

Samuel Richard Jensen

March 2, 1936 ~ August 27, 2024

Samuel Richard Jensen, 88, returned peacefully to his heavenly home on August 27, 2024. Samuel was born to James Steven Jensen and Sara Jackson on March 2, 1936 in Alamosa, Colorado. He spent his early childhood years in Manassa on his Grandpa Jackson's farm. Later, he moved to Denver, CO and attended Englewood High School. As a young boy, he learned the life lessons of hard work and industry as a paper boy and golf caddy all before the age of eight. These lessons would serve him throughout his life.

At the age of 19, he was called as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the Spanish American Mission. After returning home, he began door to door sales for Swift & Company. While traveling through Cheyenne, Wyoming he met his future companion, Vedana Blonquist. After a short courtship, and long-distance engagement, they were married on December 17, 1959. During their early married years, Sam continued in sales and they settled in Utah where they had four children. Three boys and one girl. Later they moved to Albuquerque, NM where he began his career in fitness and health by managing a European Health Spa. Here they added their fifth child, another daughter. After a short stay in New Mexico, they moved to Idaho Falls, where he opened his own health spa and added their sixth child, another daughter. Although they loved Idaho Falls, he felt the urge to branch into unknown territory and opened health and fitness ventures in the Omaha, Nebraska area. While building their businesses, Sam and Vedana had many opportunities to serve in the church in leadership positions. They built lifelong, lasting friendships and influenced many people for good. Here their adopted seventh child came into their life as a 17 year old. After 12 years, they moved to Sandy, Utah where they continued watching their family flourish and grow, adding many grandchildren to their family quiver. In August 2013, Vedana passed away and Sam was heartbroken. Three years later, Sam met a wonderful woman, Sue Christensen, who brought joy and happiness back into his life.

Sam had a natural love for people. Wherever he went, he always made time to get to know people and call them by name. He was a natural storyteller and kept audiences captive with his funny jokes and tall tales. As a talented salesman and businessman, he sold things from pots and pans, packed meats, funeral plots and insurance plans. His motto in life was "work hard, play hard". He loved adventure and the outdoors including hunting, fishing, camping, skiing and golfing. He enjoyed gathering his family and friends and including them in his adventures. In the winter, he was on the ski hill and the summer on the lake and the golf course. As he got older, he joined a bowling league and senior golf league, and was known to be a competitive card player. He loved to share all these passions and hobbies with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

His greatest attribute was that he was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He felt a great responsibility to teach his posterity the gospel. He desired that each of his children and grandchildren have

a testimony of Heavenly Father and their Savior, Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Sue Christensen, his seven children, S. Richard (Maralee), Lorin (Sue), Nathan (Janice) Jensen, Deborah Hildreth, Holly (Greg) Holbrook, Melissa (Ryan) Warren and Steve (Leslie) Rife as well his sisters, Julie Phillips, and Jana Smith, and his brother Bob Hazen. He also leaves behind 42 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Vedana Blonquist Jensen, his sister, Jackie Walden, his brother, Paul Jensen, his sister-in-law, Carlie Jensen, his daughter-in-law, Amy (Fraughton) Jensen, granddaughter, Samantha Swasey, and his son-in-law, Grant Hildreth.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Canyon Homecare and Hospice for their loving kindness.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 31, 2024, at 12 noon at the LDS Church at 915 E. 9045 S. Sandy, UT. A viewing will be held Friday evening, August 30, 2024, from 6:00-8:00 pm at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E 10600 South (Dimple Dell Rd), Sandy, UT. A viewing will also be held from 10:30-11:30 am prior to the funeral services at the church. Interment will be held at Larkin Sunset Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, please give donations to the General Missionary Fund of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.