



## Mr. Berkley Ruiz

February 27, 1927 - February 14, 2015

J. Berkley Ruiz, 1927 to 2015

Berkley Ruiz, 87, passed away February 14, 2015 from natural causes. "Berk" was born and raised in North Carolina but had lived in Winder since 1957. He served in the Navy (WWII, Korean War) and remained in the Naval Reserve until 1976, retiring as Lieutenant Commander. He obtained degrees from Mars Hill Junior College, Clemson University, the University of Georgia, and a specialist degree from Georgia Southern. He taught Industrial Arts for two years in North Carolina then in Georgia from 1957 to 1988, most of those years at Winder-Barrow High School (1957 – 1968, 1976 - 1988). He was instrumental in the formation of the Industrial Arts Club Association in 1962.

Berk was active in the community of Winder. He assisted with Boy Scouts, was a member of the Lion's Club and the Dixie Locksmith Association, he took tickets at high school football and basketball games, and for many years was the only locksmith in town. He was also a licensed ham radio operator for over 40 years. During retirement he started a full-time locksmith business and picked up the art of dowsing (appearing on the show "Liars and Legends"). He was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Winder Ward) and served in various capacities including a 2-year mission to Samoa with his wife Shirley and then as bishop from 1999 to 2004. His religion was an important part of his life and he gave countless hours of service on behalf of others.

Berk met Shirley in 1954 while selling pots and pans door-to-door in North Carolina. They eventually settled in Winder where they both taught high school. All seven of their children attended that same high school. Berk was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years and is survived by their children: Juli, Teresa, Tony, Robby (Genie), Timmy (Ruth Yaneth), John (Darla) and Molly, as well as 12 grand-children, one great-grand-child, and one brother (Robert Ruiz of North Carolina). Berk was a family man who spent summers hauling the kids to different parts of the country and his retirement years enjoying the grandkids. His jokes and hearty laughter and ever-present willingness to help others will be sorely missed by the family and all who associated with him.

Viewings will be held at the Carter Funeral Home on Thursday and Friday, February 19 and 20, from 5pm to 8pm. Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 21 at noon in the LDS chapel (36 Sims Road). A short viewing will be held prior to the funeral from 11:00

to 11:45. Interment will be in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to the Boy Scouts of America.

# Comments

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“ Mr. Ruiz was an inspiration to all that knew him. I worked in the night class program with him and he would always remember to include myself. I shall always remember his kindness and what he shared. His love for others will always be with me. I taught Typing at night!

**Dorothy Teasley - Winder, GA - Coworker** - February 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ We have many fond memories of Bishop Ruiz. He truly lived and enjoyed life. He was great in many ways - a leader, a teacher, a friend, a saint. He was patient, loving and kind. We are so fortunate that we knew him.

Tim & Janelle Ritchie and family

**Tim Ritchie - Kansas City, MO - Friend** - February 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with our dear Berkleys family, children as well as grands!! I've known him since he and Shirley moved in their home on Hamilton having Julie shortly thereafter then Teresa. When they moved to New Street they were so kind to my parents. A valued member of our community will be greatly missed, even his corny jokes!! What a kind caring soul was my friend Mr Berkley Ruiz. He will leave a void in my life and of the lives that he touched. GODS BETTER WORKS WAS BERKLEY RUIZ!!!! My husband , Tommy Dickens and I can't attend the services as we live in Rabun Co and are weathered in by ice/snow. Our prayers are with you all

**Susan Sharpe Dickens - CLARKESVILLE, GA - Friend/ neighbor** - February 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Tony, if you remember me, I went to school with you in Winder and we kind of "dated" "sweet hearted" first years of high school. I just saw the news about your dad and I want to give my condolences. I remember him so well and always thought he was the nicest man around. I lost my dad 27 years ago and no matter the time it's not always easy, but please note to you and your family that you are in my prayers.

**Melissa Nix Fulcher - Bogart, GA - friend** - February 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Leave a condolence or a memory.

**Judy and Garyanna O'day - Jefferson, GA - Friends** - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Papa, you will be gravely missed on this earthly world. And we know how happy and joyous you are with your beloved bride. Bless you for the eternal love and guidance you shared with us and our beautiful Saralyn. She, most of all, will miss your treasured letters, warm hugs and private talks. Thank you for Blessing us and being our loving, benevolent grandfather and great-grandfather. ~ Diane, Saralyn, Michael, James, Christina (Kyle), Ella Isabel, and Jennifer Isabel (in your loving arms)

**Diane Hearon - Richmond Hill, GA - Granddaughter** - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was honored and happy to know Berk. He was always cheerful and had something nice to say. Barrow County has lost one of its finest!

**Bill Allen - Bethlehem, GA** - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ May God Strengthen the family at this time. Mr. Ruiz was a kind friend and respectful. He showed all who met and knew him Love and Concern. May The works he's done speak for him. I taught Typing Through Gwinnett Tech Night Class Class. He was always a caring and devoted friend. May God's Grace be with the family forever.

**Dorothy & Howard Teasley - Winder, GA - Retired Educator & Friend** - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ What a lovely, kind, and funny man. I just can't imagine my high school years and growing up not knowing Berkley. Always smiling and always willing to help. A world of knowledge and always willing to take the time to explain how things worked and give you assistance in anything you need. I don't think there is a sweeter smile and I loved his laugh. He will be missed, but he shaped the lives of many students and adults as well.

**Freida W. Harwell - Winder, GA - Former student** - February 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sending love and many memories of working with Berk at WBHS. He was a kind soul and will long be remembered by those with whom he worked.

**Brenda Arrington Poss - Athens, GA** - February 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM