



## Elder Hugo Montoya

*First Quorum of the Seventy*

Elder Hugo Montoya was understandably overwhelmed when he was called to the First Quorum of the Seventy. He found comfort in President Thomas S. Monson’s gentle words during a training meeting for new General Authorities: “You are here because you love the Savior.” Elder Montoya felt uplifted, knowing his new calling placed him on the Lord’s errand.

“I love the Savior, and I will go wherever I am asked to go,” he said. “I will do whatever I am asked to do. I will say whatever I am asked to say.” Elder Montoya was sustained during the Saturday afternoon session of the Church’s 185th Annual General Conference.

Elder Montoya also finds strength in his family’s legacy of faith. His great-grandfather Rafael Monroy is a pivotal figure in the history of the Church in Mexico. In 1915 Brother Monroy and a fellow member, Vicente Morales, were arrested by a group of revolutionaries during the Mexican Revolution. Both men were told they would be released if, among other demands, they renounced their religion.

The two refused and were shot to death by firing squad.

Elder Montoya said his great-grandfather’s example remains a powerful influence in his life. “I’ve learned that feelings of fear can be overcome by feelings of faith and testimony when you know you are doing the right things.”

Elder Montoya was born on April 2, 1960, in Fresno, California, to Abel Montoya and Maclovía Monroy. He has lived most of his life in Mexico.

He married María del Carmen Balvastro in Hermosillo; they were sealed in the Mesa Arizona Temple on April 6, 1983. They have five children.

After laboring as a full-time missionary in the Mexico City North Mission from 1979 to 1981, he served as ward Young Men president, high councilor, bishop, stake president, area auditor, and Area Seventy.

He graduated from Sonora State University in 1986 with an agricultural engineering degree and has worked in several management positions with Xerox and as a Church institute teacher. ■



## Elder Vern P. Stanfill

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Elder Vern Perry Stanfill believes there is no such thing as a coincidence. He believes that there are intersections in this life between people for a purpose and that the Lord can inspire His children to be a blessing to others.

Elder Stanfill enjoys ministering to others in the gospel, especially working with people one-on-one.

Born on August 8, 1957, to Jed and Peggy Stanfill, Elder Stanfill grew up on a cattle ranch near Townsend, Montana. He learned the value of hard work and cultivated a testimony of the Savior Jesus Christ. The third of four children, Elder Stanfill has two older brothers and a younger sister who have faithfully served in the Church.

“The hand of the Lord is present in our lives despite our weaknesses,” he said. “My wife and I are not perfect people. We don’t have a perfect family. We are just ordinary people who have tried to live our lives day by day and allow the Lord to be part of it.”

After serving a full-time mission in Toulouse, France, and pursuing a degree in agricultural economics at Brigham Young University, he met and married Alicia Cox. They were married on December 17, 1980, in the Salt Lake Temple.

After graduation, the Stanfills moved back to Montana so he could help manage the family ranch, dealing in cattle, hay, and grain operations. He sold the business in 1998 and began managing a portfolio of real estate and financial instruments, as well as structuring philanthropic and estate matters.

Elder Stanfill has been involved in aviation for both business and pleasure and holds both commercial fixed wing and rotorcraft ratings.

In addition to raising four daughters with his wife, Elder Stanfill had opportunities to serve in the Church as an elders quorum president, bishop, high councilor, stake president, and Area Seventy. He was serving in the Sixth Quorum of the Seventy at the time of his call to the First Quorum. ■