



Arthur Oliver Schwenke

September 29, 1929 - August 8, 2015

Our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, Arthur Oliver Schwenke, passed away on August 8, 2015 at the age of 85, surrounded by family in Utah. Born September 29, 1929 in Papauta, Upolu Samoa, Arthur is the fifth son of Max and Moe Schwenke. He married the love of his life, Saini Pele Atoa on June 10, 1950. They were sealed for time and all eternity in the Hamilton New Zealand Temple on January 14, 1961. Theirs was a true love story. Saini was his queen and he her "King Arthur". They embodied the scripture in Corinthians "neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord." They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Theirs is an eternal union based on love, faith, and family.

Arthur was a man of many talents. He studied accounting and accepted his first job at the New Zealand Reparation Estates, which later became WESTEC. After that, he spent 19 years working at H. & J. Retzlaff in various accounting and managerial positions. In 1969, Arthur resigned from H. & J. Retzlaff to start his own taxi business in Samoa called "Town Taxi Service". Arthur was a man of dreams, and was always thinking about how he could support his family and be successful.

Besides his entrepreneurial efforts, Arthur was a great teacher. He taught in the Church College of Western Samoa school system from 1969-1985. He taught everything from religion to accounting. However, some of his greatest teaching moments occurred while serving as the bishop of the Pesega 1st Ward.

Arthur was ordained a bishop on March 18, 1962 by Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. In an effort to help raise money for the ward, Bishop Schwenke organized an entertainment group known as the Talofa Village. In the process, he helped change the lives of dozens of ward members and their posterity. Bishop Schwenke served faithfully for nearly 10 years and was then called to the stake High Council, where he served for 14 years before being released in 1983.

Arthur and Saini left their beloved Samoa in 1985 to move to the United States to be

closer to their children and grandchildren. In the U.S.A, he became affectionately known as “MacGyver” for being able to fix anything. Anytime a project needed to be done, a car needed to be fixed, or a meal needed to be made, you could always count on Grandpa Schwenke. He was always serving and always trying to lighten the load for somebody else.

Though a quiet and humble man, Arthur Schwenke leaves a legacy of a giant. His acts of service and love have touched countless people and we know that the ripple effects of his kindness will never be known fully. He believed in God and he believed in family. He believed in loving one another and always sticking together. One of his most memorable sayings was “No man is an island. Nobody stands alone.” We know that is true, even in his passing.

We know he is not alone. He has returned to our Heavenly Father and our Savior, Jesus Christ. He has been reunited with his parents, Max Schwenke and Moe Jane Ah Ching, his brothers Max Harold, Cyril Christopher, Charles Christopher and his sisters Silaina Jane McClain and Ella Thomsen, who all preceded him in death. We know that we will see him again, that the love we share will continue in the next life, and that families are forever.

Arthur is survived by his beloved wife, Saini, and his children, Alvin (Ramona), Sam (Sandra), LaVon (Ricki), Lorraine (Scott), Art (Diana), Ula (Clement), Oliver (Fina), and Max (Leticia), as well as 26 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the hospital staff at the Heart and Lung Center at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah for caring so lovingly for our “Pops” during his final days on this earth. Until the end, the Lord blessed Arthur with miracles and tender mercies to remind us of what a faithful man he was and what a remarkable life he lived.

Memorial services for Arthur Schwenke will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at the LDS Stake Center located at 1855 W. 13400 South in Riverton, Utah. A viewing will be held from 10am-11:30am. It will be followed by a memorial service from 12pm-2pm.

The family will honor Arthur’s wishes to “go home” and be buried in his lovely Samoa.

We love you, Pops. Manuia lau malaga.

Events

AUG **Viewing** 10:00AM - 11:30AM

15

Samoan 23rd Branch

1855 W 13400 S, Riverton, UT, US

AUG **Memorial** 12:00PM - 02:00PM

15

Samoan 23rd Branch

1855 W 13400 S, Riverton, UT, US

Comments



“ Miss you grandpa, Love you.



