



## Ned Jay Christensen

June 23, 1929 - December 5, 2017

Ned Jay Christensen, 88, died on Dec. 5, 2017 in Springville UT, of causes incident to aging.

He was born June 23, 1929 in Clarkston, UT.

Ned graduated from North Cache High School in 1947, and from Brigham Young University with a BA in 1954 and a MA in 1955. He received a PhD in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Penn State University in 1959.

He served in the U.S. Army as a Clinical Psychologist from 1951 to 1953. He was on the faculty at West Virginia University from 1959-1962. Ned and June moved their family to Eugene, Oregon in 1962 and Ned began his work on the faculty at the University of Oregon, where he was head of the Communication Disorders and Sciences Program, retiring in 1995.

Ned has been honored by the Oregon Speech-Language-Hearing Association and served twice as President. He was named a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

He served in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in many capacities. He was Bishop of the University Ward in Eugene for fifteen years and he was President of the Eugene Stake for nine years.

His interests were running, carpentry, gardening, crossword puzzles, reading, aerobic swimming, attending high school athletic events, and most of all, faith and family.

Ned was preceded in death by his son Todd Christensen, and fourteen brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, June Lee Christensen, his brother Leslie (Gae) Christensen; his sons Merrill (Diane) Christensen and Kelly (Marlayna) Christensen, daughter-in-law Kathy Christensen, twelve grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, December 9th at 3:00 pm at the LDS Chapel Ridge Building, 11473 South Chapel View Drive, South Jordan, Utah, where a Visitation will be held prior to services from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Graveside Services and Interment in Richmond City Cemetery, 325 North 200 East, Richmond, Utah, on Monday, December 11th at 12:00 Noon.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

# Cemetery

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## Richmond City Cemetery

325 North 200 East  
Richmond, UT, 84333

# Events

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**DEC** **Viewing** 01:30PM - 02:30PM

**9**

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Chapel Ridge LDS Chapel  
11473 S. Chapel View Drive, South Jordan, UT, US,  
84095

**DEC** **Funeral Service** 03:00PM

**9**

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Chapel Ridge LDS Chapel  
11473 S. Chapel View Drive, South Jordan, UT, US,  
84095

**DEC** **Graveside Service** 12:00PM

**11**

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Richmond City Cemetery  
325 North 200 East, Richmond, UT, US, 84333

# Comments

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“ Dear June, it has been a long time since we have seen or heard from you. For some years after we left Ft. Knox, we sent cards and received them from you and Ned, but with all the Army transfers we eventually lost contact, for which I felt bad. Thus, when we read of Ned's passing in the Provo Herald Obits, it was sad indeed. I will always remember the time you were living in that small apartment in West Point, Kentucky, while Ned was stationed in Ft. Knox, and I was a very green Second Lieutenant. Ned was super prepared for the arrival of your first baby (I think it was Todd) with a suit case always in the trunk of your car, which was parked ready to roll at a moment's notice, but that baby just was in no hurry to arrive, and it took about three weeks as I recall before he finally signalled his imminent arrival. On a Sunday morning Ned stopped by my B.O.Q. room and casually noted that you were in the hospital, and that if I wanted to help him pace around in the hospital, I was welcome to do so. Short as was our time together, I have always admired and loved Ned.

Sad as we were to hear that Ned had returned to his Father in Heaven, we were sure that you could handle the departure knowing that it would be only a short time until you could be together again. Still, we send our love and condolences, because no matter how strong our testimonies of the Lord's Plan of Happiness, it is always a wrenching time for the partner left behind. Lyn, my wife, didn't know Ned as well as I, because we were not married until I returned from Korea in 1953, but she has heard me talk of my great respect for him, and of course for you as well. I hope we can renew our long-dormant association soon. I retired from the Army in 1975 and since then a lot of water has gone under the bridge, much of it finding us filling missions in South America. Of the five children we had, one has preceded Ned in returning to "that God who gave him life", but the others with a large number of grand children are mostly here in Utah Valley. We live in a condo in Central Orem . P.O. Box 306, Orem, UT. 84059, is our mailing address, although the condo unit is located at 326 West 240 North. Our email address is scottandlyn@hotmail.com and our telephone is 801-434-9476 should you be inclined to call or visit, and either would be most welcome. And, if you would notify us of your present location etc., we would love to visit you to better express our sympathy and regard for you and your family and to catch up on over 50 years of history.

Sincerely, Scott (Tom) Lyman and Lyn

Scott and Lyn Lyman - December 13, 2017 at 09:32 AM

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Dear Christensen Family,

We, Bill and Vesta Turner, want to express our condolences on the passing of Ned, your husband, father and grandfather. We have very fond memories of Ned and the profound effect he had on our lives. He was our Stake President for many years, and our friend for even more years. We moved to Springfield two years after Ned and June moved to Eugene. Bill remembers helping to build the President Street chapel when all of the men, plumbers, professors, doctors, ditch diggers, it didn't matter, you were all in the mud together and went there after work. The women would bring your dinner so you could work until dark. Bill knew Ned from that experience and from Stake priesthood meetings.

