



Lon James Jensen

January 31, 1933 - October 27, 2017

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Lon was born in Denison, Iowa, to Rudolph H. Jensen and Caroline Johannsen in the same family farm home where his father was born. He grew up on the family farm and hunted and fished as a child and young man. His sister, Loraine, was 18 years his senior and Darlene (Jenny), was 12 years older. His brother Lester died before Lon was born.

He graduated from the small high school in Denison, then enrolled at Iowa State University. After one semester he transferred to Drake University, where he participated in the ROTC program and was a lineman on the football team. Upon graduation in 1955, he entered the US Air Force, where he served on active duty for 3 plus years as a pilot in SAC. After leaving the Air Force in 1958 to attend dental school, he remained in the reserves for a period of 33 years. During this reserve period, he spent the initial 17 years as a pilot and the remaining 12 or 13 years as a dentist. His military involvement was a very important and proud part of his life.

Lon enrolled at the University of Iowa for training in dentistry in 1958. Upon graduation in 1963, he practiced in Anita, Iowa, before moving to Oregon in 1966. At that time he began private practice in Corvallis, Oregon, and continued until 2005. From 2005-2014 he continued practicing in various locations not too distant from Corvallis. After more than 51 years he completely retired. During these years he was continually amazed at the changes and advances in a profession that suited him well. Dentistry was a great choice for him. After many years he still had a strong attachment to Iowa and particularly his special friend from dental school, with whom he has remained fast friends over these years.

Lon was a man of great energy, many interests and a kind and caring heart. Between 2000 and his retirement he started the first dental clinic on the Carribean Islands of Union and Kanaun. At least 12 trips were made to treat the natives of these islands, who had no

access to dental care. As time went on he particularly enjoyed his livestock interests and traveling, both leading him to meet many new people and enjoy new places. He served on the Board of Directors for Santa Gertrudis Breeders International for 4 terms and enjoyed seeing his cattle shown at the Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho and Washington State Fairs. Travels also took him to Mexico, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan and Guam, where he made many new friends and came home with many stories.

As Lon grew older he came to enjoy his grandchildren and time with them as something special. Their involvement with animals and sports provided many happy and entertaining hours for us. He always enjoyed their time and attention.

He is survived by: His wife, Mary, their daughter Robin (Steve) Brattain and grandsons Walter, Dawson and Marshall, as well as their son, Rusty (Barb) Jensen and granddaughter Rio. Also daughter Sue (Don) Buckendorf and grandchildren Aaron (Amanda) Buckendorf, plus their daughter, Jake (Leslie) Buckendorf plus their son and 2 daughters and Lindsey (Eric) Steinke plus their 2 sons, all residing in Salem, Oregon. Son Tom (Maureen) Jensen of Corvallis and Matthew (Shannon) Jensen plus daughter, Molly, of Reno, NV.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to: Philomath Booster Club, P O Box 1088, Philomath, Oregon 97370 or Benton Community Foundation, P O Box 911, Corvallis, Oregon 97339 memo Lon & Mary Jensen ROTC Scholarship Fund. At Lon's request no formal service will be held, but instead a small family gathering will be held in the spring or summer.

Our family would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Eric Sharp and his staff for their help during Lon's battle during this past year with cancer and the excellent care provided for him by Dr. Lear and the Evergreen Hospice House. We will always be grateful for the support of friends, former patients, his Army buddies and special "coffee" friends.

Comments



“ I was looking through my album of memories until I saw this amazing man and it brought me back to when I first met him. My deep condolences to his family. He was a really great man, a really great man and he will be in my heart forever.



Hamed Al Jassar - March 08 at 07:26 AM



“ Knowing Lon Jensen and working with him and Mary was one of the highlights of our lives. They both are extraordinary people. Lon, had a heart of gold and always gave the best of himself to everyone. He truly was a man for all seasons. Curious, intelligent and noble . . . a man of integrity, a rare quality these days. Our family benefited so much from knowing them and we shall never forget the impact they made in our lives. God Bless Lon. We know he is herding cattle on the 'big ranch in heaven' and helping all lesser souls find their destiny.

Love always,
Morris, Lynn, Skye & Amoris Walker



Lynn - October 09, 2018 at 02:46 PM



“ Dear Jensen Family,
We are so sorry to be late in sharing our heartfelt condolences in the passing of Lon (at that time, we had some serious family health issues). Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Bob got to know Lon first through the ROTC program, when he offered services for the young men and women's dental needs. Upon meeting Mary, we realized what a special team they made. We always appreciated Lon's positive, caring, and compassionate demeanor. Such a humorous and gentle giant! We will miss him.

The Hardison Family
Bob, Jutta, Jim and Jeanette



“ Today our Lon is having Thanksgiving dinner with the King. May you rest in peace always. You were a bright light in mine and Lyndons life and we will always remember the times we spent together. We will miss you greatly, until we meet again. God bless you and your family. Our deepest condolences
Sandi and Lyndon Conroy, Montana

sandi conroy - November 23, 2017 at 08:50 AM



“ Mary and family...
My heart hurts hearing of Dr.Js passing. You both mean so much to our family. What a gentle, compassionate, man he was. Pamm and Ty would argue as to who got to "go first" to see him. We so enjoyed hearing about his travels, his cattle and adventures. And... There was always a huge smile on his face when we saw him. So grateful to have seen him this Summer at our Grandsons baseball game. We have lost a GREAT MAN!
Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you...
Our Love,
Sharon and Ty Edwards

sharon edwards - November 12, 2017 at 11:22 AM



“ After all this time passing and not being in touch with Lon, it has not changed the fact that he has made such an impact on us. Who could not like going to the dentist if it was Lon you were going to see? The dentist ambassador!
What I loved about him was his complete enthusiasm for life and the next adventure he was going on. Traveling and meeting people and all the stories he had made you feel good every time. There is nothing that can be said that is going to lessen the pain of your loss but hopefully there is comfort in knowing how many of us out here are keeping you in our thoughts and are deeply saddened by his passing and share in all the positive enthusiasm that he passed on to all of us.
Our deepest condolences,
Cathy and Andy Walker

cathy walker - November 08, 2017 at 12:33 PM