



## Clayton L. Christensen

July 7, 1922 - January 15, 2018

Clayton L. Christensen, age 95, of Storm Lake, Iowa died Monday, January 15, 2018 at the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake.

Funeral services will be held Friday, January 19, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery in Storm Lake. Visitation will take place Thursday, January 18, 2018 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Clayton L. Christensen was born July 7, 1922 in Moorhead, Iowa the son of Tenus and Meddie (Losh) Christensen. Growing up in the Loess Hills with his parents and two sisters he enjoyed the beauty and the seasons that surrounded him.

As a young boy he attended school in Moorhead where at age 16 he graduated from Moorhead High School in a class of 15 students. He worked with his dad on the farm for a couple of years before beginning his education at Wayne State University. His education was interrupted when he enlisted in the United States Air Force where he was a 2nd Lieutenant during World War II. While in the military, Clayton was educated at Carlton College for Meteorology; Yale University for Communications; and Harvard and MIT for

Mass Electronics. He was honorably discharged on March 1, 1946. He then continued his education at Iowa State University where he graduated with a Bachelors' Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1948.

On July 1, 1944 while in the military, Clayton was united in marriage to Helen Emma Rink at Yale University Chapel in New Haven, Connecticut. Together, they were blessed with three daughters: Barbara, Carole, and Diane. They provided a loving and nurturing home for their family.

He worked for IPS (now, Mid American Energy) for 36 years. He began as a district and field engineer in LeMars and Storm Lake and eventually assumed the position of Chief Engineer and Vice President of Engineering at the Sioux City Corporate Office. He retired in 1984 after 36 years. IPS and his career were very important to him and many of his coworkers became lifelong friends.

Following his retirement, he and Helen moved to Ames where he was an Adjunct Professor at ISU teaching electrical engineering courses, and administered research projects and extension courses in power for several years.

In 1985, Clayton and Helen returned to Storm Lake. Helen passed away in early 1988.

On February 11, 1989, Clayton was united in marriage to Helen's widowed sister, Martha Vang Rink. Together they joined their families which included seven daughters (all cousins). They enjoyed nearly 27 years together before her death in 2015.

Clayton was an active member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake from its early beginnings. His faith was very important to him.

Rotary was an important influence on his life. He was honored in 2013 as a 60-year member. He served as president of the Storm Lake Rotary Club, and District Governor in 1970 and 1971. He led groups of Rotarians to both Japan and South Africa. He was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow. He hosted three Rotary exchange students in Storm Lake and Sioux City.

Clayton enjoyed life to its fullest. Everyday was filled with purpose. He enjoyed many hobbies such as photography and developing his own prints. He did matting and framing, stained glass, and wood working. He loved the outdoors, landscaping, and gardening. He was an accomplished skier and travelled extensively in Australia, Japan, and Europe making friends in all areas of the world.

Family was very important to Clayton. His example of a life well lived will always remain with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren and those who knew him. He will be deeply missed.

Those left to cherish his memory include his children: Barbara (Jim) Jorgensen of Storm Lake, Iowa; Dr. Carole (Dan Peters) Christensen of Grand Junction, Colorado; Diane (Don) Bezdicek of Hastings, Minnesota; grandchildren: Jeff (Jordan) Jorgensen of Storm Lake, Iowa; Chris (Stephanie) Jorgensen of West Des Moines, Iowa; Jessica (Kevin) Denton of Eagle, Colorado; Adam (fiancé, Lauren) Bezdicek of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Ryan (Erin) Bezdicek of Goodyear, Arizona; Kelly (Forrest Hoyt) Christensen of Missoula, Montana; great grandchildren: Vivian and June Jorgensen; Jenna and Chloe Jorgensen; Jack Bezdicek; and sister, Norma Jean (Marv) Lauritsen of Woodruff, Wisconsin. In addition, he is survived by Martha's daughters: Linda (Keith) Roles of Apple Valley, Minnesota; Marion (Gary) Graham of Hutchinson, Minnesota; Norma Vang of St. Paul, Minnesota; and

Brenda (Jim Fittz) Vang of Denver, Colorado; Martha's grandchildren: Lisa (Brian) Tonn, Kristi (Joe) Blee, Heather (Rob) Weinmann, Troy (Melanie) Graham, Michael (Tessa) Graham, Christoffer (Sonja) Graham, Ryan (Katie) Bicek, Kevin (Laura) Fittz, Tyler (Tanya) Fittz; twenty great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild; extended family and friends.

Clayton was preceded in death by his parents, Tenus and Meddie Christensen; sister, Frances LaSeur; wives, Helen Christensen and Martha Christensen; and Martha's oldest daughter, Judy Vang.

