

Obituary

Jay Charles Mortensen, 79

Jay Charles Mortensen passed away May 26, 2010 at his home in Wapello, Idaho, after a long battle with cancer.

Jay was born October 14, 1930, in Salem, Idaho, to Christian Charles Mortensen and Pearl Evelyn Chandler Mortensen. He grew up and attended schools in Salem and Sugar City. After serving in the Air Force and going on an LDS mission to Denmark, Jay returned home to Lincoln, Idaho and attended Rick's College. He later received a B.S. degree from Utah State University and a Master's Degree from the University of Idaho in agricultural science and vocational education, his two major interests.

On February 18, 1954, Jay married the love of his life, Joy Lott, in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. They spent the rest of his life together. They had five children; Katrina (Joe Butcher), Jay Charles Jr. (died December 24, 1973), Kelly Gene (Barbara), Tamara (Craig Luker) and Debra (Mike Campbell). Jay and Joy spent most of their life together on the family farm in Wapello, where he could focus on the things he loved: family, friends, students, farming, fishing and camping in the nearby mountains.

Jay spent his entire career as a high school vocational agriculture teacher. He taught in Bancroft, Idaho for several years. Then he and his family moved to Blackfoot, where he taught at Blackfoot High School from 1958 until he retired in 1990. He was a gifted educator, receiving many awards throughout his career. He made a difference in so many of the lives of his students.

Jay was always a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served in many callings: Scout Master, Elder's Quorum President, Bishop, High Councilman, officiator at the Idaho Falls Temple and perennially as a Sunday School teacher. After his retirement, he and Joy served four missions together in St. Maarten, Nauvoo, Illinois, Kenya, Africa and at the Idaho Falls Temple Visitors' Center. Jay lived his life as he believed it should be lived with faith, love, respect, honesty and integrity. His life is an example to all who knew him. Survivors include his wife and children, grandchildren, Sarah (Spence) Ward, Ashley (Zack) Bartauskay, Cassia (Jason) Pratt, Dexter Mortensen, Quinci Mortensen, Zachary (Chelsee) Campbell, Skyler Campbell, Austin Campbell, Logan Campbell, Justin Luker, BreAnn Luker, Natasha Luker and Whitney Luker; great grandchildren, Ryder and Oaklee Ward, Hunter Johnson and Shelby Bartauskay, and Kaylee Pratt, all of whom live in the Blackfoot area; sisters, Barbara Palmer of St. George, Utah and Eva (Blaine) Petersen of Idaho Falls, his brothers, Chris (Doris), of Leadore, Perry (Beverly) of Idaho Falls, Gene (Sandra) of Logan, Utah and Von (Darlene) of Salt Lake City.

Jay was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Newell; his sister, Denece Mills, and his son, Jay Charles.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at the Wapello LDS Chapel. Family will meet with friends and relatives from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2010 at Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Avenue in Blackfoot, and for one hour prior to services at the church. Interment will follow services at Firth Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family at condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.

