

peacefully into his eternal life on July 28, 2010, at CO, following a brief battle with cancer.

Dane and Mildred "Millie" Christensen in Green Bay, WI, Dane attended elementary school in Whitewood, SD, where he loved playing basketball with his brother as a teammate and his dad as a coach. Dane graduated from Sturgis High School in 1966. Following his graduation from high school, he attended and graduated from Black Hills State College.

Dane lived in several places including Whitewood, Spearfish, Detroit, Denver, Houston, and Sun City. He also held a variety of jobs including working summers during college for Homestake Mining Company, and commercial salmon fishing in Alaska. He spent time with his brothers in Detroit working, coaching, and attending school. Other jobs included being a pharmaceutical salesman, and selling Sports Courts in Houston. Eventually, though, Dane found the career that most suited his compassionate, patient, and outgoing personality—teaching and coaching. Dane taught middle school math for many years in Sturgis, SD. Following his teaching years in Sturgis, Dane moved with his then wife, Barb Aker, to Denver, CO, where he continued his successful teaching and coaching careers. He taught in both Evergreen and Denver, CO, and was a great role model for his students as he demonstrated a love of learning and the art of patience. Dane's patience allowed him to work diligently with a student until he or she "got" it. He brought an enthusiastic spirit to his classroom, along with his wonderful sense of humor. In addition to the difference he made for children in the classroom, Dane was also recognized for his great coaching abilities. He loved competition, but always taught sportsmanship. He had a natural ability to expect and get 100% effort from his athletes. He was often fondly referred to as "Mr. C."

Dane retired from teaching in 2002, and fully enjoyed his retirement years. Dane would spend winters in Sun City and summers in Whitewood. He loved to play cards and golf, and he pursued both with zest following his retirement. His love of cards and golf allowed him to make and cherish many new friendships both in South Dakota and Arizona.

Faith, family, and friends were what mattered most to Dane. God was Dane's constant source of strength. His steadfast and strong faith allowed him to accept his diagnosis and ultimate death with unwavering confidence that he would have eternal life. Always able to bring out the best in people, Dane will most be remembered for his quick wit, his infectious smile, his beautiful blue eyes, his funny stories and his compassionate, generous soul. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Dane will especially be missed by family members left to grieve his absence including his mother, Mildred of Spearfish, SD; and brothers, Craig (Kaye) of Denver, CO, Steve (Mary) of Spearfish, and Tod of Sedona, AZ; and his sister, Marjo (Pat) Peters of Spearfish. Dane's nieces and nephews including Shaun and Derek (Craig's sons), Danielle and Kelly (Matt Millette) (Steve's daughters) as well as Shane (Stephanie), Summer, Slade, Kaya, and Cade Larscheid (Mary's children and grandchildren), Larissa (Josh Luther), Travis, and Tyler (Marjo's children) and Jake, Clay, and Kalei (Tod's children) will also greatly miss their awesome Uncle Dane. Two great-nieces, Hallie and Marrie Luther also survive Dane. Grateful for sharing his life and love is Dane's special friend, Janet Estep.

Family members already waiting for him when he arrived in Heaven include his paternal grandparents, Frank and Ethel Christensen; maternal grandparents, Karl and Christina Heimbuch; his father, Marvin Christensen; an infant sister, Mary Margaret; and an infant great-niece, Esther Grace Luther.

A memorial has been established to the Whitewood Presbyterian Church.

## A Life Remembered



Dane Christensen

May 29, 1948

July 28, 2010



### I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has laid you  
see.

I took His hand when I heard His call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found the peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joys - -  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's  
touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief - -  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee - -  
God wanted me now: He set me free.



### *In Loving Memory Of*

## Dane Oliver Christensen

### ***Born***

May 29, 1948  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

### ***Died***

July 28, 2010  
Denver, Colorado

### ***Prayer Service***

Tuesday, August 3, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.  
Whitewood Presbyterian Church

### ***Funeral Service***

Wednesday, August 4, 2010, at 10:30 a.m.  
Whitewood Presbyterian Church

### ***Officiating***

Pastor Steve Agan

### ***Musical Selections***

"I Must Prepare My Heart To Break"  
"Love Lifted Me"  
"I Know Who Holds Tomorrow"

### ***Pallbearers***

Randy Bush ~ George Dahl ~ Lyle Collins  
Jim Gehner ~ Doug Stanford ~ Dan Morris

### ***Interment***

Rose Hill Cemetery  
Spearfish, South Dakota

*The Family Extends An Invitation To Join Them For Fellowship And Refreshments  
At Hale Hall In Whitewood Following The Committal Service.*