



Carl Howard Christensen

January 18, 1943 - June 12, 2022

Carl Howard Christensen was born on January 18, 1943 in Glendale, California to Howard P. Christensen and Francis Smith Christensen. He completed his college education in Honolulu, Hawaii where he discovered and developed his love for the sea. After working on a small fishing boat, Carl continued his education, training with the United States Coast Guard obtaining the highest grade of seafarer qualification as a Master Mariner.

He continued his career, working as Master/Chief Mate on numerous vessels engaged in offshore oil operations, primarily in the Asia-Pacific region. His work eventually led him to Singapore where he met and married Ruby N. Chia in 1987.

In 2001, Carl began working for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where he served as Chief Mate / Relief Master until his retirement.

Besides the sea and his family, Carl loved impromptu and casual get-togethers with his friends and buddies – whether on Skype, at a favorite restaurant, or on lawn chairs in his garage. He was a true friend and gentleman in every sense of the word.

Carl died peacefully on June 12, 2022 at Poet's Walk Memory Care Community in Sarasota, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Ruby; son John

and wife, Desiree; grandson, Colin; and brothers, Dee and Gary Christensen.

Eight Bells, Fair Winds, and Following Seas, Carl, - Rest in Peace.

In lieu of gifts/flowers, donations may be made in memory of Carl H. Christensen of Sarasota, Florida, to Dementia Singapore (dementia.org.sg) or the Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org).

Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Dear Ruby,
I was very sad to hear of the passing of Carl.
With heart felt condolences!
Dan & Betty Sullivan*

Dan Sullivan - July 29, 2022 at 11:23 AM

DS

“ *I was very sad to hear of the passing of Carl Christensen. Carl Chris I always called him. It's tough to lose an old friend of 50 plus years! We first met in beautiful Singapore where there was a large number of ex-pats in the offshore oil drilling business. Carl was always amount the most popular of this group. When he made a friend it was for life. There will be many people like me spread around the world feeling the loss of a very special guy!
An old friend,
Dan Sullivan*

Dan Sullivan - July 29, 2022 at 11:19 AM

HM

“ *There was a man, a gentle man
With knowing, thoughtful eyes
A kind and caring neighbor
Always helpful, playful, wise.*

*With steady hand upon the helm
Of vessels large and small,
He'd sail the rolling oceans
To distant ports-of-call.*

*His fortune was his heart of gold
And one rare and precious stone:
A priceless, sparkling Ruby
For him to call his own.*

*A friend to all, a foe to none
He'd share a cordial toast,
But that he was a friend of mine
Is what I value most!*

Heather Miller - June 23, 2022 at 06:27 PM

DE

“ We'll miss you Uncle Carl. Thank you for being a part of our family, for your presence at countless Christmasses & Chinese New Year gatherings. For always being a gentle giant to me, for your kind words and your zest for life. I've probably sat down for a long conversation about your adventures at sea just one time, but that is a time I will treasure. Boy, could you tell a story! You made life at sea come alive for us. I realize now how dedicated & skilled you were at your craft. Your chosen work could be dangerous and difficult, yet your strength & steadfastness belied those challenges. The job took you away for stretches of time, but thank you for choosing Singapore to drop anchor at. We've now come to the bitter-sweet end of your watch. As you start a new voyage, forging ahead before us into waters unknown, I'm wishing you deep rest in safe harbours and an endless supply of Tiger Beer! Fair winds & following seas.

P.S. To our Jee Ee (Auntie Ruby), devoted wife and stalwart first mate in life to Uncle Carl, we're sending deepest condolences & so much love from Singapore. Hope to see you soon.

x Denise



Denise - June 23, 2022 at 12:46 AM

DF

“ I first met Chris (AKA Carl) and Ruby at Crescent Flats in Singapore in the early 1980s. What wonderful memories of times we've shared in Singapore and Sarasota. While he is now at peace in heaven his spirit will live on in our hearts and memories. As others have mentioned, Chris was always a kind and caring friend with a heart of gold and a fun loving spirit. A man of great talents and great accomplishments and yet humble and unassuming. He will greatly missed. Dear Ruby has been a devoted wife especially through the challenging times of this past year - truly a loving angel and advocate for Chris. God give you strength and comfort Ruby, knowing that his health struggles are over and Chris is now at peace.

Love and prayers,

Deborah Furniss

Deborah Furniss - June 19, 2022 at 09:52 PM

JC

“ I have many memories of my dad over the years; trips to Singapore and meeting all his pals and being treated to the best tour guide in the history of tour guides (Ruby). Carl and Ruby would take us to their favorite restaurants (including the most amazing place at the beach that served chili crabs), which may be the best meal in my lifetime.

