



Dennis Ahrens

January 24, 1944 - January 29, 2012

Dennis Wayne Ahrens was the fourth living child and second son of Henry Charles and Carmelleta May (Lytle) Ahrens. He was born outside of Brainerd in Crow Wing County in their home on January 24, 1944. He had three older sisters, Donna Mae, Florine Fae (known as Rene), and Pat. Dennis attended school in Brainerd, Motley and Staples. The family moved to Staples when he was 12 years old. He remained a member of the Staples community for over 50 years. While he was still in high school he joined the National Guard in 1961 and was a member of the Guard until 1967. He was a car man for the railroad and retired after 31 years of dedicated work. Dennis and Carolin Charie Gould were married on October 27, 1962. He died at home on January 29, 2012, at the age of 68. Carolin and Dennis raised two children, Curt and Shawn, who reside in St. Cloud with their families; they have three grandchildren, Shelby, Cody, and Ava who have brought so much enjoyment to their life. Dennis' interests were golfing, hunting, motorcycling, visiting car shows, and his family, which included his wildlife family in his backyard. Dennis is survived by his wife of 49 years Carolin; son Curt and his wife Carrie and their daughter Ava; daughter Shawn and fiancé Mike Mellies, Shawn's children Shelby and Cody, and Mike's children Samantha and Shawn; sisters Donna May Brobst Estherville, IA, and Pat (Tom) Neznik of Staples; many nieces and nephews from the Ahrens family, who thought of Dennis more of a father figure than just an uncle; Carolin's mother Beatrice Gould; the Gould brothers, Allen (Maureen), David (Sandra), Bruce (Lois), and Gary (Sandy);

and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Carmelleta; sister Florine; an infant brother Henry Charles, Jr "Sonny"; father-in-law Floyd Gould; and brother-in-law Don Brobst. Memorial services were held at 2:00 p.m. on February 3, 2012 at the Johnson Memorial Home Chapel in Wadena, with Pastor Shirley Nelson presiding. Inurnment will be held this spring.

Tribute Wall

PN

“ *Our Family has added an angel to watch over us. We will all forever be thank-ful for the years of memories that we hold in our hearts.*

Pat and Tom Neznik - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *He'll be missed a lot. Know sometimes we don't understand some of the things the Good Lord does, but just have to trust. My sympathy to Carolin, Shawn & Curt & their families. Also, to their extended family. God Bless & be with you all. Denny joins many others waiting to join us on the other side.*

Donna Brobst - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. We pray for peace for Dennis, and for your family.*

Melissa Nikko - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Carolyn. He was a very good person and a good friend.
Love Don & Susie*

Don & Susie Mahan - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EN

“ Uncle Denny was certainly one of the good guys. This world will now be a shade darker without him here with us, but the other side is in for a real treat.

Wry humor, an immediate offer of tea or soda upon hitting his front door (weather-dependent, of course), a genuine contentment from the simple things in life, and the constant companion he was to Aunt Carolin...just a few things I'll always hold dear when my thoughts drift to one of my favorite people.

Eric Neznik - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ My Uncle Denny was more than just a Uncle he was a "beloved" Uncle. He filled the void in myself, many of my siblings and cousins lives and filled the gaps not having a father around left in our lives. He was always there for us supporting us in any choice we made even when he had his own personal doubts. He lived his life for family and extended family. He and my Aunt Caroline were the role models we so desperately needed in our youth and early years. They never let us down and we knew they loved us unconditionally. Losing my Beloved Uncle has left a void in my life that will always stay empty because no one could ever fill my Uncle Denny's shoes. I am so blessed to have been gifted by God the sweet, wonderful, loving, loyal and funny Uncle I was. My heart goes out to my Aunt Caroline, my cousins Curt and Shawn for their loss. Their children who were not given enough time here on earth with their grandfather. My Uncle Denny loved his wife, loved, his childre, loved his grandchildren, all of his family and I know he loved me.

Suzie LeBlanc - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ What can we say, uncle Denny was one of the people in our lives that we look up to, he always had a way to make us smile, no matter what was going on around us, we will miss him dearly, our prayers and thoughts are with caroline , Shawn and Curt and their families, Denny will always be in are hearts.

