

## Lynn E. Nielsen

August 12, 1947 - April 20, 2015

Lynn E. Nielsen (1947-2015)

CEDAR FALLS- Lynn E. Nielsen, 67, of Cedar Falls died Monday, April 20, 2015 at NewAldaya Lifescapes.

He was born August 12, 1947 in Waterloo, son of Adolph T. and Elva B. (Runestad) Nielsen. He married Mary M. Taylor on December 28, 1969 in Dallas Center.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Viet Nam era. He earned his BA degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He was employed as a professor with the University of Northern Iowa and was dean of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Survived by: his wife, Mary of Cedar Falls; daughter, Annelie (Matt) Heinen of Johnston; son, Zachary (Kim) Nielsen of Madison, WI; seven grandchildren: Taylor, Autumn, Emery and Mya Nielsen, Juliana, Alexandra and Toby Jace Heinen; three sisters: Marilyn (Dave) Voorhis of Longmont, CO, Marlys (Sim) Austin of Chester, VA, Maren Nielsen of Wichita, KS; and two brothers, Jerel (Yvonne) Nielsen of Windsor, CO, and Curtis (Janet) Nielsen of Cedar Falls.

Preceded in death by: his parents.

Services: 1:30 p.m. Friday at Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at NewAldaya Lifescapes Chapel. Richardson Funeral Service is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to NewAldaya Lifescapes, World Impact (a U.S. ministry to the urban poor), or Price Lab History Website through the UNI Foundation.

He loved his life, his family and his friends. His creative genius had no boundaries,  
and he loved sharing his gifts with the world.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

NewAldaya Lifescapes Chapel  
7511 University Avenue  
Cedar Falls, IA  
(319) 268-0401

## Service

APR **24**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church  
7401 University Avenue  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-7589  
<http://naz.org>

# Tribute Wall

TJ

“ I'm so grateful to have known Lynn he impacted my life in many ways. He was a Christian brother, mentor, friend -- a wise man. He fought the good fight, served faithfully and finished the race. He is now with his Heavenly Father. Go rest high on that mountain Brother Lynn and enjoy your reward. The rest of us must carry on, run the race and stay the course. It will not always be easy, but we'll do it anyway... that's what we're called to do. My prayers are with his wonderful family and all those who knew and loved Lynn and will miss him so much. Terry Johnston

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**Terry Johnston** - April 25, 2015 at 01:35 PM

GT

“ Our condolences to you, Mary and family. 'Twas fifty years ago I met Lynn, 2 of us presenters at the then SCI Art Fair who were honored. And after 3 years of shared faith adventures, he was there to guide me in a shift to elementary education. That commitment to education led us into multiple services with many international students and nations. Thanks, Lynnn, for listening to "the still small voice" and enjoying a world of creativity for me and others. Gene E. Tuel and Leellyn, Lawrence, KS

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**Gene Tuel** - April 24, 2015 at 01:26 PM

DM

“ We will miss our friend...the memories are many and filled with joy!

*John and Diane McCarty*

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**Diane McCarty** - April 24, 2015 at 08:37 AM

DE

“ I was saddened to hear that Lynn had passed away. He was such an inspiration to the rest of us who are "living with" cancer. He was always so positive and thoroughly enjoyed life while he was here. I have helped with several functions of New Aldaya that he was a part of, the garden party last summer and the get together at his house this winter, were a couple of them, and of course, just enjoying Elm's Pub. It seemed the party hadn't started until he was there! I'd like to extend my sympathy to his family. I can only imagine his broad smile now as he sings with the host of heaven and who knows perhaps is playing that grand pipe organ in the sky! Praise God for his life here and his eternal life now in his heavenly home!

With deepest sympathy,  
Dianne & John Eveland

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**Dianne & John Eveland** - April 23, 2015 at 05:19 PM

JF

“ I want to express my sympathies on the loss of Dr. Lynn E. Nielsen this week. Lynn was a talented educator, leading Iowa historian, gifted musician, UNI ambassador, and most importantly a faith filled gentleman who was strongly dedicated to his family. I got to first know of Lynn as an undergraduate history and political science teaching major at UNI. As my career in the classroom began and I started to volunteer my time and talents to the Iowa Council for the Social Studies, I really got to know Lynn. This expanded as our shared interests of UNI, Malcolm Price Laboratory School, and Iowa history intersected many times since 2000. Lynn was always a professional and so knowledgeable. His love of learning had him always looking for new ways to teach and share information, especially Iowa history, that it was just amazing. Rest in Peace Lynn!

Jason Follett

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**Jason Follett** - April 23, 2015 at 04:21 PM

ET

“ Lynn gave off a light that enlightend  
Other people As he let our own light  
Shine. He gave other people permission to do the same As the sun  
Rises I feel that light & at night I see  
The stars in the dark sky giving off their light I know he's here  
shining on  
Us all. Emily Taylor Fredericksburg Tx

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**Emily Taylor** - April 23, 2015 at 04:09 PM

DK

“ Don & Lisa Knudsen purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Lynn E. Nielsen.



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**Don & Lisa Knudsen** - April 23, 2015 at 03:59 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lynn E. Nielsen.



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April 23, 2015 at 09:54 AM

BS

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Lynn's passing. Lynn was a wonderful classmate, outstanding musician, and simply a wonderful person.

*My condolences to Mary, and the rest of Lynn's family on their loss.*

*Bob Schmidt,  
SCHS Class of 1965.  
Captain, USAF (ret)  
Spokane, WA*

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**Bob Schmidt** - April 23, 2015 at 01:54 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lynn E. Nielsen.