Other memories include our trips to Florida (always during the hot months of summer) while our son was out of school. Every day, just before sunset- Colin, myself and Dad would walk down to his pool with a speaker for music, snacks and beverages, and Colin's snorkeling gear. While Colin was swimming, I would ask Dad, to tell me his best stories of his Sea Captain days (and as Gary alluded to), these stories always seemed larger than life, and made you wonder if it was “Christensen Folklore”, and if they actually happened. Turns out the stories always matched up with the discussions from all the brothers-and most likely were real life stories!

One of my favorite memories of my Father, was when he worked for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and he would swing through San Diego regularly, as he prepared for his departures out to sea. He was the Captain of this ship, that housed/transported the Alvin (which was a deep ocean submersible vehicle) that could reach depths of 21,000 feet in the sea. His job was to prepare the ship, to go out for 1-2 months at a time (usually with 25 scientists to explore the oceans). This technology was used for the discovery of the Titanic, and because it was right here in our back yard-we were always invited down to the docks to experience this first hand-before he launched on these expeditions. As I write this on Father's Day, I can't help but remember how proud I was trotting my young son Colin (4-6 yrs old), having him see firsthand-his Grandfather showing him every nook and cranny of this awesome ship; including this amazing submarine that has discovered probably the majority of anything/everything under water. I was so proud of my Father, and just as proud that my son (as young as he was) experiencing his Fathers Father on those days.

I was once told some time ago, that the most important thing we

have on this earth while alive, is the memories we experience with our family and friends-and find this very relevant as I express these memories on Father's Day.

I know my Father is in a better place, and is at peace with our Lord, and my wife Desiree, my son Colin and I will miss him dearly.

John Christensen

John Christensen - June 19, 2022 at 05:55 PM

“ I’m Gary, and Carl is my oldest brother, who is 13 years older than me. I didn’t know Chris that well growing up, as he had left home before I was 6 or 7 years old. What I did know is that he was “larger than life,” and I share Gerald Tan’s feeling of living “vicariously” through the many adventures of Chris.

A little later in life, we became great friends and did a lot of catching up. There are many family stories before my time that I was unsure if they were true or not, and I believe they might have turned into the “Christensen Legends and Folklore” series. When we visited Chris and Ruby in Singapore a few years ago, the girls went shopping. Chris and I sat in the comfortable lobby of a delightful hotel and talked for about 3+ hours. Fortunately, I had brought my video recorder and recorded most of the conversation, but some of the discussion had to be edited! 😊. Basically, the conversation would start with me saying, “I heard this story... is it actually true?” Topics included our father’s first flight in a biplane in the early 1930s, which started his career in aviation. Dad then went into the space program and finally working in the Apollo program. I’m grateful for these additions to our family history that Chris shared with me. By the way, the girls were remarkably successful in their shopping adventures!

When our parents were aging, they lived close to us in Colorado. Chris and Ruby would make it a priority to come and visit our parents regularly. I believe their first trip was in early winter, where the temperatures were much lower than in Singapore, and our goal for the first trip was to get Ruby warm!! It was nice to see them on a regular basis (in the summer).

Ruby has always been by his side; this past year, she has been an absolute angel, caring for Chris and his every need.

I will miss Carl, his friendship, his laugh, and learning the truth behind the “Christensen Legends and Folklore.”





Gary Christensen - June 18, 2022 at 02:06 PM

TI

“ *I would like to share my condolences to the Christensen family, I've known Chris for 20 years and Never met such a wonderful man. Great Heart great conversations thru the years. He is and will be dearly missed. To His beautiful wife Ruby we are with you in this sorrow. Were here for you. Now the Sea is calm.*

Tim
THE MAIL STATION

TIM - June 17, 2022 at 08:17 AM

GT

“ *Aunt Ruby may have married Uncle Carl in '87 but my recollection goes further back than that. Imagine, if you will, a little Asian kid meeting his first real American. Loud, boisterous, life of the party.*

Scared the blazes out of me as a child. Now, I wish I could experience it all over again. The stories he told me as a child. The conversations we had over many, many whiskies. As adults, of course. It was almost a life lived vicariously.

There is only one Uncle Carl. There is no higher accolade I can pay him.

Fair winds and following seas, Uncle Carl. Rest well; you earned it.

