



Dr. Stewart "Stu" Elson

December 20, 1943 - December 4, 2013

Dr. Stewart L. Elson

69, of Tucson, AZ, entered into Heaven on December 4, 2013. Stewart was born December 20, 1943 to Stewart B. and Genevieve Elson in Des Moines, Iowa. He moved to Mesa, AZ in '57 and was a '61 graduate of Mesa High School. During his years at California Western University ('66), he found his calling to the ministry. Stewart was accepted to The School of Theology at Claremont and earned his Doctorate of Theology ('71) based on his dissertation, "The Use of Film in the Local Church."

Dr. Elson served at Wesley UMC in San Diego and Imperial Beach UMC. Stewart and Polly were married in November '78. Stewart returned to Arizona ('79), and was appointed to Hope UMC in Bullhead City to build an addition to the sanctuary. He was a volunteer firefighter/chaplain with the local fire department and announced high school sports. He served as Desert Southwest Secretary from '84-94. He served at Cross Roads UMC ('89) in Phoenix. Dr. Elson was appointed to Vista de la Montaña UMC ('92) to build a church on the site of a former Titan Missile Silo he dubbed Missiles to Mission. Stewart finished his ministry after serving 10 years at Willcox UMC ('01) where he facilitated the construction of the Wesleyan Preschool. It was the love and support of his family, dear friends and this congregation and community that got Stewart and Polly through his liver transplant and cancer treatments. Stewart's greatest accomplishment as a Pastor was that he was a Minister to those who were in need.

Stewart is survived by his wife Polly, sons Michael Tackett and Scott (Candace), daughters, Shayla Hiller (Mike) and Lori Crampton (Scott), mother, Genevieve, brothers, Kelly (Mary) and Randy (Arlene), Uncle Hugh (Nadine), Grandchildren Jordan, Taylor, Morgan, Will, Owen, and Tyler. He had countless friends who were like family.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Wesleyan Preschool, Arizona Cancer Center, or your favorite charity in Stewart's name.

A Memorial service will be 1:30 P.M. on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at the Willcox United Methodist Church. .

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Crematory

105 S. Arizona Ave.
Willcox, AZ 85643

Previous Events

Memorial

DEC 7. 1:30 PM (MT)

Willcox United Methodist Church
124 S. Curtis
Willcox, AZ 85643

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Stewart "Stu" Elson*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *Polly you might remember my parents, Sig, and Florence Nilson from Hope United Methodist church in Bullhead City. We just today, learned that Stu had "gone home". We so often remember our times with him. After our service here, our friend flew him to Brea, Calif., in his private airplane, to officiate over my fathers service in Calif. Which was at Inglewood Cemetery. He came to our house, played with our kids, such a nice man. When we were going to fly him home, a storm was brewing, so my Bro-in-law, George Corkhill, drove him back to Bullhead City. Stu was such a very special paster to us and we will never forget him. We send you our sympathy. In memory--Martha and Don Pryor*

Marty Pryor - August 18, 2014 at 04:32 PM



“ *I am so sorry of your loss of Stewart L. I have fond memories when we were kids and our hair cutting get togethers. My thoughts and prayers are with you and all of the family. I was glad to be able to see all of you on Friday.*

Maureen Malinski - December 08, 2013 at 05:32 PM



“ *Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy was purchased for the family of Dr. Stewart "Stu" Elson.*



December 06, 2013 at 07:44 AM



“ *I'm so very sorry for your loss. I'm sure your loved one will be dearly missed. But please know that God is always there when we need him. At Revelation 21:4 God promises to wipe out every tear from their eyes and even death will be no more. I hope that verse brings you and your family some much needed comfort.*

whitney - December 05, 2013 at 09:34 PM



“ *Cat Burglar....Rockfish....Radioactive Rev....we shared many good times during our time together on this earth. We often had philosophical discussions about how we thought the world would or should be; how politics, economics, and spiritual thought molded and created people. I considered you a person to whom I could seek out for advice and to tell me "the facts" when it needed to be done. Most of all I considered you my friend. I will miss you....*

*"Simmy"
Litchfield Park*

Jamie Simms - December 05, 2013 at 05:08 PM

BJ

“ I am deeply saddened to read about Stu's passing. We first met over 30 years ago in Bullhead City and my wife and I enjoyed Stu and Polly's company as good friends. When my wife passed away, Stu presided at the memorial even though we had not seen each other in over 15 years. I remember a kind-hearted friend who will be missed by those who knew him.

*Brian Johnson
Tucson, AZ*

Brian Johnson - December 05, 2013 at 03:17 PM