they were married on July 28, 1972, in Logan, Utah. Their marriage spanned 53 beautiful years on Earth. They began their family of daughters shortly after getting married and continued to grow it after moving to Ogden, Utah for Dr. Friden’s residency. They quickly became part of the South Ogden community, where they built a joyful life and raised five daughters.

Friden had an enthusiasm for life. He loved BYU football, Ford Mustangs, boating, Bear Lake, Jeopardy, snow and water skiing, car shows, and golfing. Though he didn’t get to do it often, his sons-in-law witnessed his love for horses, pack mules, swimming in mountain lakes, and outdoor cooking. He and Peggy loved traveling together, cheering on BYU sports, and following the adventures of their 21 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. His gentle nature made him a favorite among the babies and littles. Each grandchild remembers hours of playing catch, bedtime stories (Papa originals), and off-key songs sung lovingly in their ears.

Many in the Ogden area knew Dr. Friden as a gifted physician. He loved his career in family medicine, serving his patients with compassion and curiosity. He had an insatiable drive to find answers and solve problems, positively impacting countless lives. He was meticulous and thorough, taking time to truly know the names, families, health needs, and interests of those he cared for.

Dr. Friden is survived by his loving wife, Peggy Friden; his five daughters, Lisa (Scott) Blake, Christy (Ryan) Halverson, Michelle (Bob) Geiger, Julie (Todd) Stratford, and Erica (Adam) Hensley; 21 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren (with 3 more on the way); and his siblings, Kim (Sandra Lee), Charlie (Dianne), Willie (Lorelle), Ted (Monica), and Jim (Toni). He was predeceased by his mother, Jane; father, Stan; sister, Elizabeth; and half-sister, Francis Anne Alioto.

Vernon D. Potter, MD

February 16, 1961 – May 21, 2025

Vernon D. Potter was reunited with his daughter and parents on May 21, 2025. He was 64 years old. Vernon was a devoted brother, husband, father, and grandfather, and a dedicated doctor. He was born February 16, 1961 in Chicago Heights, Illinois to Arnel and Dona Louise Potter. The fourth of five children, he always loved his family. Throughout his life he constantly expressed his love for his parents and siblings and his pride in their accomplishments.

As a teenager, Vernon worked as many hours as possible while maintaining excellent grades in high school. After high school, he attended Brigham Young University and completed a degree in Economics. Inspired by the heroes in the hospital who saved his life at the age 13 when he was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus, Vernon pursued what would be his life's passion outside his faith and family: being a doctor. After completing medical school at the University of Illinois at Rockford and residency in Columbus, Ohio, Vernon was a family medicine doctor, spending most of his career in a solo practice in Sandy, Utah. Vernon loved spending time with his patients, both in and out of the office. That love was evident by the number of times patients would approach him in the grocery store to talk and the joy he felt whenever they did, as well as by the swiftness with which he would stop what he was doing and help anyone in need. It was also evident by the number of times he went out of his way to bring extra joy to patients outside his role as their doctor.

He met the love of his life and eternal companion, Linda, just as he was nearing the end of medical school. The two of them were married in June of 1988 and went on to have five children. He cherished Linda, who would later also become his business partner and ultimately his primary caregiver. He was proud of all his nerdy Potter children who loved school so much that none of them stopped after a Bachelor's degree.

Vernon is predeceased by his parents and his daughter, Kathryn ("Kathy") Potter. Vernon is survived by all four of his siblings: Elizabeth (Tony Guzman), Rosemary (Joe) McGrath, Bill (Leslie Fischer), and Cynthia (Michael Highley), his wife, Linda, and four children: Michael (Kelsi), Brianna, Hannah (Michael Sullivan), and Aric, and three grandchildren: James, Meghan, and Kinsley.

