



Duane A. Swanson

August 10, 1932 - February 7, 2008

Duane A. Swanson, 75, passed away suddenly on Saturday, February 2, at Stormont Vail Health Center. He was born in Salina on August 10, 1932 to Hjalmar and Ellen Swanson. He attended Salina Public Schools, graduating from Salina High School in 1950. After serving four years in the U.S. Navy, he attended Bethany College in Lindsborg. While there, he met Charlene Johnson and they were married on June 11, 1958 at First Lutheran Church in Longmont, Colorado. They began their married life in Topeka while he attended Washburn University, graduating in 1959 with a bachelor's degree. Duane received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Kansas in 1961. Following one year as Director of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Mental Health Association, he accepted a position at The Menninger Foundation as Director of Purchasing. After several years in that position, he served seven years as Controller of the Foundation and retired in December of 1992 as Senior Vice President Emeritus. In retirement, Duane volunteered at many agencies including Everybody Wins, and on the boards of Big Brother Big Sister, Doorstep and the Salvation Army. He also served one term on the Human Relations Commission. Duane was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, serving on the Church Council and as President on several occasions. At the church, he was the drummer in the New Dimensions contemporary group. He also volunteered in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Central States Synod Office in Kansas City for fourteen years. He loved to play golf as often as the weather allowed and when the weather

wasn't good, he painted pictures, many of which were given to friends or sold to benefit charity. He is survived by his wife, Charlene; daughter, Lynda Weaver and her husband Phil; daughter, Janis Swanson; grandchildren Kyle and Kalyn Weaver who lovingly referred to him as Papa. He is also survived by sister-in-law, Barbara Swanson; nephew, Pete Swanson and niece Amy Swanson; brother and sister -in-law, Jack and Nadine Lesser; nephew, John Evans and his wife Michelle and their children Nathan and Lauren; nephew, Chuck Evans; niece, Karen Wondra and her husband Alan, and their children, Jennifer and Aaron; several cousins in the United States and several cousins in Sweden. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, David. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Our Saviors Lutheran Church. A celebration of Duane's life will be 3 p.m. Friday at the church. Private burial will be at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Savior's Lutheran Church for Altar Furnishing, 2021 SW 29th St, Topeka, 66611.

Tribute Wall



“ *Duane A. Swanson*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *My childhood memories are filled with Duane's laughter and greetings of love to everyone he met. My heart breaks with all of yours for your loss and please know that he will be remembered with the deepest, warmest and highest regards by all. If I only had that magic wand I would return him to you all in a second. A massive hug is sent to you ,and many prayers and good night star wishes and kisses. Lori*

Lori Campbell Sharp - March 16, 2008 at 11:17 PM



“ *Charlene: Nancy and I sent our condolences at Duane's death. I know you enjoyed him as both friend and husband. We enjoyed him as friend!!! going back to the mid 50's. We pray for your strength at your loss. God bless. George Jacobson*

George/Nancy Jacobson - February 29, 2008 at 04:11 PM



“ *Lynda,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. May happy memories of your dad comfort you. God Bless you!*

Lori Gibbons - February 11, 2008 at 11:07 AM

KK

“ Dear Lynda: I was so very sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. You have my deepest sympathies and I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Kathy King - February 10, 2008 at 08:21 AM

AC

“ Dearest Charlene, Lynda, Janis and Family, I send my heart felt condolences to all of you. I have so many fond memories of Duane and the Swanson family on those Sundays at Our Saviors. His smile, kindness, generosity and good-nature will be missed by all. Our love reaches out to all of you. Andrew Christensen and family.

Andrew Christensen - February 08, 2008 at 05:02 PM

SS

“ Lynda, Phil and family,
We are sorry to hear about the loss of your father. He had a way of always making us feel like part of the family. The sudden death of a loved one can be very difficult. May God comfort you during this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Scott and Michelle Schoon - February 06, 2008 at 04:21 PM

MH

“ Dear Swansons ...

You are in our prayers.

Duane was still the "best" softball pitcher during my reign as the OSLC coach. I used to wear a helmet when coaching 3rd base as I knew Duane would pull every swing :)

We'll miss you my friend & see you in that big golf course in the sky. We played many a round together.

I have many stories about Duane as posted on our web.

*Myron Holter
Topeka KS
www.myownfaith2.com*

Myron Holter - February 06, 2008 at 01:42 PM

LH

“ Lynda and Phil,
We are saddened to hear of the passing of your father. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Leroy & Barb Hackley - February 06, 2008 at 12:09 AM

IA

“ Charlene, Lue and I were very sorry to learn of your loss of Duane. He was a good friend and colleague. We will miss him. You have our deepest condolences.