Richard and Dianna Perry - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ It's me again Den.I forgot to tell you the most important thing.How very much I love you.I'm not to good on this computer as you can see.I tried this a couple times,so maybe I'll be repeating my-self,but that's okay. We just lost our anchor. I have the biggest bubble in my heart.Not only did I loose my Brother,but my best friend too.Thank you for giving me such a great sister-in-law.Carolin, my heart goes out to you.I just don't know what to say or do for you.Alway's know I'm just a phone call away.My heart goes out to Curt and Shawn and their familie's.May they one day find peace.It's so hard to say good-bye,so I'll just close in saying,I'll see you later. Give Mom,Dad,and Rene a big hug from me. I love you all. Your Sis,Pat

pat - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Uncle Denny, your smile lit up a room! It will be sorely missed by so many. I have had the privilege of knowing you for 20 years as John's wife. You always made me feel so welcome with hugs and always a soda or a sandwich. Heck, you even showed the raccoons how nice life could be!! I can't say that I have ever known a better man than you. My/our hearts go out to Carolin, Shawn, Curt and your families. My heart breaks for you. So many will feel this loss. I am very blessed to have been a part of your family and to have known Uncle Denny. There just are no words..

John, Dawn & Sydney Cline - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Uncle Denny was one of the greatest men I ever knew- his smile could light up a room. The love he had for his family was truly wonderful- he lived for his family and would do anything for anybody. The love he has for Aunt Carolin truly has been the foundation of the love,commitment and joy I hope to have in my life. Words cannot express how sorry I am for your loss Carolin, Shawn, and Curt- he will be truly missed but never forgotten. Uncle Denny please tell Grandma Rene hi for me- I know she'll be waiting for you with open arms. Love you always and forever

Jaime Cline- Brennan, Chuck and Madison - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Carolin and family I am so sorry for your loss.

Shellie (Hagemann) Sanders - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ I came to know Denny and Carolin mostly through family events at Christmas,etc,when the Floyd Gould and Howard DeWald families would get together. Denny and Carolin were always ready to greet with smiles and what I felt were so welcome senses of humor. Dennis will be missed. My sympathies and prayers go to you, Carolin, Curt and Shawn and your families. Take comfort in knowing how well he will be remembered, and that he will be keeping watch over you from above.

Coralie DeWald - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ When I think about Uncle Denny, my first thoughts are about how he is our Rock. The one we could always count on to be there. I always wanted someone to love me the way that he loved my Aunt Carolin. He showed us what it was to be a wonderful Husband, Father, brother, Uncle and Friend. My heavy heart goes out to Aunt Carolin, Curt and Shawn and their family's. My mom and Aunt Donna and so many more. I won't say goodbye, just see ya later. Love you

Carmella and Bert Wimer - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Shawn...I'm so sorry to hear about your dad. I'm thinking of you and your family during this very difficult time.
Take care

Londa Wagner - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Remembering how Denny like Elvis' gospel music so much when we were teenagers...and his love for old cars. It was always good to visit with him and Carolin when they stopped by to see his sister, Donna (our sister-in-law) at Brobst family gatherings. He was a good man and an old friend. He will be missed.

Butch & Mardella Brobst - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Dear Uncle Denny, There is a beautiful song "I'm gonna love you through it." You and Aunt Carolin walked beside me my first survivor lap at Relay for Life. You loved us all throughout our growing up yrs, graduations, marriages, births of our children, our highs and lows. You loved us through it all! You always told us we were not rich financially but rich in the love of family. You were going to win the lottery and share it with all of us. Actually, it was us that won the lottery, to have such a wonderful, dedicated man in our lives! You will always be in our hearts forever! May God wrap his arms tightly around each of you. May he bring you comfort and peace. God bless each of you today and everyday. Amen. I so miss and love you Uncle Denny! Until we meet again!

Karla Greenwaldt - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Dear Aunt Carolin,
I hope you are doing alright. I was really sad when mommy told me that Uncle Denny had passed away. :o(
You will always have him in your heart. Now he can say "Hi" to my Grandma Rene and Grandma Keeney, and my my kitty Remmi. I miss them alot too.

I love you.
Syndey Nicole

Sydney Cline - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ sorry to hear,,, when curt let me to meet u long time so u always nice guy i met and he's talking about u lot so i know he misses u lot!., i'm happy i met u and understand u say while u signs to your son,, hope u be in heaven....

jeff westrud - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *Always a good guy, always a friend.*

Roger Berg - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ *Denny will surely be missed. Very nice video tribute.*

Dennis Jenkins - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM