



Ernest "Sam" Andersen

September 8, 1922 - July 26, 2015

Ernest Lunblad "Sam" Andersen was born on September 8, 1922, in Webb, Iowa. He was the fifth of six gregarious children born of Hartman and Anna (Lunblad) Andersen.

Sam, a full-blooded, first-generation Dane, was proud of his family, his heritage and his country. Sam and his siblings made the very best of having nothing in an era where nothing was all that anyone had. His favorite childhood memories include walking ten miles uphill to the Gillette Grove School (both ways), swimming and playing on the shores of the Little Sioux River, working alongside his Dad in the Gillette Grove General Store and Post Office, and generally having fun with his family and his classmates.

Sam graduated from Gillette Grove High School in 1939, after which he enlisted in the US Army Infantry and served in WWII. He was deployed to Italy where he served as a bugler and a mail clerk. He told stories of delivering the post to his friends on the front line, and of "capturing" an Italian platoon (who, in reality, immediately threw their guns down and their hands up in surrender upon sight of the oncoming Americans.)

He received an honorable discharge and returned to Gillette Grove with his new bride, Hazel Lee Edelen in 1945. Sam and Lee "were fruitful and multiplied," having six children between 1946 and 1963. During these years, Sam supported his growing family by working for Gus Glaser Meats, driving a meat truck from one small Northwest Iowa town to the next, selling beef, pork and deli meats to local store owners. His family moved to several Northwest

Iowa communities before settling in Spirit Lake in 1953. Sam went to work as the general manager for Stoller Fisheries until his retirement in 1988.

In addition to his day job, Sam partnered with Reed Potter to found and operate the Okoboji Pancake House. Besides the extra income, the restaurant provided employment and instilled the work ethic in all six of his kids. Sam and Reed also founded several miniature golf course/entertainment centers in Iowa and Minnesota.

In 1985, Lee was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Sam attended her at home until her death in 1989. Two years later, he courted and married Darlene Frahm. Sam and Darlene found great companionship in doing the things they loved most, including traveling and entertaining.

Sam, a great lover of music, the Big Band sound in particular, loved to dance and regularly swayed at local Big Band concerts. He was an active member and supporter of the local VFW post 4514. Sam loved animals and they loved him back. He also enjoyed golf, singing along with Marie Heath at the New Inn, spending time with his family and friends, fried chicken, and a hearty belly-laugh.

Sam also loved his church. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, where he held various board positions through the years. The Lord blessed Sam with a beautiful voice, which Sam poured back to Him in praise and worship within the church choir for over five decades.

Sam went Home on July 26, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents, his two brothers (Erling and Carlo), his three sisters (Lily, Marguerite and Jeanette), and his first wife, Hazel Lee. He is survived by his six loving children: Michael (Linda) and Douglas (Janice) Phoenix, AZ; Marcia (Bill) Sexton, Spirit Lake; Debra Andersen, Hilo, HI; Lisa (Gregg) Boeke, Lakeville, MN; Leslie (Christopher) Whitehair, Gretna, NE. He is also survived by thirteen grandkids, six great grandkids and his second love, Darlene Andersen.

He will be remembered by all who truly knew him as a man of great faith, integrity, honor and deep, unshakable love. We will miss his twinkly blue eyes

and his joyful (and mischievous) countenance, but we know that he will live on in our memories, as well as in our hearts.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, July 31, 2015, at Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church.

The Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

GG

“ I would often talk to Sam at Hill Top when I visited my step mom Audrey. He was vary proud of his children. We talked about Doug and Mike who I knew from school. I lived in phx. as so did Mike and Doug. What a great man I saw in Sam..so friendly and such a gentle soul!! My thoughts and prayers go out to his family!!

Georgette Giest/Lempiainen - August 08, 2015 at 09:44 AM

AM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sam was always so much fun in choir. He will be truly missed. God's Blessings on your family.

Al & Reba Munson - August 01, 2015 at 10:50 AM

RB

“ Ernest "Sam" Andersen

Rachael Bergquist - July 31, 2015 at 09:17 AM

LB

“ Keeping your families in our thoughts and prayers...

Butcher's and Christoffer's

Linda L Butcher-Christoffer - July 31, 2015 at 08:08 AM

MF

“ I can imagine Sam & Vern now back to sharing their WWII (and other stories)but in much better surroundings!We had a long & great friendship with Sam & Lee & still have with Darlene.Sam will be missed by many. Our sympathy.

Muriel & Family - July 31, 2015 at 07:30 AM

JD

“ I remember Sam as Marcia's Dad who was such a positive example in the Spirit Lake community. He always had something encouraging to say and always a smile on his face. I know how much he loved to play golf and how he enjoyed people. We were fortunate to grow up in this area with people like Sam, who gave us an example and who mentored us and cared about us. Sam was a great man who made me smile and his enthusiasm for life was contagious. My sincerest heartfelt sympathy to Marcia and Bill and the entire Anderson family. May our gracious Lord and Savior hold you close and give you peace. Sincerely, John Van Dyke

John Van Dyke - July 30, 2015 at 08:53 AM

LB

“ Sam was the nicest man you will ever meet. My husband and I loved hearing his many stories. He will truly be missed. Don and Lynann Burns

Lynann Burns - July 29, 2015 at 02:52 PM

EF

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Sam was such a fun-loving guy and I remember the few times being invited over for family dinners on Big Spirit. Praying for peace and comfort to each of you. God Bless.

Erica Jacobson French - July 28, 2015 at 11:33 PM

SR

“ *What an amazing tribute to your family in the tribute to Sam's earthly life! His memory will live on in the tributes he passed on to those he loved. God bless each of you.*

Sue Carlson Richter - July 28, 2015 at 09:17 PM

CS

“ *The Anderson family was always very close to our family. We have so many good memories of Sam and all his siblings. There is a big reunion going on in heaven right now....with Anna and Hartman and all the gang. My sympathy to the family.*

Carol Stoermer Swartz - July 28, 2015 at 11:26 AM

SS

“ *I remember seeing Sam at school events- church events and then always enjoyed seeing him at Hilltop while my mom was there. He was always smiling-laughing and people were drawn to him. He will be greatly missed by all.*

Susan Parriott Spalding - July 28, 2015 at 10:33 AM

BB

“ *Sam was a good friend of my mom and dad... Wallace and Genevieve Hargrave. He shared many stories with me after they passed away. He always made me smile with his humor and his stories. He will be missed.*

Bev Berkland - July 27, 2015 at 10:14 PM

RA

“ *Ernest "Sam" Andersen*

Ruth Albrant - July 27, 2015 at 07:01 PM

KE

“ *The Acitivity Dept. girls at Hilltop could always depend on Sam for a captivating story or a strong singing voice.
Condolences to the family.
Karen and Kim*

Karen Eichner - July 27, 2015 at 06:22 PM

SA

“ *Ernest "Sam" Andersen*

Scott Anderson - July 27, 2015 at 02:55 PM

TH

“ *We've known, admired and enjoyed Sam since his Gillett Grove days. Glad he had a long life but sad to see him go. Our sympathy to the family and his friends.*

Tom and Judy Hart - July 27, 2015 at 01:50 PM

PB

“ *Ernest "Sam" Andersen*

Pete & Julie Bergquist - July 27, 2015 at 12:33 PM

GL

“ *Sam was a great part of Grace Lutheran. His smiles, singing in choir, usher, building projects, helping people to know Jesus better. He always had a story. Sam also led the singing at Hilltop for "Get the Grace Out services for community communion! God be with till we meet again Sam! Have the choir area ready!*

Grace Lutheran - July 27, 2015 at 08:23 AM

BS

“ *A very kind and gentle man.*

Bob and Kate Shaw - July 27, 2015 at 12:46 AM

BS

“ *Ernest "Sam" Andersen*

Bob and Kate Shaw - July 27, 2015 at 12:44 AM

PR

“ *What a wonderful man went to heaven. I enjoyed Sam always in church and then all the time I visited at Hilltop. Thinking of your family with hugs and prayers. He is singing loud and clear.*

Peggy Rick - July 26, 2015 at 05:40 PM