Gerald Tan - June 17, 2022 at 05:02 AM

BC

“ I, a total greenhorn, first met Carl at the Dutchmans in Jakarta in February of 72. A bunch of Oil Field supply boat Captains were sitting around a table eating Frog legs and drinking beer, with me the only "Yankee", and an engineer to boot feeling pretty much the outsider, when along came Carl.

He quickly suggested we head out to see the town. He showed me around Tanjong Priok, and then we drifted into Jakarta for a wonderful meal at one of his favorite restaurants. We became fast friends, and enjoyed every opportunity our sea going lives permitted us to get together. We lived during a vibrant Golden Era of Singapore life.

Years later dinner with Lou, Kaye, Carl, Ruby and Penny Richards in Singapore was another memorable experience. Our Daughter Rebecca, now full grown, had the opportunity to meet the "old timers" and relish the "sea tales" told as we ate in one of Singapore's wonderful hawker stall food courts.

Carl, Eight Bells, and Fair Winds, we shall miss you,
Bob & Ann

Bob Clark - June 16, 2022 at 09:16 PM

HM

I first met Carl and his wife, Ruby, at LifeCare Nursing Home where my husband became a patient. Roger is now under Hospice Care. I am truly sorry for Carl's family. Ruby was so kind to me as I was new to the rehab scene. Thoughts and prayers for you, Ruby, and family.
With love, Jean Mapes

Hean Mapes - June 20, 2022 at 12:47 PM

DE

We'll miss you Uncle Carl. Thank you for being a part of our family, for your presence at countless Christmasses & Chinese New Year gatherings. For always being a gentle giant to me, for your kind words and your zest for life. I've probably sat down to a long conversation about your adventures at sea just one time, but that is a time I will treasure. Boy, could you tell a story! You made life at sea come alive for us. I realize now how dedicated & skilled you were at your craft. Your chosen work could be dangerous and difficult, yet your strength & steadfastness belied those challenges. The job took you away for stretches of time, but thank you for choosing Singapore to drop anchor at. We've now come to the bitter-sweet end of your watch. As you start a new voyage, forging ahead before us into waters unknown, I'm wishing you deep rest in safe harbours and an endless supply of Tiger Beer! Fair winds & following seas.

P.S. To our Jee Ee (Auntie Ruby), devoted wife and stalwart first mate in life to Uncle Carl, we're sending deepest condolences & so much love from Singapore. Hope to see you soon.

Denise - June 23, 2022 at 12:44 AM

LH

“ *I first met Carl in 1965 while joining Wynne Gregg's invitation to live on his Aunt and Uncle's sailboat in Waikiki Harbor in Hawaii. Wynne and I became friends while first meeting in US Army boot training camp in Fort Ord in California in March of 1962. And then of course our many meetings while he and Ruby lived and worked in Singapore for much of their life.*

Ruby, I am so Thankful for being a friend of you and Carl over so many years. Your long relationship is to be greatly admired!!

Lawrence L. Herron - June 16, 2022 at 09:08 PM

AW

“ I was lucky to be Carl's next door neighbor. Whenever he saw me struggling with some task he would come by and offer to help. He was one of the nicest people I have ever met. I always felt better after chatting with him. I will miss him a great deal.

Arnold Well - June 16, 2022 at 10:08 AM

CE

“ It was an honor to know him as a friend, a kind and wonderful person, a loving husband. We regret not being able to be at his side when he parted. We will always remember the happy times we spent together in Singapore. Hope that Ruby will stay strong and healthy, and most of all find peace in her heart. Our deepest condolences.

Corina Edenburn - June 16, 2022 at 09:52 AM

DE

“ I worked with Rubby from 1988 onwards, she was always talking about her phantom captain, because we never saw him. We eventually did, and I was always glad to have met him. Over the years he was always a good friend and a genuinely good man. Always there to help. He truly loved Ruby and seemed to be good for each other. I am sorry that he passed away just as we were moving to Florida to be close to both of them. I will miss him a lot.

David L Edenburn - June 16, 2022 at 09:47 AM

DE

“ 1 file added to the album Carl in Singapore



David L Edenburn - June 16, 2022 at 09:41 AM

DE

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David L Edenburn - June 16, 2022 at 09:40 AM

DE

“ 1 file added to the album Carl in Singapore



David L Edenburn - June 16, 2022 at 09:40 AM

AR

“ Carl will be dearly missed. All the good times whenever he visits Singapore. Not forgetting our day trips to JB to extend his visa so that he can enjoy all the local food that he loves...chillipadi! Fondly remembered. God Bless.
Angelina

Angelina Rajamoothi - June 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM

“Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves. Love never fails.” Love always lives. Hold the love in your heart and thoughts forever.