Ivan Anderson - February 05, 2008 at 07:31 PM

KH

“ Dear Lynda,

I am so sorry to hear about your father. Please accept my deepest sympathy at what I know is a very difficult time for you and your family. I have many very fond memories of the Swanson home and your Mom and Dad and Janis. Words are poor things when we suffer the loss of a loved one. Still, know that you all are in my heart and prayers during this time of grief.

God Bless, Kristy Hensel

Kristy Hensel - February 05, 2008 at 07:18 PM

RV

“ *Across the miles I send my love and prayers during this time of celebration of Duane's life.*

May God hold each of you close as you share memories of a man so dear.

Ramona (Heinz) Voutas - February 05, 2008 at 04:50 PM

PL

“ *Dear Charlene, Janis, and Lynda, Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of such a great man and loved one. While working for Our Savior's I had the honor to call upon Duane for advise many times, which I respected very much. I enjoyed his art and music and kindness. My prayers go to you all at this time of sorrow.*

Patti Loveall

Patricia Loveall - February 05, 2008 at 01:36 PM

RM

“ My deepest sympathy to Charlene and the family for their great loss. I worked with Duane at Menninger for many years and current with Charlene at the House of Representatives. We are never ready to give up a loved one, especially our partner in life. May the precious memories sustain you and may Our Lord's love and peace be with all of you.

Rita Mailen - February 05, 2008 at 10:19 AM

JR

“ Dear Charlene and family,
So sorry to read online of Duane's sudden death. I also worked at The Menninger Fdn but in the Business Office and left there in 1973 to move to Denver to work at UCHSC in Grants & Contracts. I remember his relaxed manner and a good sense of humor. May the gentle sunshine of memories be a light in this hour of darkness. God Bless. Jeannie & Bob Rector, Canon City, Co.

Jeannie Schrick Rector - February 04, 2008 at 08:07 PM

JG

“ Dear Charlene, Lynda, and Janis,
God's love, peace, and blessings on all you and your families. So sorry for this sudden death of your beloved and I must say very ornery husband and father. I know your sadness and sorrow is great. Know that we are thinking of all of you and you are in our prayers. May time help to ease your pain as you remember many wonderful moments of your Duane.

Hugs and love,
Jen Greenup

Jennifer Greenup - February 04, 2008 at 05:11 PM

BW

“*Charlene, Janis, and Lynda & family. We are so sorry and shocked to read of Duane's sudden passing. Duane had a wonderful sense of humor and was so generous with his time and talents. He will surely be missed by all who knew him and especially by his "family" at Our Savior's Lutheran. Our prayers are with you. May God comfort you through the blessing of family and friends at this time.*

Barb & Larry Weians - February 04, 2008 at 04:35 PM

KF

“*Dear Charlene, Lynda, Phil & Janis,
Please accept our most sincere condolences. We have many wonderful memories of Duane (and the whole family). We hope your memories will help sustain you during this most difficult time.*

*We will keep you in our hearts and prayers.
David, Hope and Austin Krug*

Krug Family - February 04, 2008 at 04:21 PM

CR

“*Dear Lynda,
I was so sorry to hear about your father's sudden passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time.
Cheryl Rasmussen*

Cheryl Rasmussen - February 04, 2008 at 03:06 PM

A(

“*Dear Charlene, Janis and Lynda my thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. I have very fond memories of when we were growing up and our families did a lot of activities together. I will miss Duane very much and if there is anything I can do for you during this time just let me know.*

Andrea Clark (Mauck) - February 04, 2008 at 01:12 PM

JB

“ Dear Lynda, So sorry to hear about your dad. Please know that you and your whole family are in our thoughts and prayers. (Let me know if I can do anything for you.)

Phil and Jeri Brooks

Jeri Brooks - February 04, 2008 at 12:34 PM

DD

“ Dear Lynda, Phil and Family,
I was very sorry to hear about the death of your father and grandfather "Papa". My thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family. God bless you and comfort you.

*Love and Friendship,
Diana Detwiler*

Diana Detwiler - February 04, 2008 at 11:50 AM

JB

“ Dear Lynda, Phil, Kyle and Kalyn, We are very sorry to hear that you have lost such a great Father and Papa. Please extend our deepest sympathy to your Mom and Janis as well. The Lord be with you and may fond memories help to comfort you in your sorrow. Your family and Duane are in our thoughts and prayers.

Joe and Cheryl Burkhart - February 04, 2008 at 11:18 AM

GF

“ Our hearts and prayers go out to your family. Duane's smile and good natured humor will be missed. Please let us know if you need anything.

Gutierrez Family - February 04, 2008 at 08:45 AM