



Walter Friesen

October 2, 1939 - August 21, 2015

Walter Herbert Friesen was born October 2, 1939 in Winnipeg, Manitoba and died August 21, 2015 in Fresno, CA.

Walter graduated from Fresno High in 1957, ultimately receiving his Masters in Marriage & Family Counseling at S.F. University. He and his wife Dolly raised their family in Lodi, CA. They were active members of Vinewood Community Church, where Walt taught Sunday school, served on various boards, and directed the church choir for over 30 years.

Walter had a 30-year career with California Youth Authority. Following retirement, he launched a VORP chapter in San Joaquin County and worked as a Marriage & Family counselor in the Lodi/Stockton area.

Walter had a rich singing voice and strong musical talent. He sang in college and church choirs throughout his life, including California Choral Company, Stockton Chorale, and SF Symphony Chorus under the direction of Seiji Ozawa. He was also a founding member on the board of directors for West Coast Mennonite Men's Chorus.

Active in Lodi Rotary Club, Walter also enjoyed golfing with friends and family, riding motorcycles, and travel.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents, Dietrich and Anne Friesen; sister Kathy; and brother Vic. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Dolly; son Randall and husband Chay Yew; son Richard and wife Bunni Magison; granddaughter Pepper; brother Allan and wife Christine; brother Eugene; and brother Milton and wife Bendta.

A Memorial Service will be held at Butler Church, 4884 E. Butler Avenue in Fresno on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

Remembrances may be made in Walter's name to Butler M.B. Church, 4884 E. Butler Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727 or Vinewood Community Church, 1900 W. Vine Street, Lodi, CA 95242.

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Friesen*

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ *Sending you all of our love, Ray and Leslie Chay purchased the Cherished Memories - All White for the family of Walter Friesen.*



Sending you all of our love, Ray and Leslie Chay - August 27, 2015 at 02:04 AM



“ *I met Walt while we were both singing in the California Choral Company at U.O.P. in Stockton. Later, when I worked at First Pres in Fresno, it was fun to see him at special services, the occasional Sunday service and concerts. He was a sweet, gentle man and I'm richer for knowing him. My prayers are with the family!*

Julie Carter - August 25, 2015 at 07:04 PM



“ *Prayers and love to you.*

marilynn - August 25, 2015 at 08:17 AM

OF

“ *Our thoughts & prayers are with you all, Cerezo Family purchased the Springtime Wishes for the family of Walter Friesen.*



Our thoughts & prayers are with you all, Cerezo Family -
August 25, 2015 at 03:06 AM

EG

“ *Walt made an impact and touched so many lives through his work and music. His kind heart touched the lives of many and will be truly missed by all. God Bless and Rest in Peace.*

Ernie & Karen Gonzales - August 25, 2015 at 01:17 AM

EG

“ *Ernie & Karen Gonzales lit a candle in memory of Walter Friesen*



Ernie & Karen Gonzales - August 25, 2015 at 01:01 AM

MM

“ *Walt was a good friend and I will miss him. He coaxed me out of my shell to sing in choir. He was my Rotary sponsor and because of him, I am still a Rotarian today. I enjoyed golfing with him and simply hanging out. He was a very positive person and I do not recall Wally ever speaking bad of a person. Our world lost a great man and I lost a good friend. The quality of the heavenly choir just went up several notches.*

Mike McAlexander

Mike McAlexander - August 24, 2015 at 11:28 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Walter Friesen.*



August 24, 2015 at 10:21 PM

SS

“ *Was incredibly blessed to know this amazing, kind hearted, gracious man!! He will be missed greatly by all of those who had the pleasure of knowing him!! You are loved Walt by so many and you will always hold a very special place in my heart!! My prayers and love to your beautiful wife Dolly and all of your family!!*



Shannon Scott - August 24, 2015 at 07:56 PM



“ *Love's Embrace Roses – Purple was purchased for the family of Walter Friesen.*



August 24, 2015 at 06:39 PM



“ *ERIKA ATKINSON lit a candle in memory of Walter Friesen*



ERIKA ATKINSON - August 24, 2015 at 05:41 PM



Dolly it was so good to see you and Walt recently at the Vinewood anniversary. You two were always so very very kind me and I cherish the memories, we love you

scott kessler - August 25, 2015 at 01:37 AM



Hi Dolly and family - Just saw this post this a.m. and wanted to tell you how sorry I am for your loss. I remember the college days when Kathy would ask me to her home for dinner and all those boys were a marvel for me. I enjoyed my friendship with Kathy and with the two of you. I'll remember you and your family in prayer. Yours in Christ, Patricia (Lyon) Cornelsen

Patricia Cornelsen - August 26, 2015 at 08:03 AM