I will always remember Captain Carl always had a special feeling for the water. I can still remember his stories.

The story I first thought of was Carl's story of using a sextant to take readings in the early morning. The stars of night have guided sailors for centuries. Stars share their guiding lights now. Although we have moments of dark times - it is in the dark we can get the sextant, read the stars to set our course.

Captain Carl did that.

As the end of day approaches the sunset fills a new canvas painting - painting colors. Regardless of our day – our sunset always commences with a new canvas - a new day. A new canvas to splash new colors, new wisps of pastel clouds, a painting hand — a guiding hand offering promises with each and every splash of pastel in the sky.

As our new canvas fills — new, forever changing colors always bring us thrill. As the daily path of the sun tirelessly makes its journey, our new canvas is now seen more clearly — our canvas is filled — splashed and daubed with gorgeous pastel wisps of clouds of Florida sky. If we linger we can see pastels turn more vibrant as the sun hides — hides behind Gulf's horizon, leaving evening sky with stars of heaven.

It's beginning — beginning of your and my evening.

Darkness we shall not fear.

We do not fret with sunset becoming an end.

Our Darkness of fear — of despair — of bereavement, is faded by brightness of heavenly stars.

This is our beginning — our beginning of evening, and darkness — nothing to fear and nothing more than a transition to our new day. Sunset is our friend, nothing more — and nothing less — it is nothing less than a promise. Yes, there are disappointments — however more importantly there shall always be promises for you — and me.

*Thank you Carl, Love you Carl - Love you Ruby,
Praying for courage and strength for you; Bob and Mary Parrish*

Bob Parrish - June 15, 2022 at 09:17 AM

TW

“ *We were blessed to have Captain Carl as our dear friend and all the good times we had together in Singapore and Malaysia.*

RIP Captain Carl and we wish you fair winds and following seas on your way to Heaven.

Terry & Wendy

Terry & Wendy - June 14, 2022 at 10:10 PM

MM

“ *So sorry for your loss. We always enjoyed coming to Sarasota and having dinner with Carl. He was always such a gentleman and always sweet to Heather, Mary and DK. He'll be missed. Sincerely
Drew & Marie Miller*

Marie Miller - June 14, 2022 at 06:59 PM

CR

“ I had the pleasure of meeting this wonderful man and his adoring wife Ruby several months ago. While my time getting to know Carl was short, getting to know Ruby made me feel like I'd known Carl for years. If you were around these two for just five minutes, you would understand the definition of "True Love". We all should be so lucky to spend our lives with someone that we can look at, the way these two looked at each other. May God Bless and continue to look over this wonderful family.

Chris Riccio

Chris Riccio - June 14, 2022 at 03:19 PM

LF

Kaye n I have known Carl since the early 70's in Singapore. Where we both worked in the offshore oil industry. Our friendship continued to grow over the years. At one time Carl worked for us as one of our Captains on some vessels we operated in Asia, during this time Carl showed how great a person he really was, someone you could count on at all times, in work or play. He always kept the relationship of employee and friend totally separate at all times.

Over all the years we've known both Carl and Ruby we've always found him to be a very caring and loving, supportive and cheerful husband.

Even though it's been known for some time that Carl could leave us it's with great sadness that we, must say Goodbye Dear Friend.

We'll keep you in our thoughts for years to come while reminiscing with others and ourselves of the great times spent together in Singapore at the various eateries and pubs such as Newton Circle, Jockey Pub, Chevy Bar and of course in many of the Crescent Flat gatherings, always a great time had by all.

May the good Lord above bless and keep you forever Carl and look after and keep Ruby safe at all times, until you both meet again, Amen.

Kaye & Lou Fillis

Louis Fillis - June 14, 2022 at 04:03 PM

RC

When Ruby first first introduced us to Carl in the 1980s, we could not help but wonder how our small-sized sister could be compatible with a "giant" that was Carl. But over time and at the many festive occasions like Christmas, Chinese New Year and the birthday meals, we came to know Carl as a very sociable, humorous, kind and caring person. We were very happy for Ruby when she married him in 1987. We were also able to get to know Carl better after he retired and whenever he and Ruby made their annual trips to Singapore.

Thank you Carl for taking care of our sister Ruby all these years. We will surely miss you. May you rest-in-peace in the arms of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

With all our love,

Richeal, Peng Yang, Rebecca and Rayman

Rayman Chia - June 18, 2022 at 03:26 AM