

William benson
Iron springs elementary
Mrs.carson

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Ancestor Essay

By :William Kenneth Benson

Iron Springs Elementary / Mrs. Carson, 4th Grade

My name is William Kenneth Benson, I have chosen to do my ancestor report on the person who I am named after, my great grandfather, Richard Kenneth Benson. (My Dad is named after him too!)

He was really successful!

He was born in Cedar City, Utah in 1936, and the son and grandson of some of the first Pioneers to settle Iron County.

He grew up working hard on his Fathers Farm, and was six feet, and 6 inches tall in the sixth grade! He went to Cedar High School and played Football, Basketball, Track and Wrestling. He was also known for his very kind ways and his dancing skills!

He was so good at sports, that he was offered a scholarship at CSU (Now SUU) to compete in track and field. While there, he set the national junior College Record for throwing the shot put, and it still stands today! He was also invited to throw the shot put in the olympic trials. He was also so good at Football that he got a scholarship at Utah State University (Now USU) to go and play football there. He did that and took school very seriously and graduated with 2 degrees in teaching, and was also drafted to play in the NFL by the Chicago Bears, and the San Francisco Forty Niners!

He decided to return to Cedar City and teach school instead, because he loved Cedar City, and Teaching.

He taught at Cedar Middle School for a few years, then taught at SUU until he retired.

He was so loved at SUU that they put the most important male scholarship in his name there, and he was inducted to the SUU Hall Of Honor, where his portrait painting hangs in the SUU Gilbert Hall.

He was also given a "key to Cedar City" and May 8th was made "Richard Kenneth Benson Day."

He was a Scoutmaster for over thirty years, and was honored as a "Silver Beaver," the highest honor you can receive in Scouting!

He loved to fish, and hunt, and took a record book Buck in 1968, he also wrote a book on Dutch Oven Cooking, and taught my Grandpa (David "Dude" Benson) and my Dad, (Kenneth Colton Benson) and the rest of our family how to cook, and how to love the outdoors!

My Great Grandpa said that all the awards and honors he got were only because he was very kind, and loved people, and as long as you are kind, love others, and put others first, you will be successful too!