Vesta knew him as her unofficial adviser and friend, when he was a professor and she was a student at the University of Oregon. He was always willing to advise her, even though she wasn't in his department. He was also the Bishop of the University Ward during those years. We were married and had two children by then, so attended a regular ward, but Ned was still there for us.

Our two daughters, Michele and Lori were about the same age as Ned and June's children. Especially, Todd was their age. They were never in the same ward, but knew each other because of stake functions, road shows, basketball games, dances, etc.

Vesta and June knew each other from Stake Relief Society and later they taught Early Morning Seminary at the same time and became even better acquainted. Just before we moved to Utah and away from Oregon, we were in the same ward and got to know Ned and June even better. We were able to visit with Ned and June at Todd's funeral and wish we could have been there at Ned's, but we don't go very far from home anymore.

We are grateful that we knew Ned. He was always a good influence in our lives. He was a kind and gentle man. He always had time to talk to you, to listen to you, and to help you figure out a solution to your concern. I distinctly remember that he asked me questions and helped me figure out the solution rather than tell me what it was.

**Bill and Vesta Turner** - December 12, 2017 at 09:19 PM

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“ Bishop Christensen was both my Bishop as a new convert and later the Head of the U of O Speech-Language department from which I graduated. As Bishop he made sure I was cared for as a new 17 year old convert in a robust university ward in 1971. Within a year he would also help me through the death of my only sibling through spiritual advise, support and openness. As a Bishop he was kind, sensitive, honest and a wonderful example. He was also strict in teaching and exemplifying the principles of the gospel which for a new 17 year old convert has been an anchor in the development of my own testimony and I believe the testimonies of so many others from the University Ward. As the head of a university department, his door was always open, he was always willing to provide sound advice and help in developing the course of study, he was always available for simple spiritual chats in a very secular environment and I felt he was a mentor and a friend. He will be missed. June, Merrill, Todd and Kelly graciously shared Ned with those of us at the University Ward for so many years. Y'all influenced mine and so many others' lives. I will always be grateful for his wisdom, kindness, concern and mentorship. There are so many conversations I recall that have impacted my life. I have no doubt that he is already busy on the other side of the veil along with Todd. As the sole member in my entire family, my hope is they may be taking the gospel to my ancestors. My thoughts go to June, Merrill and Kelly and their respective families.

Barbara Harden

Barbara Harden - December 09, 2017 at 03:13 PM

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“ My name is Jay Nylander. I was a member of the student ward at the University of Oregon from 1970-1973. I had just returned from VietNam where I had joined the church. Bishop Christensen was a very kind and loving man who helped me settle into a new environment and church membership. His guidance was critical in directing me on my career path in dentistry. I will always remember him.

Jay E Nylander - December 09, 2017 at 12:44 PM

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“ I am Elma Christensen Petersens' youngest daughter, Marie. My Mom is the oldest of this Christensen family. I know how she loved all of her brothers and sisters. I am so grateful to belong to this wonderful family. We send our love to June and all of Neds family. Marie Petersen Bywater

Marie Bywater - December 08, 2017 at 05:48 PM

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“ Kelly and Marlayna

I am so sorry to learn of the passing of your father and father in law. May God bless you with comfort at this time of deep loss. Cherlynn Thomas

Cherlynn Thomas - December 07, 2017 at 07:20 PM

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“ Notice Of Dr. Christensen's passing brought back warm memories of his time at the University of Oregon. What a kind and encouraging man he was! I was an uncertain middle aged student re-entering the speech program to upgrade my skills, and had the good fortune to get some advice and direction from him. He treated me as a colleague and showed genuine interest in my career decisions. He had a large part in my success, and I suspect in the success of any other students who were fortunate enough to have him as an advisor.

Lynn Elliott  
Eugene, Oregon

Lynn Elliott - December 07, 2017 at 06:38 PM

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“ Dear June,

How many precious memories we have of you and Ned. From 1964 through now, you have both been mentors and such great examples to us of how to live the gospel. It is easy to remember how Ned had so much wisdom, and would impart it to us in such a way that we could remember it always. I remember him telling us about being busy as a student, as a parent, as a leader....that we would always be busy, so prioritize. I remember how he honored his mother's daily pastime of reading, even with so many children. Ross remembers his marital advice to never compare your spouse to someone else. (I am thankful for that advice.) You have been role models of family life to so many of us who started out as single students, but now are retired grandparents. We hope you realize the influence you have both had on our families, even to the second and third generations.

We love you and pray for your family at this tender time.

Ross and Duretta Christensen

Ross and Duretta Christensen - December 07, 2017 at 05:58 PM

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“ Dear June, Merrill, Kelly and Family,

Thank you for sharing The Bishop with us at the University Ward in Eugene. He is the wisest, kindest man one could hope to know on this earth. As a family, you all have blessed so many lives, you can not know. Our love and condolences, till we meet again.

Linda McElroy Rich

**Linda McElroy Rich** - December 07, 2017 at 05:47 PM

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“ Dearest June, Merrill, and Kelly,  
We are saddened to hear of Ned's passing.....but we know that he is having a wonderful reunion with Todd, and with his parents, siblings, and friends. We have no doubt that Ralph and Helen Lake will be right there, working their way to the front of the line to express their welcome and love. We send our love to you and pray that you may be comforted at this tender time.  
Wish we knew how to reach you more personally.  
We love you,  
Conrad and Carolyn Schultz

**Con & Carolyn Schultz** - December 07, 2017 at 12:50 PM



“ Aunt June and cousins, so thankful I had the opportunity to visit with Aunt June and Uncle Ned this summer...it was so touching to see them lying in bed together, after I told him I was Bill's kid, he wept, as did I. The family connection was incredible it was very emotional to give Uncle Ned a hug and kiss, he didn't want to let go. My deepest love and sympathy.  
Gay Christensen Larson. Bill's kid.

**Gay Larson** - December 07, 2017 at 10:49 PM



“ Every now and then, when I wander the chambers of my memory, I happen upon my friends and teachers, Ned and June Christensen, whose joyful spirits enlightened me and taught me of love and warmth. The loss of a mortal friend makes me sad, but I take comfort in the belief that Heaven has reclaimed him and cherishes him. Thank you for all your kindness.

Christy G. Tengan

**Christy Tengan** - December 08, 2017 at 01:22 PM



“ Dear Sister Christensen and Family,  
I am so sorry to hear of Ned's passing. He was an exemplary wise and kind man. It has been a blessing for me to have been friends with you and Ned for many years, and I miss that. It was always a pleasure to visit in your home or to savor the Christ-like love like so many others felt in your present. I know what pain you are feeling right now missing him so. But you, like I, have the blessed assurance of eternity and of being together again forever. I pray Heavenly Father's assurances will see you through this difficult portion of that eternal journey. My love to you and your family.

Dan Cragun

**Dan Cragun** - December 08, 2017 at 02:18 PM



“ What an honor to know this precious man, and what an honor to see so much of him his last year. We love Ned and June, and their sons and families. It was heartwarming every time we welcomed Ned's wonderful smile and sweet countenance, and know that the memories will always be welcome, long and heartfelt. Prayers and love to June, Kelly and Merrill.

Sally and Bob Asay

**Sally Asay** - December 09, 2017 at 02:18 AM



“ Dear dear June,  
Tenderest love to you and family. When I met you and the Bishop in 1971 I was a new student at the University and a new convert at the University Ward. As the father of that remarkable place, Bishop taught and counseled, warned and blessed me He carefully showed me the path to understand what I had found in embracing the Gospel of Christ and how essential it is to look to the Savior in all things and all times. Elder Edvalson and I are now serving a mission at the University of Leeds England Institute of Religion. I think of the Bishop all the time thanking you and your family for the example they were and are to so many.

Sister Dana Edvalson. (Dana Trusty)

**Dana Edvalson** - December 09, 2017 at 05:31 AM



“ Dear June,  
My heart overflows as I think of my time in Eugene at the U of O and the University Ward with you and the Bishop and my fellow University Ward members. I feel so blessed to have served with the Bishop and to have you and him be a part of my life and to have been so good to me. Ned and June, I love you.

Larry Smoot

**Larry Smoot** - December 12, 2017 at 04:55 PM



“ Sadly, I have learned of the passing of Professor Ned J. Christensen on December 5, 2017. Ned, or “Dr. C” as he was warmly known to generations of students, served as Director of the University of Oregon Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS) Program for more than 30 years (1962-1994).

Always a kind, caring, and insightful teacher, adviser, and colleague, Ned was instrumental in securing the original \$10 million gift to the university that enabled it to build the “state of the art” HEDCO building on campus, where the CDS program is currently housed.

Back in 1982, fresh with a new PhD in hand, I joined Ned and one other full time faculty member to teach, supervise, and advise scores of undergraduate and graduate students in the program. The three of us worked diligently to ensure that students received the best possible course work and practicum experiences to meet national requirements for becoming a speech-language pathologist. Gradually, we hired more faculty and supervisors, and the CDS program has since grown substantially.

It is with respect, gratitude, and humility that I acknowledge how Ned’s energy and wisdom were the driving force behind many of the positive changes that we in the CDS program enjoy today.

Marilyn A. Nippold, PhD, CCC-SLP

Professor

Communication Disorders and Sciences Program

University of Oregon

Eugene, Oregon

**Marilyn Nippold** - December 13, 2017 at 04:16 PM