

**Herluf Christensen, 93**  
**Sept. 23, 1916 - Sept. 13, 2010**

**ROCKFORD, IL** — Herluf W. Christensen passed away on September 13, 2010 in P.A. Peterson Center for Health, Rockford, IL, with family beside him. Herluf was born September 23, 1916 in Audubon, to Christen P. and Johanne (Rasmussen) Christensen, and lived 91 years in Audubon, Shelby, and Pottawattamie Counties. In June, 2008 Herluf moved to Rockford, IL where he lived for the past two and a half years. He attended school in Audubon County, and graduated at sixteen. He completed one year at Dana College in Blair, NE, and at age 17 started teaching in a one-room school in Audubon County. He later attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls and Iowa State University completing Bachelor's degrees in Biology and English, and Master's degrees in public school administration. He was inducted into the Army in April, 1941.



December 27, 1941, Herluf married Vasthi Magnussen in Audubon. He served as an M.P. at Camp Ritchie, MD and was discharged in 1943. He returned to his career in education in Iowa, as a social studies and music teacher in Marathon and Laurens and as superintendent of schools in Irwin. He later moved to Council Bluffs and taught at Abraham Lincoln and Woodrow Wilson schools and was principal at Edison, Madison, and Sunnysdale schools. He retired from teaching in 1974 but continued a tax and accounting service until 1999. In 1997 he guest conducted the Rockford Symphony Orchestra. Herluf and Vasthi raised three children; Doran (Bonnie), a radiation emergency response physician in Rockwood, TN, Joanna Christensen, a private entrepreneur in Council Bluffs; and Paul (Sue) Christensen, a cardiologist in Rockford, IL. Herluf was fluent in Danish and intensely proud of his Danish-American heritage and Lutheran upbringing. He kept the family archives and family tree, and kept ties with his family in Denmark and made many trips to Denmark with Vasthi, his children, and grandchildren. His life was devoted to family and their accomplishments in health, education, and design. He had a passion for the English language both written and spoken. Music, genealogy, woodworking, travel, and steadfastness in personal values and ethics were the fabric of his life.

Herluf is survived by a sister, Harriet "Hap" Eastwold of Sioux Falls, SD. He is also survived by his three children; seven grandchildren, Matthew (Jill) Christensen, Eric Christensen, Mark Christensen, Sarah Christensen, Vasthi (John) Wilson, Julia Anna St Pierre, and E'Lise (Aaron) Bell; and four great-grandchildren, Kenneth and Kirstin Christensen, Logan and Abigail Wilson. He is pre-deceased by his wife of 60 years, Vasthi; sister, Hertha Levis; and infant granddaughter, Amy Christensen. Extended family are Jason (Anna) Short of San Francisco, CA and Kim (Tim) Lane and children Jessica and Michael of Cincinnati, OH.

We are grateful to all the friends and family who visited, sent cards, and kept him in their prayers, to Rev Hering and the Underwood Lutheran Church family that surrounded him with love and care through 50 years, Pastors Smazik and Ward and his Rockford church home, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and especially to his friend Ellerd Stolgen and the staff at P.A. Peterson Home in Rockford, IL, who so lovingly cared for him.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, November 12,

**Olson Funeral &  
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2010, at the Underwood Lutheran Church in Underwood. The family requests memorials be made to the Christensen Scholarship Fund, Underwood Lutheran Church, 10 3rd Ave., Underwood, Iowa, 51576 or "in care of the family" for other designation. To share a memory or condolence, please visit [olsonfh.com](http://olsonfh.com).

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