



Thomas James Christensen

May 10, 1929 - September 30, 2013

Tom Christensen came to the end of his life on Sept. 30. He was born in San Francisco to Jane M. Christensen and Albert Christensen and raised by his grandparents, Margaret Dunn and Thomas Dunn.

He is survived by his daughter, Pam Burris and her husband Carl Burris; his son, Barry Thomas Christensen and loving family. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Troy Talbot and his wife Kimberly, Kevin Talbot and his wife DeNora, Casey Burris and seven beautiful great grandchildren. His extended family includes Anna Burris, Susan and Hugh Conwell, and Chris Simons, as well as his former spouse and friend Vi Christensen. He was also fortunate to have many other dear friends over the years.

He graduated from Vallejo High School, received an A.S. degree from Napa Valley Collage and a B.A. from Sacramento State University. He entered the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was discharged as a Sergeant from the 2nd Infantry Division.

He worked approximately 20 years as a carpenter and then entered the field of education in 1969, teaching his craft and fine arts to his students at Hogan High School in Vallejo, for 22 years before retiring, having been the Teacher of the Year in 1985.

His avocation involves wood sculpture and painting in many art mediums, from abstract to pop art. He had numerous showings at various galleries, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Crocker Gallery in Sacramento and various collectors, including Rene de Rosa and his wife Veronica, now deceased. One of his wood sculptures was purchased by the City of Napa in 1969.

He enjoyed a very quiet, contemplative life, spending his years reading great books and the expressions he created through his art work.

Services will be held on Monday, Oct. 7, at 11 a.m., at Claffey & Rota Funeral Home, 1975 Main St., Napa. Burial is at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5801 Midway Rd.,

Dixon on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 2:00pm. His faith and spirit will live on in all those who have shared his life. In place of flowers, the family request contributions to the American Cancer Society.

Cemetery Details

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

5810 Midway Rd.
Dixon, CA 95620
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sacramento.asp>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (PT)

Claffey and Rota Funeral Home
1975 Main Street
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 224-5210
services@claffeyandrota.com
<http://www.claffeyandrota.com>

Graveside Service

OCT 8. 2:00 PM (PT)

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery
5810 Midway Rd.
Dixon, CA 95620
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sacramento.asp>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas James Christensen*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Thomas James Christensen*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of your father Pam. I hope you have many fond memories of your time with him to help you get through this time.*

Lori Farris

Lori Farris - October 09, 2013 at 11:44 PM



“ *It is with great sadness that I am unable to be with you all at the services this week. I consider Mr.C not only a great teacher, but a good friend and role model. I first met him in my sophomore year at Hogan as he was my teacher for wood shop. I thought so much of him and his ability to teach that I decided to enroll in his carpentry class in my junior year, and repeated my wise decision in my senior year. Mr.C gained respect from all of his students as he invested his time and energy into every class member. He gave respect to his students, yet allowed no one to take advantage of his friendly ways. His teaching and mentoring went far beyond demonstrating skills necessary to be a good craftsman as he was an encourager as well, making himself available to anyone who needed him. I think of my friend often and wish that I had taken more opportunities to spend time with him. Although my career choice led me to be a chiropractor, every table and cabinet in my office was hand made with the skills that I acquired working under his wing.*

My condolences to the family. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sean Moffett

Sean Moffett - October 08, 2013 at 03:23 PM

KT

“ I wanted to say a few words in memory of my grandfather. I always thought of my grandpa as being ageless, always so vibrant and full of life. For most of my life I couldn't have even told you how old my grandpa actually was, because in my eyes he never got older. The actual "number" never stuck with me. He was always so cool and fun. He definitely lived his life with the passion and style of a young man.

I have so many fond memories of him. One of those is how he gave my brothers and I our first "real" jobs, doing all the landscaping in his backyard. And what a perfect job, I'd rake the leaves and mow the lawn and when I was finished, we'd go inside and watch the game. It was from my grandfather's living room couch that he taught me how to be a passionate sports fan and how to bring that passion to everything else in life. We'd agonize and cheer with every passing inning, every missed tackle and touchdown...all while snacking on something from my Grandpa's famous bachelor's diet: Coffee cake, pop corn, flaky flix cookies and Diet Coke.

I always have known how special he was and how lucky I was to be his grandson. He was the perfect role model, and I sincerely hope that one day my children and my grandchildren think as highly of me as I think of him.

Kevin Talbot - October 08, 2013 at 12:05 AM

LP

“ Dear Christensen Family,
I just wanted to send my condolences to the family and let my sweet friend Pam know that she and her family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Lynn Privett

Lynn Privett - October 07, 2013 at 12:18 PM

BW

“ Dear Christensen Family,
My dad, Norm Schneider asked me to express his condolences. My dad grew up in Vallejo with Tom. They graduated from Vallejo High together, worked as carpenters together, and later Tom was a wonderful teacher at Hogan where my dad was principal.
I spoke to my dad last night and he had so many wonderful memories of Tom. He regrets that he is unable to attend Tom's service.
We are sorry for your loss.
Norm and Bridget Schneider (Winkley)

Bridget Winkley - October 05, 2013 at 11:30 AM

BT

“ Tom, thank you for being such a great grandfather. I hope you rest in peace and in harmony and fill your heart with ours.

Brenden Talbot - October 04, 2013 at 05:10 PM

BT

“ He was a good man. I am his great grandson. I feel like there is a big hole in my hert now because of this. May god bless him.

Brenden Talbot - October 04, 2013 at 05:06 PM

BR

“ I am his loving great grandson and can't believe he's gone. He was the best and only heavenly grandpa. He was like an angel sent from heaven. He was nice to everyone. May god bless him.

brenden - October 04, 2013 at 04:53 PM

JM

“ I wanted to express my condolences to the family. "Mr. C" was not only a teacher he was a mentor for me while I was at Hogan High School. He communicated with us on our level and inspired us to become "craftsmen". I will forever cherish the memories of my "VICA" trip to Stockton in 1989. He definitely made a difference.

Jake McDonald

Jake McDonald - October 03, 2013 at 08:50 PM