



Melvin Joseph Bryson Jr.

May 17, 2026

Melvin Joseph Bryson, Jr., 81, of Woodbridge, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 17, 2026, following a short hospital stay. He passed quietly in his sleep after making sure his beloved wife, his two sons, and their families had the chance to be with him and say their goodbyes.

Mel was born on February 10, 1945, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Melvin and Devona Bryson. As a young man, he served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Berlin, Germany. This experience strengthened his faith and set the foundation for a lifetime of service. He remained deeply devoted to his faith throughout his life and served in many callings, including bishop, high counselor, high priests group leader, executive secretary, assistant stake clerk, primary pianist, home teacher, and gospel doctrine teacher.

After returning from his mission, Mel began his college education at the University of Utah, where he earned a degree in accounting. He later attended The George Washington University, where he earned his Juris Doctor. His education reflected both his strong work ethic and his natural curiosity and prepared him for a career defined by integrity, leadership, and meaningful contributions to others.

Mel married the love of his life, Cherry Anderson, in the Salt Lake City Temple.

Together, they shared 58 years of marriage and built a life centered on faith, love, and family. They raised two sons and created a home filled with warmth, laughter, and meaningful traditions. Mel was always there for his family, offering steady support, guidance, and a helping hand whenever it was needed. He was known for his quick wit and playful sense of humor, often lightening the moment with a well-timed joke or a smile that made those around him feel at ease. His quiet reliability, paired with his ability to bring joy and laughter into everyday moments, left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Mel built a distinguished career in federal service. He worked with the Food and Nutrition Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture where he contributed to important national programs, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). He also served in the United States Army Reserve as a commissioned Lieutenant. Later, he served as Assistant Director of the Office of Information Technology at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, where he was widely respected for his leadership, expertise, and dedication.

Mel found great joy in time spent with those he loved. When his sons were younger, he especially enjoyed riding motorcycles with them and creating memories they would carry with them for years to come. He loved spending time at the beach with family and friends, as well as playing golf and tennis. He and Cherry also treasured traveling together, particularly the many cruises they shared, where they could relax, laugh, and simply enjoy being together. These moments reflected what mattered most to him, which was being with his family and making the most of their time together.

Mel is lovingly remembered by his wife, Cherry; his sons, Jonathan (Nicole) Bryson and Jared (Heather) Bryson; his grandchildren, Michael Bryson, Jacqueline Bryson, Christopher Giles, Hannah Giles, and Sy Bryson; and his

sister, Betty Sue (Mac) Linford.

Those who wish may consider a donation to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Humanitarian Aid Fund in lieu of flowers.

<https://donate.churchofjesuschrist.org/contribute/church/humanitarian-services/humanitarian-aid-fund?cde2=475>

Cemetery Details

Bacon Race Cemetery

5213 Davis Ford Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
3718 Old Bridge Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Funeral Service

MAY 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
3718 Old Bridge Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Interment

MAY 28 (ET)

Bacon Race Cemetery
5213 Davis Ford Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Tribute Wall



“ *Mel was a great guy. Even though we only knew him for a short time, he made a lasting impact.... Paul and Tracy Grizzle*

Tracy Grizzle - May 29 at 04:12 PM