Thomas Loftin Hannum, MD

October 17, 1929 - July 21, 2025

Thomas Loftin Hannum was born on October 17, 1929 in Gillette, Wyoming to Marshall and Mable Hannum. He grew up nearby his family's homestead and sheep ranch. He passed away peacefully on July 21, 2025 at the age of 95.

Dr. Hannum graduated from Campbell County High School in 1946 earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming in 1950, and he went on to receive his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1956.

While in medical school, Tom met Alida Jackson, and they were married on June 12, 1954, beginning a 71-year marriage devoted to his family, service, and his community. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he moved to Brigham City, Utah. There, Tom practiced family medicine for more than three decades. He was an old-fashioned doctor who worked long hours, made house calls, answered his own phone, and helped deliver more than 2,000 babies!

Dr. Hannum's service extended beyond Utah. He volunteered aboard the HOPE hospital ship in West Africa, worked with AMA Volunteer Physicians and AMDOC, and served with the Utah Heart Association and the American Red Cross. He was also the first chairman of the Brigham City Community Hospital. Over the years, he received many honors recognizing his service and commitment to others.

Tom and Alida opened their home to people from around the world through international exchange programs, forming lifelong friendships. Tom was also an auctioneer for charitable causes, an avid skier, a lover of horses, and a cowboy at heart. He cherished time outdoors, family adventures, and moments filled with laughter. Above all, Tom was devoted to his family and lived a life defined by compassion, generosity, and service.

Brent Williams, MD

August 16, 1948 – January 13, 2025

N. Brent Williams, M.D., passed away on Monday, January 13, 2025. He was born in Provo, UT, on August 16, 1948, to Nevin Ray and Marjorie Nixon Williams. He was raised by his aunt and uncle Grace and Gene Johansen in Castle Dale, Utah, where he learned the value of hard work and a love of animals living on a ranch. He loved milking cows, riding horses, and spending weekends in Joe's Valley shooting prairie dogs. Dr. Williams graduated from Emery High School in 1966. He then attended Brigham Young University and quickly fled north to Weber State University in 1968. While attending a mandatory driver's improvement course, he met his future wife, Debbie Jensen (who was also in the course).

He married Debbie on Halloween in 1969 in the Manti Utah Temple. He graduated from Weber State and completed his education at the University of Utah, where he received a doctorate in Medicine in 1979. Dr. Williams practiced family medicine in Ogden, Utah, and fell in love with the community and its proximity to the mountains, so they settled there to raise their family.

Dr. Williams was always athletic, spending hours cycling to Snowbasin and rollerblading with his family. He loved speeding on dirt bikes, camping, and driving Jeeps through the desert. His passion for speed led to numerous injuries, one of which left him an incomplete quadriplegic. However, he didn't let this slow him down and continued to practice medicine for another 30 years.

In 2009, he and Debbie opened a business together and enjoyed working side by side. He often said that even though he was the doctor, she was the boss. He loved his work, and his patients adored him.

Dr. Williams served his community tirelessly, dedicating decades to providing care to many families, often going above and beyond to ensure his patients received not only medical treatment but also a sense of hope and comfort. He was also a devoted family man, giving everything he could for his kids and grandkids. His greatest love was Debbie, whom he considered his best friend, and he wanted to spend every moment with her. When she had other obligations, his dog, Miley, was always available.

He was not just the strongest person we knew; he embodied resilience and determination. He inspired everyone around him and left a profound impact on our lives. We will miss him dearly, and his legacy will forever remain in our hearts.

Dr. Williams is survived by his loving wife, Debra; children, Ryan (Shaila), Tyler (Britanie), Jeannette (Dan) Wallace, and Adrienne (Lehi) Duarte; 13 grandchildren; and siblings, Brice Williams, Scott Johansen, Craig Johansen, Nathan Johansen, Natalie Woodroff, and Margaret Oveson. He was preceded in death by his parents and the in-laws he loved, Robert and Annabel Wahlen.

