# Richard (Dick) Christensen

*May 31, 1933 ~ June 23, 2023*

Oh, what an incredible life!!

No words can adequately capture the breadth of influence reached throughout this amazing man's life.

Richard (Dick) Christensen was a man of faith, a man of charity, a man of fun and adventure and a man of humility. He was a builder of many things, most importantly, a builder of people's hearts. He made the world a better place as he went about doing good throughout his entire life.

Dad was born in Richfield, Utah to George and Madge Christensen on May 31, 1933. His formative years were spent in Payson, Utah where he learned the value of hard work and having fun and developed a love of hunting, fishing and anything outdoors. He also surrounded himself with other good young men whose friendships would endure throughout his 90 years.

After 2 years at BYU, 2 years in the U.S. Army and a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the Eastern States Mission, he finally married his sweetheart, Diane Ahlander, in the Salt Lake Temple on June 5, 1958. Dad often referred to this 6 years as mom "waiting for him to grow up." A graduate degree from the University of California, Berkley and children followed. Dad was successful at everything he did whether it was being the family man that he was, serving in the church, professionally as an investment banker or in the community.

Dad was a builder—a man of invention and innovation. Dad designed and built 3 homes, 3 cabins, garages, barns, sheds, and an assortment of other "out buildings" at the ranch. He built fences and flyrods, brackets and boxes, gun ranges and guns. Dad built water treatment plants and womens' shelters. He built a powerplant and he built up people. He built a church and he built up the Church. He built a hospital and he built a house into a home. And he had fun doing it all.

Dad was an adventurer. He planned many exciting trips throughout his life for he and Mom and for the family. He was perhaps best known in some circles for his outdoorsman like exploits. These included hunting and fishing trips to Africa, Canada, Mexico, Alaska and many other states. He somewhat miraculously avoided being eaten by lions, crocodiles and bears.

Dad "went about doing good." Dad took on many civic responsibilities. He was chairman of the board during the construction of Alta View Hospital, a difficult and rewarding role. He also chaired the committee that was instrumental in developing and preserving the open space that is now Dimple Dell Regional Park. These have been a couple of high-profile roles, but where Dad really excelled was in his quiet, daily, unheralded and oft time anonymous service. Our folks invited many young couples to spend their penniless honeymoons at the cabin in Eden, Utah. Dad gave to all kinds of charities all around the globe, including educational opportunities in Africa after he witnessed so many challenges in that area of the world. We hear so many stories about how dad helped

particular individuals, couples, families and organizations. As children we were taught the principle of charity through Sub for Santa and other service opportunities. We learned from his great example of helping everyone and anyone.

Dad was a man of God. Since a young age, the teachings of Jesus Christ have played an important role in Dad's life. As mentioned, Dad served a mission in the Eastern States Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He spent much of that mission service in upstate New York, a precursor to serving as the New York Rochester Mission President from 1987-1990. Mom and Dad loved their time in the "Cradle of the Restoration" serving with others and being surrounded by important Church historical sites. Dad was grateful to serve with the most valiant and devoted missionaries anywhere in the world. Previously, while living in the Holladay area Dad served as the bishop of the Cottonwood 10th Ward, a calling he would repeat later when he was called as bishop of the Pepperwood YSA Ward. He loved working with these amazing young singles!

Dad enjoyed his time as a sealer in the Jordan River, and later in the Mt. Timpanogos, Temples, and was especially excited to have the opportunity to officiate the sealing Suzanne and Bob as well as several of his grandchildren to their spouses. Dad also served in a variety of other callings, including Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood quorum presidencies and advisory roles, High Council and other special assignments.

Dad lived a life that was full and impactful. A creed that he lived by was that the world should be a better place for him having been here. As we gathered around him the last few days of his life, he was asked if there was anything that he would do differently. He said that there wasn't a thing he'd change. He loved everything he did. He loved his family. He loved investment banking. He loved his church work. He loved hunting. He loved his life, wouldn't have changed a thing and had no regrets. What a wonderful legacy he leaves!

Dad left this mortal existence on the morning of June 23, 2023, in Heber City, Utah when he was finally able to enjoy that long awaited reunion with Mom. This Dad, grandpa, great-grandpa, uncle, cousin, brother, friend, will be sorely missed. You were a wonderful man and an example of Christ-like service. Thank you for everything you have given us.

If you were fortunate enough to know our dad, Dick Christensen, you have been truly blessed.

Preceded in death by his wife Diane, daughter Stacy, parents George and Madge Christensen, a brother Robert, sisters Anna (Cates), Carolyn (Zander) and Helen.

Survived by children: Mark and Laura, Ted and Joyce, Alan and Tressa, Suzanne and Robert Evensen, 12 Grandchildren and 6 Great Grandchildren as well as sister: Ruth (Steve) Gordon.

Thanks to everyone who loved or was loved by our dad. His life was blessed by knowing so many wonderful people from beginning to the end.

Dad always said it was better to be "seen" than "viewed." He and the family can be "seen" at Larkin Sunset Gardens Mortuary, 1950 E. 10600 S., Thursday, June 29 from 6:00-8:00pm and Friday, June 30 from 10:00-10:45am. His "farewell" will follow at 11am.

Those wishing to view the services via Zoom can click "Watch Services" or follow the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nSdUbyhfzYxib0idRubWkdDi8LxLe8grslq9XswN0-ok9xOt9SIJmjfvAyKCQYqB.5lDtqJK