



C. Milo Benson

May 18, 1938 - June 22, 2014

Carl Milo Benson, 76, of Nome, N.D., in rural Barnes County and formerly of Fargo, died June 22, 2014, seven years after starting treatment for cancer. Milo was born May 18, 1938, on the family farm near Nome, the fifth of six children of Karl Benson and Lisa (Anderson) Benson. He graduated in 1956 from Nome High School. After a year working as a lineman for the telephone company, he attended North Dakota State University, graduating in 1962 with a degree in mathematics. He married Sandy (Hagen) Benson in 1960; they later were divorced.

Between high school and college graduation Milo went through military basic training twice after joining the U.S. Marines and later navigating a transfer to the Army and NDSU's ROTC program. After graduation he served as a lieutenant in the Army and was stationed for two years in Giessen, West Germany.

Milo returned with his family to the Nome area in 1964, where he took over the family farm and taught math and served as principal for schools in Kathryn and Fingal, N.D. He moved to Vermillion, S.D., and earned a master's degree in mathematics from the University of South Dakota in 1967. He moved to Fargo in 1968 and began a 28-year career teaching math at Fargo South High School. To this day, former students from Kathryn, Fingal, and Fargo say how patient and caring and good a teacher Milo was. Throughout his teaching years, he continued to farm the family homestead near Nome, working side by side with his three sons.

He married Jeanne (Young) Benson in 1989 and retired in 1996, returning to live full time in Nome. Jeanne died in 2000.

Milo enjoyed running, skiing and other outdoor activities and was a gifted mechanic and handyman. In retirement he also invested himself in deepening his relationship with God, spending quiet time reading spiritual books and making several pilgrimages to Kansas City for retreats at Unity Village. He maintained a positive and grateful outlook throughout his long illness, frequently sharing his signature expression: "Life is good." Milo's wit and warmth and joy charmed his nurses and doctors who said they looked forward to his visits.

Milo married Joyce (Heinz) Benson in July 2003. She survives him, along with three sons from his first marriage: Todd Benson (Jenny Solorio) of Union City, CA; Eric Benson (Holly) of Lakewood, CO, and Brett Benson (Karen) of St. Paul, MN. He also is survived by stepchildren: Rick Heinz (Leigh Anne), Kim Heisler (Alex), Wendy Voeller (Shawn), Kelly Macziewski (Chad), Brenda Skarphol (Randy), Karen Trenne (Paul), Joanne Trenne (Jamie) and Judi Young; 24 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brother, Bob (Mary Ann) of Clancy, MT; sisters, Lorraine Fornes of Kathryn, ND and Judy (Wendell) Kopperud of Jamestown, ND; brother-in-law, Walter Kratz of LaMoure, ND; and sister-in-law, Ruby Terry of Mesa, AZ.

Milo was preceded in death by his wife Jeanne; his brother Earle and his sister Donna Kratz.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, June 27, 2014 at 11:00 AM in Waldheim Lutheran Church, Kathryn, ND. Visitation will be in the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City on Thursday from 5:00-7:00 PM with a prayer service beginning at 7:00.

Family suggests memorials be given in Milo's name to Roger Maris Cancer Center or Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel is honored to assist Milo's family with arrangements. An online guestbook is available at www.oliver-nathanchapel.com

Cemetery Details

Waldheim Cemetery

Kathryn, ND

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Waldheim Lutheran Church
5100 119 AVE SE
Kathryn, ND

Tribute Wall

LT

“ *Mr Benson was my math teacher in high school. I will never forget his kindness and ability to reach each student. He made a tremendous impact in my life. I currently teach math and try to promote his techniques: making students feel comfortable looking them in the eyes and valuing each person.*

Linda Tryhus - February 09, 2022 at 06:09 PM

KJ

“ *Prayers to Mr. Benson's family. I was a student in his class at Fargo South High...to this day, when asked who was my best teacher, my response without hesitation is Mr. Benson. He had a way of making a seemingly impossible math problem easy and understandable. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing; truly a great loss.*
~Kim Jones, class of 1977

Kim Jones - August 09, 2014 at 08:04 PM

MA

“ *Milo was a good friend and fellow teacher. Always had a smile for everyone. He will be missed by friends and family.*

MaryAnn Armbrust

MaryAnn - July 07, 2014 at 10:34 AM

CF

“ *Eric and family*

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you and wish that the Holy Spirit eases your pain and loss while filling your hearts with fond memories and knowledge of loving everlasting life.

I have and will always be a great friend of Eric and while my time with Milo was limited my belief is that he was a truly amazing man as he most definitely passed on incredible traits to his son as only a great father could.

Craig Frear - June 27, 2014 at 04:46 PM



“ *Prayers to Mr. (Milo) Benson's family. He was a great teacher who managed to even make trigonometry an enjoyable class. I still remember him telling stories and being able to segue back to math... thanks for believing in your students! Especially this one!*

Scott Olson, class of '86

Scott Olson - June 25, 2014 at 10:38 PM

ER

“ *I was Milo's principal at Fargo South High School during the 1970's. He was an excellent teacher with great relations with his students-- with a sense of wry humor. A good man has passed away. God Bless! Ed Raymond*

Ed Raymond - June 25, 2014 at 10:30 PM

DW

“ Milo was an educator who made a difference for many students in his math classes at Fargo South. It was my good fortune to know and work with him for many years. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and for Milo.

Dick Warner

dick warner - June 25, 2014 at 10:00 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of C. Milo Benson.



June 25, 2014 at 09:01 AM

SB

“ I had Mr. Benson for math at Fargo South. He was a great teacher who always took time to explain a little further. He will be missed. Sjana (Cossette) Boe-class of '95.

sjanna boe - June 25, 2014 at 08:32 AM

DD

“ I was happy to be a colleague of Milo's at Fargo South High School. One day at lunch Milo popped open his drink, took a swig and then got the strangest look on his face before he burst into laughter. Apparently Jeanne accidentally included a can of beer into his lunch bag instead of a Diet Coke. Milo was a superb educator and an even better man. He will be truly missed.

*Don Dumais,
Chandler, Az.*

Don Dumais - June 24, 2014 at 11:35 PM

CC

Milo and I started teaching at South in 1968 and were friends ever after. Hunting, playing poker or just hanging out was always a pleasure with Milo. Great guy and a great teacher! Chuck Cochran, Custer, SD

chuck cochran - June 25, 2014 at 10:27 AM

KT

Thanks, Don. That is one of my favorite stories from the years Mom and Milo were together!

Karen Young Trenne - June 25, 2014 at 01:01 PM