

Warren James “Sonny” Christoffersen



Warren James “Sonny” Christoffersen was born September 27, 1942, in St. Paul, MN, to Warren and Orilee, and was the eldest of 4 boys.

He finished high school at 17, joined the U.S. Army as a combat engineer, and was stationed in West Germany and Alaska. After being discharged, he returned to St. Paul, MN, where he married Susan Ridell and had 4 children (Kim, Scott, Becki, and Bobbi). Employed with Spector Freight, he started out on the freight docks, eventually moving up to a route driver.

Sonny, his father, and his brothers spent deer season in Wyoming, and fell in love with the Black Hills. So, in 1976, he moved his family to Hulett, WY. After leaving St. Paul, all his friends and family said that he would be back, but he never did, only returning for visits. He worked at Neiman Sawmill for a few years before taking a position at Colloid in Colony, WY. He was with them for a short period, but went back to Neiman’s and drove their chip-truck, which he did until given an opportunity to purchase his own tractor-trailer.

In 1988, Sonny married Beverly Sternad-Vansickel, where there was a package deal of 5 step-children: Shawna, Deanna, Shane, Billy, and Bret. For the next 28 years, Sonny and Bev lived north of Sturgis, and it was here in his shop that he could be found if needed.



Sonny was an avid hunter, made his own ammo, and fiddled with weapons. After he had to give up trucking due to his health, he went to school to learn to be a slot technician in Deadwood. He then was employed with Superior Ammunition, where he honed his skills with loading ammunition.

He was an active member of the Masons, Scottish Rite, Naja Shriners, the VFW, and the Sturgis First Baptist Church. Besides his love of his family, he loved talking with people, buffets, donuts, ice cream shops, and most of all, Coney Island hot dogs. Sonny enjoyed playing hockey back in Minnesota and while in the Army when he was stationed in Alaska. He loved to fix up

old cars, and enjoyed the Rally every year with his Sportster.

Sonny, 76, Sturgis, died Friday, September 28, 2018, at his residence in Sturgis.

Sonny is survived by his wife, Beverly “Bev;” his children, Scott (Rebecka) Christoffersen of Rapid City, SD, Bobbi (Russ) Richardson of Davenport, IA, and Becki (Mike) Webb of Davenport, IA; step-children, Deanna (Daniel) Staudt of Elkhorn, NE, Shane Vansickel of Spearfish, SD, Billy Vansickel of Whitewood, SD, and Bret Vansickel of Aitkin, MN; 2 brothers, Virgil (Carolene) Christoffersen of Fridley, MN, and Ralph (Patti) Christoffersen of Cheyenne, WY; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Warren H. and Orilee Christoffersen; brother, Richard “Dick;” step-daughter, Shawna; daughter, Baby Kim; grandson, Billy Lynn; great-grandson, Baby Aiden; and 2 special friends that were in his life, Geno Mayo and Pastor Roger Crowhurst.

In lieu of flowers, Sonny wanted donations to go to Shirley’s Adult Day Center, or to the Shriners Children’s Hospital.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch following committal in the church hall. The family wishes to personally thank each of you for being with us for your presence and condolences.



In Loving Memory Of

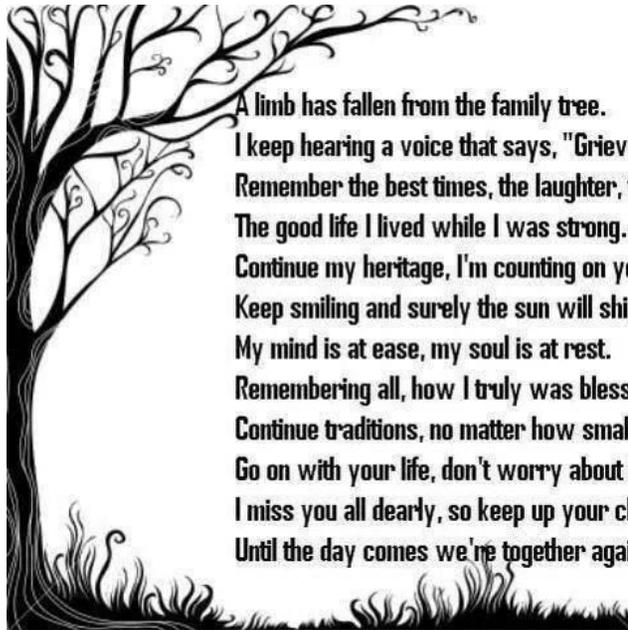


Warren James “Sonny” Christoffersen

1942 ~ 2018

SOUL OF A TRUCKER

*The ever-present sound of a diesel
Going through its gears
Is the steady beat and constant rhythm
He’s known for many a year
And it’s the lullaby that late at night
His mind still longs to hear
He still can see those highways
With his inner eye
He can’t forget the visions
Of those unpolluted skies
He still can feel the wind
And hear its tender sighs
Those memories stay inside and linger
And will until he dies
They’re part of what he’s made of
They’re forged into his soul
They come from years of truckin’
And they’re what have made him whole*



A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me.
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.
The good life I lived while I was strong.
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes we're together again.



In Loving Memory Of
Warren James "Sonny" Christoffersen

Born

September 27, 1942
St. Paul, Minnesota

Died

September 28, 2018
Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.
United Methodist Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiants

Pastor Keith McCraw
Pastor Jenene Earl

Musicians

Danny Chapman O.C. Summers

Musical Selections

"I'll Fly Away"
"Stroll Over Heaven with You"

Pallbearers

William Christoffersen ~ Jewel Sternad ~ Jay Sternad
Devin Price ~ Carl Peterson ~ Randy Podall

Honorary Pallbearers

All Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

Military Honors

Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard
Sturgis, South Dakota

Interment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota