



Ted Vance Christensen

January 23, 2024

Ted Vance Christensen, 89, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 23rd at his home in Royal City, surrounded by his family. Ted was a humble, generous, industrious man of faith who dedicated his life to making the world a better place through the many acts of service he provided to his family, neighbors, friends and community.

Ted was born in Ellensburg, Washington on August 28, 1934, to LeRoy and Lucy Fay Christensen. He was the fourth of what would eventually be five children in the family. He had an adventurous childhood on their family farm in Kittitas where he learned the value of hard work and good rambunctious fun. When he was just 14 years old his father died, leaving the young Christensen brothers in charge of their family farm. Ted attended Kittitas High School where he excelled at many sports, but especially loved basketball. He graduated in 1952 and soon after married his childhood friend, turned sweetheart, Norma Jean Jensen on September 26th, 1953. They were later sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple.

Ted's adventurous pioneering spirit brought him and Jean, along with his brothers Jay, Dee and Bob, to the Royal Slope in 1955, and they never looked back.

Ted was very invested in the small Royal community that he loved with all his heart. He always enjoyed a good project and considered them his hobby, which he said, "was better than sitting around doing jigsaw puzzles". He voluntarily oversaw many school and community projects including the RHS

softball/baseball complex, the football field and track, the stadium tower, the weight room, City Hall renovation and park pavilion addition, along with the Royal LDS meetinghouse and seminary building, just to mention a few. When he signed on to a project, others willingly jumped on board and together they accomplished great things. Even in his retirement years, Ted could outwork just about anyone.

He took great pride in beautifying his yard and the petunias he grew from seed were the envy of many.

As a dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ted was a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ throughout his life. He served as a member of the Stake High Council and later as Bishop of the Royal 2nd Ward. Much of his church service focused on the youth where he was a trusted and beloved mentor and leader to many. He and Jean served a two-year mission at Ensign Ranch with their good friends Mitt and Dorothy Robbins. It was one of the highlights of their retirement years.

The focus of Ted and Jean's 70 years together has been their six children and spouses, along with their 29 grandchildren and 76 great grandchildren.

Together they created a legacy of service, commitment and love. Each member of their posterity has cherished memories of fishing trips with plenty of snacks ending at DK's Diner, swimming in the pools he built for them in the back yard, and 4th of July celebrations with homemade root beer and a fireworks display to rival any city. Whatever the grandkids were involved in, he showed up to, especially if it was a Royal Knight sporting event. He was rarely seen without his Royal Knight cap and was arguably their biggest fan. He and Jean ran the clock for many seasons of Royal Knight Football.

Ted is survived by his wife Jean; children, Karen (Ken) Garner, Joseph (Rose) Christensen, Kelly Albertson, Peter (Melanie) Christensen, Michael (Lisa) Christensen, Ryan (Sabrina) Christensen, 29 Grandchildren and 76 Great Grandchildren; Brother, Robert (Joanne) Christensen. He was preceded in death by his parents; Siblings, Jay (Erma) Christensen, Dee Christensen and Joyce (William) Wright; grandson, Dustin

Ryan Christensen and great granddaughter, Rosie Sabrina Kay.

Funeral services will be held Friday, February 2nd at 11:00 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 357 Christensen Rd., Royal City. Visitation will be held Thursday, February 1st from 5:00-7:00 pm at Kayser's Chapel of Memories, Moses Lake and Friday at 10:00 in Royal City, just prior to the funeral services.

To join the service virtually, please visit the link below.

<https://zoom.us/j/93767471878?pwd=UGhzSXVZK3RybmpUK282T3IIOODJSUT09>

Cemetery Details

Royal Memorial Gardens

900 Apple Ave NE
Royal City, WA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories
831 S. Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA

Visitation

FEB 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Royal Camp Chapel
357 Christensen Road Royal Camp
Othello, WA


Service

FEB 2. 11:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Royal Camp Chapel
357 Christensen Road Royal Camp
Othello, WA

Tribute Wall

KJ

“ I have many memories of Ted. I grew up making trips down to Washington to visit Ted and Jean. That meant to me hanging out in the pool Ted had built, or it meant having a party in the dollhouse, or it meant watching Ted serve and helping out others. Ted took me (and my family) on my first ever fishing trip. He showed me the importance of having patience and understanding the importance of waiting. Ted was always finding ways to serve and it was a huge example to me. Ted always made me smile and he showed me what it meant to be a hard worker. I forever love you Ted! I'm also sending my condolences to family and friends! 

Kaylee Jensen - February 03, 2024 at 10:51 PM

DK

“ I remember the first time I saw Ted. We had just moved to Othello and our Stake was just starting to play slow pitch soft ball. The first game that I played in was against Royal and I was watching them warmup. Ted was playing Shortstop and as I watched him I said to myself, 'Now there's a real ball player'.

Dennis Killian - January 27, 2024 at 05:31 PM

BG

Ted was a friend to many! He was my friend and my hero as I grew up at Royal Slope. He helped make it fun for the youth and always had fun things for us to do. Many times I would work on his farm to earn money. He was so kind and very patient with all of us. When I graduated from high school, he and Bob offered to sign for a loan for me to go on to college. At that time, my mother got sick and Dad was trying to farm and raise 6 kids and could not afford to send me. Once I finished school, I paid back the loan. I have used That education to help me get work throughout my life. Ted remained a friend to the Herrud family throughout our lives and we considered him family. We will miss you Ted but we know that we will see you soon. We love you!!


Bev Garvey - January 31, 2024 at 02:51 PM

RC

“ 3 files added to the album Ted Vance Christensen




Ryan Christensen - January 27, 2024 at 04:41 PM

 Karen Lasen

“ John and I moved to Royal City in 1995. I don't think there was a single place or sporting event that we attended that hadn't been touched by Ted's hand. My earliest memories as a cheer coach at Royal HS centered on his service projects. If it needed doing Ted could do it and do it right. The gym floor, the fields and finally the work to make the FB field turf. He even put up with my cheerleaders and I trying to 'help' dig out the field. We weren't at all good at it, but he was encouraging and supportive. His support of the sports teams in the district was truly inspirational. And it didn't stop at the school district. His work on City Hall was beautifully done and still looks great years later. His memory is a blessing to so many of us and I am grateful that I knew him and was inspired to offer my talents to the district by his example. He will be missed!

Karen Lasen - January 27, 2024 at 02:37 PM

 Karen Lasen

“ Karen Lasen lit a candle in memory of Ted Christensen



Karen Lasen - January 27, 2024 at 02:27 PM

KS

“ *Pa is the best. We will miss him, but I am glad he is resting peacefully, which we all know will only last as long as until something needs to be fixed in Heaven. What a wonderful example of love and service.*

Katelyn Smith - January 26, 2024 at 11:24 PM