

## *Biography*

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# ABOUT THE GARDNERS

**A**l and Kathleen Gardner reside in Arizona. They are the parents of two children, Robin and Kelli. They have also been blessed with six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Al Gardner was born in Ely, Nevada, and grew up in Lund, a small community established by his pioneer ancestors. Growing up on a ranch led him to study agriculture at the University of Nevada at Reno. At graduation he received a commission in the army and transferred his commission to the air force, where his love for flying overpowered his plans for veterinary school. He became a Top Gun fighter pilot instructor and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters for military service in active conflict.

As branch president of the University of Nevada institute branch in Reno, Al Gardner developed a close friendship with Ted Tuttle, who was serving as the institute director. Al said of his mentor, “I can think of no other individual outside of my own family who has played a more influential role in helping me establish my life’s goals than Elder Ted Tuttle. I consider him my personal mentor and a very dear friend. I am honored to play a small role in bringing his life story to print. I consider Ted Tuttle one of the finest men who ever walked on this earth.”

Al became a flight instructor and then a pilot for United Airlines with most of his flights to the islands of Hawaii. He retired from the air force as a lieutenant colonel and from United as a captain. During his career, Al called upon his ranching background to acquire property. Al played a key role in developing residential and industrial property throughout Arizona. Today he continues his land development hobby but has added a project in Kahuku, Hawaii, to develop homes and industry that will benefit both Brigham Young University–Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center. Al presently serves as chairman of the BYU–Hawaii and Polynesian Cultural Center President’s Leadership Council, where he recruits new members to help fund scholarships for students from the Pacific Rim areas.

Kathleen Gardner shares the chairmanship of the President’s Leadership Council with Al and has had a lifetime of Church service. She has served in all of the auxiliaries, including stake young women president. As a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Kathleen loves spending time with the family. She is a talented interior decorator and loves making home and life beautiful.