



Ray Christensen

February 5, 2017

Christensen, Ray age 92, of Rosemount, died peacefully Feb. 5, 2017 surrounded by family and friend. Preceded in death by parents, Svend & Hilda; son, John and daughter, Mary Beth. Survived by wife of 63 years, Ramona; children, Tom (Ann), Sue (Jim) Chambers, Jim (Rose); grandchildren, Emily and Mary, Jonathan and Christina, Brian (Nicole) and David. Ray was born May 6, 1924 in south Minneapolis, MN to Svend & Hilda Christensen. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and was an original member of the school Hall of Fame. After serving 33 months in the Army in World War II, he graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1949. Ray began his career in radio at KUOM followed by a position as program and sports director at WLOL. In 1963 he joined WCCO radio where he enjoyed a wide variety of broadcasting opportunities until he retired from full-time broadcasting in 1993. He continued as the voice of the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers through 510 football broadcasts and 45 consecutive seasons of Gopher basketball totaling more than 1300 games. He fully retired in 2001. Ray and Ramona enjoyed hosting many tours around the world. Ray is a member of the University of Minnesota Athletics Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Minnesota Broadcast Hall of Fame. He received the Chris Schenkel Award from the College Football Hall of Fame. He authored two books and was active in the community recording over 100 books for the blind and visiting elementary schools to read to school children. Memorials preferred to Communications Center for the Blind, St. Paul, the

Danish Center Genealogy Dept., Elk Horn, IA, or College of Liberal Arts
Scholarships at the University of MN. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial 11:00
AM Saturday, Feb. 11, with visitation starting 9:30 AM at the Church of St.
Joseph, 13900 Biscayne Av., Rosemount. Visitation 4:00-7:00 PM Thursday,
Feb. 9 at: Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 West 50th St.
& Hwy 100

Tribute Wall



“ Growing up we lived next door to Ray's father Svend and my parents saw Ray when he was visiting his father. I remember my mother asking Svend why do flowers have to die they are so beautiful and Svend said Mrs. Nelson, Not everything beautiful lives forever on earth and I am sure that applies to anyone we have lost through death. My condolences to the family. Mary Nelson Statema

Mary Statema - February 11, 2017 at 01:19 PM

JR

“ *Ramona and Family,*

Our thoughts are with you. Lots of good memories for us.

Jon and Glenda Roe

Jon Roe - February 09, 2017 at 12:39 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ray Christensen.*



February 08, 2017 at 03:44 PM

PU

“ Pat, Vickie, Bobby, Curtis, April & Cory- UCCSTeach purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ray Christensen.



Pat, Vickie, Bobby, Curtis, April & Cory- UCCSTeach -
February 08, 2017 at 03:13 PM

LW

“ My memories of Ray Christensen are not from his sports announcing but from radio KUOM, and his Little Concert program. Saturday mornings provided many young people in the area to learn about classical music--composers, performers, types of music. He and his program helped some of us nerdy people know there were others besides ourselves interested in classical music. At the time I hadn't realized how young Ray was--little more than 10-11 years older than his listeners. He was always gentle, respectful, and dignified in the way he treated his Little Concert listeners, and set a wonderful role model for us.

We'd connected by mail again in the 1980's, when he and Ramona sent a recipe for French dip for roast beef, for the cookbook I was compiling.

My sympathy to Ray's family. It's wonderful you have so many good memories of him that I know are pouring in.

Lois Carlson Willand

Lois Willand - February 08, 2017 at 12:52 PM