George Landon Beales, MD

November 13, 1935 - January 6, 2025

George Landon Beales, M.D., passed away peacefully on January 6, 2025, at the age of 89, in Holladay, Utah. He was born in November 1935, in the Millcreek area. Dr. Beales attended Granite High School. His mother encouraged him to become a medical practitioner. He went on to study medicine at the University of Utah Medical School. He practiced internal medicine in Holladay and later he contributed to the health of BYU Student Services Clinic.

Dr. Beales had a very full and interesting life. He was an accomplished violinist and enjoyed classical music. Dr. George Beales was a man of many talents and even more humility. He had interests in photography, amateur radio operation, and mechanical aptitude, fixing and building equipment. He could be found with a stethoscope around his neck, with a violin on his shoulder, or a wrench in his hand. He was a Scout leader and fathered five sons who all attained the Eagle Scout rank. He was an outdoorsman and enjoyed four-wheeling, camping, skiing, and family vacations to Lake Powell, where he made unforgettable memories with family and friends.

Otto Smith, MD

August 4, 1921 - November 16, 2019

Otto F. Smith was born in Randolph, Utah, in 1921 and grew up in Evanston, Wyoming. He served nearly four years as an Air Force pilot in the African, Sicilian, Italian, and European Theaters in WWII. He received a Bachelor of Science with Honor degree from the University of Wyoming in 1950 and an M.D. degree in 1954 from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He interned at Denver General and General Rose Hospitals in Denver, Colorado, and served a partial surgical residency at the V.A. Hospital in Denver. He practiced Medicine, Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynecology in Brigham City, Utah for 41 years. He served on the Utah State Medical Association Board of Trustees and on the Blue Shield Board of Directors. He served as President of the Box Elder County Medical Society, and has been on the Board of Directors of the Brigham City Community Hospital, where he was Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery. He was chairman of the "K.O. Polio" program, successfully organizing the immunization program for the community. He was chairman of the Fluoridation Committee and succeeded in establishing fluoridated water in Brigham City. He was awarded the "Total Citizen Award" by the Brigham City Chamber of Commerce in 1990.

William West Barney, MD

September, 30, 1929 - September 10, 2014

Dr. Barney was born on September 30, 1929, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to John Forrest Barney and Mary Eliza West. He graduated from Granite High School, the University of Utah, and the University of Utah Medical School. On September 4, 1949, he married Eulaween Phillips in North Augusta, South Carolina.

A devoted physician, he practiced medicine in Kearns, Utah for many years and served as Chief of Staff at Valley West Hospital (now Pioneer Valley Hospital). He was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, dedicating his life to service through both his profession and numerous church callings. He cherished time with his family and was deeply committed to caring for his beloved wife, Eulaween.

He is survived by his wife; his children, Charles, Diane, Linda, Robert, Marilyn, and Wesley; his siblings, Betty Evanson and Mary Anne Shuler; 24 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Helen Keddington, and his daughter Joan Lee Barney Diver.

Constantine Annest, MD

April 18,1919 - April 22, 2014

Dr. Constantine Annest, a longtime resident of Burley, Idaho, passed away on April 22, 2014, in Jerome, Idaho. He was born April 18, 1919, in Pocatello, Idaho, and raised on a farm in Declo. He attended the University of Utah and earned his medical degree from the University of Louisville in 1943. He was married for 69 years to Ella Mitchell Hagan and was a devoted member and leader in the Burley United Methodist Church for six decades.

After completing his internship and residency in medicine and surgery in Texas, Dr. Annest served as a physician in the U.S. Navy at the Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi. In 1948, he returned to Burley and established a private practice in medicine and surgery, serving the community with dedication for 36 years.

Dr. Annest was known for his deep faith, commitment to his patients, and love of the outdoors. An avid fisherman and hunter, he cherished time spent with family and friends exploring southern Idaho's reservoirs and fields. He also took great pride in landscaping his yard. He is survived by his three sons, seven grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and a brother, and was preceded in death by his wife and close family members.