



## Dick Christiansen

April 6, 1931 - September 15, 2016

Dick Christiansen, age 85, of Newell, Iowa died Thursday, September 15, 2016 at the Newell Good Samaritan Society.

Funeral services will be held Monday, September 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Bethel Baptist Church in Newell. Burial will follow in the Newell Cemetery with full military rites by the Newell American Legion. Visitation will take place Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 4-7:00 p.m. at the Bethel Baptist Church in Newell. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Newell is in charge of the arrangements.

Dick was born to Lorenia (Oldham) and Henry (Hank) Christiansen on April 6, 1931. He attended school in Newell and served two tours of duty in the Navy and was a proud member of the SeaBees. Upon returning home, he married Betty Frahm on March 13, 1955 and they farmed together for over 50 years before retiring. Dick and Betty celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary this year. They had three children: Janet (David) Sather of Sartell, Minnesota; Mike (Lisa) Christiansen of Newell, Iowa and Judy (Dean) Funk of Urbandale, Iowa.

Dick never met a person that he couldn't draw into a conversation about his hometown, farming, turkeys, flying his airplane, woodworking, trapshooting, or his passion for rebuilding antique tractors and engines. Always one to be

involved in public service, he was proud to serve with the following organizations: Board of Trustees of the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center (formerly Buena Vista County Hospital) 18 years and as chairman for 16 years; the Buena Vista County Soil Conservation Commission for six years; the Iowa Turkey Federation for 14 years where he held several positions including serving as the Federation's President in 1985; a member of the Iowa Poultry Association for six years and served as the Association's Treasurer and Vice-Chairman. Dick proudly served as a Director on the Citizen's First National Bank Board for over 30 years, just retiring from that position in December of 2015. Dick was also the Mayor of Newell for nine years. As a veteran of the Korean Conflict, he recently participated in the Brushy Creek Honor Flight.

Dick and Betty, along with several other couples, were founding members of the Bethel Baptist Church in 1959. There he served numerous terms as deacon, trustee, moderator and treasurer. Dick loved telling people about the gospel and his faith in Jesus Christ.

Along with his wife and children, Dick is survived by his shining stars – his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His grandchildren include: Nicholas Sather and Christian Sather of Sartell, Minnesota; Jill (Matthew) Johnston, Megan Christiansen and Kate Christiansen of Newell, Iowa; Nathan (Brooke) Funk of Elk River, Minnesota, Betsy (Blake) McKibbin of Houston, Texas and Garrett Funk of Urbandale, Iowa. His great-grandchildren include Violet, Jasper, Weston and Archer Funk of Elk River, Minnesota and Louis and Orlynn McKibbin of Houston, Texas. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and his family-in-love, the entire Kier family.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Lorenia, his parents-in-law, Claus and Anna Frahm, his older brother, Bill; his infant brother who died at birth; as well as several brothers and sisters-in-law.

The entire Christiansen family would like to thank the staff at the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center for the care that they provided to him over the past year. They would also like to thank the staff at the Newell Good Samaritan Society for their loving support, care and kind words over the past two weeks.

# Cemetery Details

**Newell Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

SEP **18.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bethel Baptist Church -- Newell  
313 Highway 7  
Newell, IA 50568  
<http://bethelnewell.org/>

### Service

SEP **19.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Bethel Baptist Church -- Newell  
313 Highway 7  
Newell, IA 50568  
<http://bethelnewell.org/>

### Interment

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

Newell Cemetery

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dick Christiansen*



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - September 18, 2016 at 04:23 PM

SU

“ *Susan sent a virtual gift in memory of Dick Christiansen*



**susan** - March 06, 2017 at 08:07 AM

CS

“ *Charlie "tuna" Schnirring lit a candle in memory of Dick Christiansen*



**Charlie "tuna" Schnirring** - September 20, 2016 at 10:01 PM

CS

“ Charlie "tuna" Schnirring lit a candle in memory of Dick Christiansen



Charlie "tuna" Schnirring - September 20, 2016 at 09:34 PM

JD

“ Thinking of the Christiansen Family. Many fond memories of working with Dick and Mike on the farm and going flying. -Jon Degner

Jon Degner - September 20, 2016 at 08:26 PM

JD

“ Thinking of the Christiansen Family. Many fond memories of working with Dick and Mike on the farm and going flying.

Jon Degner - September 20, 2016 at 08:23 PM



“ Suana Wessendorf lit a candle in memory of Dick Christiansen



Suana Wessendorf - September 20, 2016 at 10:26 AM

MK

“ Condolences to the family and Thanks for a life well lived. M.Kremenak

Martha Kremenak - September 19, 2016 at 03:00 PM

RF

“ So sorry about Dicks passing. I always had great respect for him and I know he was very instrumental in getting my medical career started as an EMT at Buena Vista Hospital. I have many fond memories of visiting Betty and Dick and playing with my cousins during my childhood. My thoughts and prayers to you all. Randy Frahm



Randy Frahm - September 18, 2016 at 04:28 PM

DJ

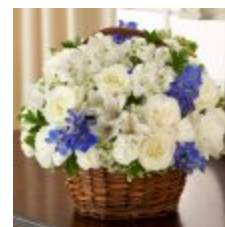
“ Thoughts and prayers are with Dick's family, relatives and friends. I will always remember Dick and Bill coming to BilMar with a load of turkeys and they always had a smile on their faces and liked to tease me.....that's when I worked in the accounting dept. prior to getting married. Prayers and hugs to all. 🙏



Debra (Hirsh) Jacobson - September 18, 2016 at 11:31 AM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Dick Christiansen.



September 18, 2016 at 11:13 AM

MS

“ Our prayers and thoughts to Betty and family on Dick's call Home. God's blessings.  
Marilyn and Randy Schmitt

Marilyn and Randy Schmitt - September 17, 2016 at 05:39 PM



“ *Sincerest Sorrow - All White* was purchased for the family of Dick Christiansen.



September 17, 2016 at 04:33 PM



“ *Heartland Insurance Risk Pool purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White* for the family of Dick Christiansen.



**Heartland Insurance Risk Pool** - September 17, 2016 at 11:35 AM



“ *White Sympathy Baskets* was purchased for the family of Dick Christiansen.



September 17, 2016 at 10:38 AM



“ *Mitch Malcolm Ottertail, Mn purchased the Fields of Europe for Spring* for the family of Dick Christiansen.



**Mitch Malcolm Ottertail, Mn** - September 17, 2016 at 10:19 AM

YF

“ *Your Coborn Cancer Center Family purchased the Love's Embrace Roses – Purple for the family of Dick Christiansen.*



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**Your Coborn Cancer Center Family** - September 16, 2016 at 09:24 PM



“ *Karen Widman lit a candle in memory of Dick Christiansen*



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**Karen Widman** - September 16, 2016 at 06:25 PM

DT

“ *Dan & Pat Torrington lit a candle in memory of Dick Christiansen*



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**Dan & Pat Torrington** - September 16, 2016 at 04:26 PM

CR

“ *Connie Roche lit a candle in memory of Dick Christiansen*



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**Connie Roche** - September 16, 2016 at 03:17 PM

DN

“ *David & Linda Nase lit a candle in memory of Dick Christiansen*



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**David & Linda Nase** - September 16, 2016 at 02:31 PM

SR

“ *Sandy Robinson lit a candle in memory of Dick Christiansen*



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**Sandy Robinson** - September 16, 2016 at 12:08 PM