Memorials may be made to the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center Healthcare Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **18**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

## Service

JAN **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church -- Storm Lake  
1614 West 5th Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
<http://www.stmarkstormlake.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Clayton L. Christensen* ”



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - January 17, 2018 at 06:34 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall* ”



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Homes** - January 18, 2018 at 05:48 PM

PT

“ My sympathy and prayers to all of you. Clayton and Martha were such dears. I always enjoyed working for them! Such characters! One of my favorite stories of your dad was when I was cleaning there one day. There was some stuff on the floor in the bedroom upstairs, which I vacuumed up. Clayton asked me if I saw it, and I said, "Yes, what was that?" He said, "Oh, I needed to get a sample of the shingles." I asked, "Clayton, you didn't go out on the roof did you???" He said, "Well, yes, I needed a sample for the insurance company!" I tattled to Barb, who said, "Oh I don't think he was on the roof. Dad...were you on the roof?" "Well, yes, I needed a sample for the insurance company!" She said, "Dad...you're 90 years old, don't go on the roof." He said, "I'm not 90 yet!" (His birthday was coming up soon). So Barb told him, "Okay, Dad...when you turn 90, no more going on the roof!" I laughed and thought...the things you never think you'll need to tell your 90 year old father!

Clayton and Martha were a joy to work for. They will both be greatly missed. God bless.

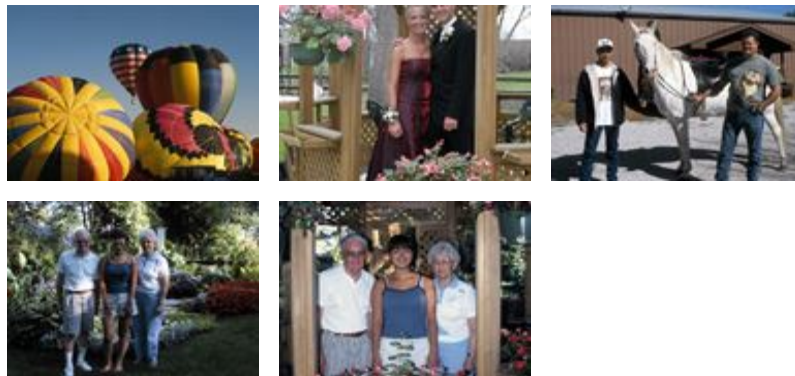
Pam Tidemann

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Pam Tidemann - January 17, 2018 at 05:47 PM



“ 780 files added to the album LifeTributes



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Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 17, 2018 at 04:59 PM



*“ Clayton was a great father-in-law. I learned a healthy spect for him. I knew him as a man that lead by example. He shared his faith with me and his love for Jesus. Clayton, you are missed already. - your son- in-law, Gary*

**gary graham** - January 17, 2018 at 04:21 PM



*“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Clayton L. Christensen.*



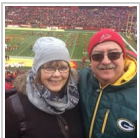
January 17, 2018 at 02:39 PM



*“ Lynn Snyder lit a candle in memory of Clayton L. Christensen*



**Lynn Snyder** - January 17, 2018 at 01:28 PM



*“ Clayton was a pleasure doing business with. I always wanted to hear about his experiences and travels. His South Africa stories were appreciated. A very nice and smart man. May God keep your memories of Clayton for the rest of your years.*

**Erik Mosbo** - January 17, 2018 at 11:36 AM

TF

“ *The Fittz/Vang family purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of Clayton L. Christensen.*



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**The Fittz/Vang family** - January 16, 2018 at 08:26 PM

DS

“ *Deb and Larry Starr purchased the Bountiful European Dish Garden for the family of Clayton L. Christensen.*



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**Deb and Larry Starr** - January 16, 2018 at 07:18 PM

JD

“ *John And Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Clayton L. Christensen*



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**John and Connie Demers** - January 16, 2018 at 06:46 PM

VB

“ We lived on Leona Dr. next to Clayton and Martha for 12 years. We have many fond memories of both of them. Clayton was so knowledgable on many things and was so interesting to visit with. He taught Alan many things about planting and growing a vegetable garden, which Alan uses to this day. We send Clayton's family our thoughts and prayers.....My Clayton R.I.P.

*Al and Vicki Baxter*

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**Vicki Baxter** - January 16, 2018 at 06:09 PM

KA

“ Kate lit a candle in memory of Clayton L. Christensen



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**kate** - January 16, 2018 at 04:37 PM

DM

“ Deb Merten lit a candle in memory of Clayton L. Christensen



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**Deb Merten** - January 16, 2018 at 04:09 PM



“ *Heidi Howard lit a candle in memory of Clayton L. Christensen* ”



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**Heidi Howard** - January 16, 2018 at 08:10 AM