



## Gary Steven Christen

September 25, 1947 - December 25, 2021

Gary S. Christen, age 74, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away December 25, 2021 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Funeral services will take place Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery in Storm Lake with full Military Rites. Visitation will take place Tuesday, December 28, 2021 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.

Gary Christen was born on September 25, 1947, at the University Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska to Elizabeth Frances Milenski and John August Christen. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Omaha.

He attended school in Omaha and graduated from South High on June 10, 1966. He later attended college in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

He served in the United States Army from 1966-1969. He served in the Vietnam War and earned the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with V, Army Commendation Medal while serving in Vietnam. As a member of the 173rd Air Born Paratrooper, he also earned many other medals and awards. He continued to serve in the United States Army National Guard, retiring in 2007

after completing 36 years.

He enjoyed his family, sports, music, horses and rebuilding old buggy's with his son, Michael.

He was united into marriage with Joan Johnson on July 28, 1979. He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. He has two children, Michael and Christy.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Joan Christen and Pam Campbell; brother, Ricky Campbell and nephew, Michael Campbell.

He is survived by wife Joan Christen of Storm Lake, Iowa; children: Christy (Lance) Fontenot of Omaha, Nebraska; and Michael (Dana) Christen of Storm Lake, Iowa; grandchildren: Alex Case, Cylee Case, Andrew Baker, Lakota Christen, Tucker Christen, Jaxon Case and Jameson Case; sister, Sharon (Bob) Hardy of Omaha, Nebraska; and brother, Dennis (Dori) Campbell of Omaha, Nebraska; nieces and nephews; extended family and many friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery

875 IA-7  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **28**. 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>

## Funeral Service

DEC **29**. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

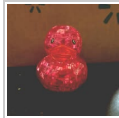
# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Steven Christen*



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - December 26, 2021 at 11:39 PM



*Very beautiful.*

**Laura Stuetelberg** - December 27, 2021 at 08:20 PM

TH

*What a beautiful tribute. I'm so very sorry for you and your families loss. I'm Andrew's boss, Theresa Bashore*

**Theresa** - December 28, 2021 at 01:59 PM

CF

*I love my dad so much. I wanted to be there for the funeral so bad. 😞. However, after saying my goodbye's to him Christmas Day, I caught his COVID. I've been watching all these beautiful films and reading everyone's responses.*

*Yes, Mom did a beautiful job thank you so much.*

*Dad wanted me to quit smoking. Well, you did it dad .. I quit. I love you so much. I had so much to tell you. Fly away, be healthy.. your my hero. Love your daughter, Christy*

**Christy Fontenot** - January 03, 2022 at 04:00 PM

JO

“ Gary was a true friend. I was privileged to have known him and have him as a friend. Eternal rest rest grant unto him oh God, and let the everlasting light shine upon him.

Jane O'Brien - January 04, 2022 at 07:04 PM

LE

“ Thank you Uncle Gary for ironing my Campfire Bluebird uniform for me after you came home wounded from Vietnam. I was a little intimidated by you when I was in the first grade but after you ironed my uniform like it was one of your Army Uniforms, I was always proud of you. May perpetual light shine upon you!

Laura Ekstrand - December 28, 2021 at 07:19 PM

CF

That's so sweet. I'm his daughter. Dad looked like a monster, sounded like a monster.. especially when he's mad.. but he had a soft side for little kids. 😊

Christy Fontenot - January 03, 2022 at 04:05 PM

CC

“ I love you grandpa!



cylee case - December 28, 2021 at 05:11 PM

BM

“ *Ben And Judy Malcom lit a candle in memory of Gary Steven Christen*



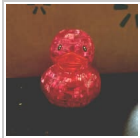
Ben and Judy Malcom - December 28, 2021 at 12:03 PM

SM

“ *To the family of Gary Christen may he rest in peace since his pain is gone. I worked with while we both worked at IBP/Tyson. RiP Gary*



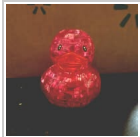
Sue Mason - milford,iowa - December 28, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Laura Stuetelberg - December 27, 2021 at 08:27 PM



“ *Laura Stuetelberg lit a candle in memory of Gary Steven Christen*



Laura Stuetelberg - December 27, 2021 at 08:22 PM

KH

“ I am so very very sorry for Your loss. Gary was a great neighbor, friend, dad, husband and grandpa. My prayers are with all of you and will continue to be— God keep you in His care- Kathy Hansen

Kathy Hansen - December 27, 2021 at 05:14 PM

DS

“ Sorry for your loss. I had the privilege to serve with Gary in the local National Guard Unit. Gary always had the highest standards and was a real professional soldier. He will be missed but never forgotten. His service in the 173rd will never be forgotten, God Bless

David A. Schwint - December 27, 2021 at 01:52 PM

CF

Thank you so much. Yes he carried those morals to me, I'm his daughter. I'm proud my dad raised me, he taught self preservation, motivation, determination, never quit, believe in yourself, he would never let me half ass anything. Do it right the first time.

Christy Fontenot - January 03, 2022 at 04:09 PM

PN

“ Paulette & Coby Newbold purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Steven Christen.



Paulette & Coby Newbold - December 27, 2021 at 01:44 PM

KS

“ This saddens all hearts who knew Gary and our prayers of sympathy and comfort to you Joan and your family. God only takes the Best!

Ken and Janet Strouse - December 27, 2021 at 11:53 AM

MM

“ *Mona Mason lit a candle in memory of Gary Steven Christen*



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**Mona Mason** - December 27, 2021 at 10:52 AM

SM

“ *So sorry for your loss I always enjoyed Gary's humor. R.I.P Gary*



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**Steph/Sharon Mickelson** - December 27, 2021 at 09:49 AM

CD

“ *Cheryl & Dave DeMan lit a candle in memory of Gary Steven Christen*



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**Cheryl & Dave DeMan** - December 27, 2021 at 08:38 AM



“ 106 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - December 26, 2021 at 11:15 PM

CR

“ *Connie Roche lit a candle in memory of Gary Steven Christen*



**connie roche** - December 26, 2021 at 09:50 PM

KB

“ *Condolences to Gary's family.  
He was a great co-worker and friend.  
Thoughts and prayers to Joan and the kids from Keith and Lorie Bennigsdorf*

**Keith Bennigsdorf** - December 26, 2021 at 09:09 PM