EA - July 09, 2018 at 03:34 PM



“ LorMona Meredith lit a candle in memory of Arthur Oliver Schwenke



LorMona Meredith - August 17, 2015 at 01:10 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you ! Love Bill, Sala & Daniel Fuchs



Bill Fuchs - August 13, 2015 at 06:59 AM



“ Thank you for your love and kindness. You sure was a gentle GIANT!!! May you rest in Peace and Love.

(former student at CCWS)

Sama Malolo and family.



Sama Malolo - August 13, 2015 at 03:27 AM



“ My Dearest Uncle Afa, I would have to write a book to express the love I have for this man. He and his humble smile. He never said much, but what he did say was always warm, loving and comforting. You were always there at our memorable family events and I know why. I'll always remember what my father, Otto Ah Ching told me about you. How you two were not just first cousins but more like loving brothers. You grew up in the same household because his father had died at the age of eight. Aunty Moe although very strict, he loved her and all the lessons of well grooming that she expected from all of them. When the other brothers and sisters were chauffeured to school in the family taxi, my Dad was told to stay behind to clean up the kitchen and do the breakfast dishes, or clean the house or he couldn't go to the school dance, Uncle Afa, you stayed behind and helped my Dad and then you both walked to school which was about five miles away. You two always did things together. Played in the school band, went to dances and you both excelled in taking care and providing for your family, and families.

If i remember anything about this wonderful man was that my Dad trusted him in all matters. Not only his honesty and humility but his welcoming charity and service to his family and God. How appropriate that you should pass away the same day as my father, August 8th. I feel like he waited for you to help welcome you into Heavenly Fathers kingdom. I pray that this bond continues on with your children as the seed has already been planted. My daughters are like sisters to your grand children in the fact that they all do things together. A big Thank you to Lavon, Rick, Alvin, and Ramona who have greatly impacted my children in their lives one way or another. And yes, Miss Queenie Lini, I did not forget you. You add the spice thats always needed.

My heart goes out to you All, my Schwenke cousins. I know your names. I hope to know you all better. Ulu, your like your Mom I always enjoy your spirit, Afa Jr., you emulate the love that your father exzuded. Sam,Max and Oliver, I know that even though I don't know you well, I know your actions, thoughts and deeds are like your father. It is evident in all of you. Uncle Afa and Aunty Saini, you will always be remembered by me and my children because I tell them of the good you have done.

Aloha Uncle Afa, a hui hou i malama pono. My love to my parents and the rest of the family. From all the York's and Ah Ching's we love you forever.

Your neice,
SIOTA AH CHING YORK

Siota Ah Ching York - August 11, 2015 at 06:05 PM



“ I remember the great love and respect my Dad and Mom had for your parents. I know amongst the reunion in heaven they will be there to greet him and welcome back into the presence of the Lord! If there is food there will be a great feast! How beautiful life is when you have good family and friends to share it with! My we live so we to can live together with our parents and family memebbers who have gone before! His example is one we can follow like the Savior and the best way we can show our love and gratitude for his dedication! May the Lord bless and comfort you during this time!

Love Julie (Oler) Tangiora and family



julie tangiora - August 11, 2015 at 08:27 AM



“ Adele R Hunt lit a candle in memory of Arthur Oliver Schwenke



Adele R Hunt - August 11, 2015 at 05:56 AM



“ Mitzy L Noa lit a candle in memory of Arthur Oliver Schwenke



Mitzy L Noa - August 11, 2015 at 04:07 AM



“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Lottielyn Schwenke - August 11, 2015 at 12:16 AM



“ Condolences to the whole family. With much alofas from all of us

Mitzy L Noa - August 10, 2015 at 08:38 PM



“ Ricki Ankers lit a candle in memory of Arthur Oliver Schwenke



Ricki Ankers - August 10, 2015 at 07:28 PM



“ "E tau'i le alofa ile alofa" I'm very grateful that pops and mom taught their family (and now me), this wonderful Christ-like virtue. More than ANY other sentiment , expression, or message that I've heard shared, about pops and by those his life touched over his many years, is "how grateful" they are, for the kindness, generosity , and unconditional love, pops and mom extended to them. What a beautiful way to be remembered. Thank you pops. Ricki Ankers, son-in-law, and so-blessed-to-be-married-to-your-favorite-daughter lol, Love you an mom much.

Ricki Ankers - August 10, 2015 at 07:26 PM