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April 22, 2015 at 04:35 PM

LC

“ Mary and family,

*Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. We know God, family, friends, and wonderful memories will sustain you through this time of healing.*

*Larry and Linda Crannell*

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**Linda Crannell** - April 22, 2015 at 03:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lynn E. Nielsen.*



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April 22, 2015 at 12:04 PM



“ *We mourn your loss with you. A creative, generous, and kind person who touched so many lives. Please accept our sincere sympathy, and know that God is holding your family in the palm of His hand during this time of sadness.*

*The Bettertons*

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**maribelle betterton** - April 22, 2015 at 11:40 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers are with you all as you celebrate a life well live. May your memories be a source of comfort and joy in the days and weeks ahead.*

*-Kirsten Compary*

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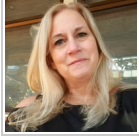
**Kirsten Compary** - April 22, 2015 at 11:03 AM



*Thank you for your kind words, Kirsten.*

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**Annelie Heinen** - April 25, 2015 at 12:15 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Lynn. I want you to know that he meant so much to me and always treated the Secretary's in Curriculum and Instruction with the utmost respect. I enjoyed the times that he invited us over for lunch in his beautiful backyard and made our days so special. He was an inspiration to so many just know he was one of the most beautiful people I've ever had the pleasure to know.

*Deepest sympathies*  
*Lori Shannon*  
*Secretary - C&I*

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**Lori Shannon** - April 22, 2015 at 10:13 AM



“ *From the McElroy Trust and the Gold Star committee:*

*We extend our most sincere sympathy to Lynn's family and friends. Lynn spent nearly 20 years helping us honor great teachers. We are so grateful for his efforts. We could always count on Lynn to bring us back to the "true North" of Gold Star - amazing teachers authentically connecting with kids. His long commitment to the program was a true gift of time and passion. Lynn's contributions will be greatly missed.*

*Sending prayers.*  
*Stacy Van Gorp*

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**Stacy Van Gorp** - April 22, 2015 at 09:30 AM

LF

“ Lynn Nielsen

*These are a few of my favorite gifts from Lynn*

*His upbeat and grateful Mayo Updates*

*The organ and piano music that gave spirit to the spiritual and more fun to the fun times (and gratitude that he made CDs that we can continue to enjoy)*

*Route 66*

*His gracious sharing of Delicious Danish cuisine; time now to move the celebration from his dad's birthday to his own birthday (disclaimer: the day after my own birthday ;-)*

*Planning to join the birthday concert in Paris; the cancellation not as disappointing knowing that preserving his strength would give us more months (at the time I was hoping years) with him*

*Aesthetically pleasing enhancements to the environment: his tie collection, his Tiki Bar, his garden, a beautifully appointed house, the old radio CD holder and other office delights*

*And I want to be sure that our junior faculty know how much they owe to his leadership and support of improved Professional Assessment Committee procedures in our department*

*And so much much more. But these are a few things for which I am most grateful to Lynn, for whom longtime colleagues are grieving his loss too.*

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Linda May Fitzgerald - April 22, 2015 at 09:13 AM

GK

“ Lynn, our prayers and blessings go out to your family.

*We will miss your soft spoken ever descant voice of wisdom, and piano concertos. It was an honor to know you and work with you, on the GS committee over these past 11 years. Until we meet again, keep the music flowing among our heavenly friends. Rest in peace.*

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**Glen & Sharon K. Vander Kolk** - April 22, 2015 at 08:29 AM

RD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Robin Darland** - April 21, 2015 at 07:45 PM

TJ

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Terry Johnston** - April 21, 2015 at 01:42 PM

GR

“ *Too many fabulous memories to share just one....holding all of them in my heart.*

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**Gretta** - April 21, 2015 at 01:08 PM

MB

*Lynn's kindness, humor and talent will be missed. My sympathy to the family. Mary Bozik*

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**Mary Bozik** - April 22, 2015 at 09:51 PM

SW

*Mary, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as you make this transition. We are thankful to you and Lynn for the times we spent together in Iowa City. You were both placed in our lives at the right time. Thanks so much.*

*Steve (NUHS class of '71) and Chris Williams  
1 Thess 4:13-18*

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**Steve Williams** - April 23, 2015 at 12:21 PM

PT

*Lynn Nielsen; Thank you.*

*'Kilowatt' presence -  
Pureness in heart and soul .  
He lived so generously and full , but,we all wanted more.  
Deepest condolences ; to the Nielsen's;  
Pamela Taylor (1921 Merner street)*

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**pamela taylor** - April 23, 2015 at 03:06 PM

RL

*I first knew Lynn Nielsen as Maren's "older brother" while at MPLS. A few years later I returned to MPLS where as a Physical Education teacher, I had ample opportunity to see Lynn as a teacher/professor, developing the minds of our elementary children. I will always admire him for his legacy in the classroom.*

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**Rick LaRue** - April 24, 2015 at 09:05 AM

SO

*Immediately I thought of the time in the late 60's when Mary called me in Ames telling she & Lynn were at the I-35 exit with car trouble & could I help. I don't know what I did. I just remember I then knew they were dating and very likely a wedding was in the near future. Many years later Lynn's books were my primary resource as I added Iowa History to my teaching experience along with music. If Lynn is maestro of the heavenly choir, let's try to sit together in the soprano section, Mary. Ah, but Jesus will be our focus as I'm sure you are leaning heavenly on Him today.*

*- Shirley Atwood Osborne*

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**Shirley Atwood Osborne** - April 24, 2015 at 05:52 PM

L'

*I so enjoyed getting to know Lynn better when he played piano at New Aldaya and organ in the chapel Sundays, and meeting Mary and hearing her beautiful soprano voice. God bless you all.*

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**Libby Aurand, NUHS class of '68** - April 28, 2015 at 08:29 AM