

CHRISTENSEN, Warren T. "Chris"

September 17, 1926

Irene

August 13, 2015

Utah



Warren Christensen, 88, died August 13, 2015 in Utah. Services were held August 22, 2015 at Fraternal Burial Association, Viborg with Pastor Steve Unzicker Officiating. Interment: Turkey Valley Baptist Cemetery, Irene.

Warren Christensen's grandparents the Thompsen's and Christensen's were pioneers who migrated from Denmark to the Dakota territories in the 1870's/80's where they homesteaded, broke up the prairie with a plow and a team of oxen, and lived in sod houses. They were farmers, and the farming

two years on T2 tankers—completing multiple ocean crossings to Europe. It was during this time that he developed his love, respect and awe of the ocean—something he would eventually pass on to his children. He left in 1947 as a Lt. in the Naval Reserve. At this time he entered college in a pre-med course and received a BS degree. He then entered the army, serving 16 months on the line in Korea, first in an artillery unit, then later as a surgical tech in a MASH unit.

Following his time in Korea, Warren entered the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in 1955 and graduated in 1959, and completed 1 ½ years of externship and internship in 1960. Warren married Janice Murphy in 1961. They moved to California where Warren passed his medical exam, and became an MD. They settled in California—first in San Jose and then later in Monte Sereno. They had four children—Dana, Julie, Eric and Marcus. Warren built a successful medical practice in San Jose, and he loved practicing general medicine. His children have fond memories of going with him to the hospital and on house calls to visit his patients. His patients always spoke lovingly of Dr Christensen.

Warren loved to learn—he was an avid reader; he loved walks along the ocean and the sound of the waves at night; the beauty of creation, and a love of

dents of the area that had been destroyed by the earthquake.

Warren also had a wonderfully dry sense of humor that made you look at him sideways to figure out if he was being serious or just pulling your leg. He was very witty—we'll miss that sly sense of humor and his laugh, and we look forward to hearing it again someday.

Warren is survived by his older brother Merle and sister Lois, his children Dana, Julie (Paul), Eric (Lori), and Marcus (Jessica), his three grandsons Ryan, Owen and Andrew; his niece Lynn and her children Katie and Donald, nephew Spike and his son Erik, and nephew Don. His wish was to be buried in Viborg, South Dakota with his mom Rosa, who he loved so very much.

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tradition continued with Warren's parents Arthur and Rosa Christensen. Warren (Chris) Thomas Christensen was born on September 17, 1926 to Arthur and Rosa Christensen in Irene, South Dakota on the family farm that Arthur Christensen had purchased. Warren was the youngest of 3 children—and he looked up to and loved his older brother Merle, and older sister Lois.

Sadly, Arthur passed in 1927 when Warren was 1 years old, and at this point Rosa moved the family from the farm in Irene to Viborg, South Dakota. The family then lived on 30 acres one mile south of Viborg.

Warren had childhood memories of the drought, dust storms, and grasshopper invasions that hit the mid west as well as the depression of the 30's. During this difficult time, he determined that being a farmer was not the life for him. He entered high school where he was noticed for his size, his athletic abilities, and his overall academic excellence. Growing up, Warren considered his older brother Merle to be his hero. In high school, his greatest desire was to follow in his brother's footsteps and enter into the naval air corps., hoping to eventually get into commercial aviation. Astigmatism prevented that.

Warren loved America, and served his country in WWII and Korea. In 1944 he applied for the US Maritime academy and was accepted in 1945. He sailed for

travel. He passed these qualities on to his children with frequent trips to Carmel, Maui, and Yosemite. He was determined that his children would see the country that he loved so much—and was able to share some of the most beautiful places in the world with his family during multiple cross country trips in the family motor home. He spent many tireless days attending AYSO soccer, little league baseball and football games with his children. He loved playing catch with his kids and telling stories about his time playing high school football. Some of his happiest times were simply taking walks or road trips with them. He always loved a good meal, and loved sharing meals at great restaurants with his friends and family. He was also an avid 49ers fan and loved watching games with his sons.

Warren also had a compassionate heart for people in need and was active in community service. In 1975 he volunteered for the last baby airlift out of Vietnam during the fall of Saigon. Dana has fond memories of volunteering with her Dad, helping at Los Gatos Christian church during the time that refugees were staying at the church. He also volunteered as camp doctor at the Young Life camps Malibu and Woodleaf. He was on the first Salvation Army plane into Mexico City after the earthquake, and helped convert a chapel into an emergency clinic—providing medical care to resi-