



James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr.

February 8, 1931 - August 7, 2015

James E. Jenson Sr. (AKA: Jimmy Jenson, "The Swingin' Swede") age 84 of Alexandria died on Friday, August 7, 2015 at Bethany Home. A Funeral Service will be held 11:00 AM on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at New Life Christian Church in Alexandria. Visitation will be held Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at New Life Christian Church from 4-7 PM with a prayer service at 6:30 PM and visitation one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday.

Memorials are preferred to LifeRight Outreach, New Life Christian Church, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) or The American Cancer Society.

OBITUARY

James Edward Jenson, Sr. (aka Jimmy Jenson "The Swingin' Swede") was born on February 8, 1931 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota to Ernest and Inez (Hamilton) Jenson. He was raised on a farm in Glyndon, MN, and started performing with his accordion at age eight. He formed his first band, the Musicales, as a teenager, followed by The Minnesota Woodchoppers, the Lynn Neely Band, and played for over 60 years in dance halls and clubs across the upper Midwest. He appeared regularly on WDAY Party Line in Fargo, and later with Nashville country stars at The Flame and Brady's in Minneapolis. He recorded the famous "Walkin' in My Winter Underwear" popularized on the program "Lunch With Casey" on WTCN in Minneapolis.

KXRA in Alexandria, MN has interviewed Jimmy and broadcast his music for more than 40 years. In 2005, he was inducted into the Midwest Country Music Hall of Fame.

Jimmy had two children with his first wife, Donnabelle Brown, and married Helen Joanne Tiseth in 1957. Together over 42 years they raised five children, and resided in Minneapolis until 1965 when they moved to Alexandria, MN. There, they were owners of the Hillside Club. Jimmy recorded over 12 albums and CDs, and was known for his humorous Scandinavian renditions. During the past six years he played and recorded gospel music.

Jimmy was a humble, loving man who shared his unique musical talents to raise his family. He entertained people throughout his life.

Jimmy died on Friday, August 7, 2015 at Bethany Home in Alexandria at the age of 84. He is survived by his children Judy (Allen) Dudgeon of Fargo, ND, Randy Jenson of Sartell, MN, Kim Jenson (Tom Elsen) of Chicago, IL, Suzanne Jenson of So. St. Paul, MN, James Jenson Jr. (Rochelle) of Alexandria, MN, Cheryl Radmacher (Jack Tuckner) of Maplewood, MN, and Mark (Vicky) Jenson of Alexandria. Grandchildren, Michael (Kimberly) Jenson, James (Gretchen) Jenson III, Jessica (Eric) Schmidt, Lindsay (Chris) Becker, Drew Dempsey, Jenna Dempsey, Jamie Lee Jenson, Sam Jenson, Anna Jenson, Ben Jenson, Wyatt Jenson, Miranda Jenson, Elijah Holthaus, John (Jessi) Radmacher, Tim (Kaitlin) Radmacher, Mark Radmacher; Great grandchildren, Andrew, Stephanie, Kobe, Fiona, Gavyn, Maya and Quinn; sister, Karen (Duane) Haugerud of Hillsboro, ND; cousin Bob (Midge) Jenson, Milton, FL, and many nieces and nephews. Jimmy is preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Inez; wife, Helen; and siblings, Donald Jenson, Robert Jenson, Jerry Jenson, and Carol ("Katie") Jenson.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at New Life

Christian Church in Alexandria with Pastor John Taplin officiating. Interment was in Kinkead Cemetery in Alexandria.

Cemetery Details

Kinkead Cemetery

Alexandria, MN 56308

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 12. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

New Life Christian Church
1910 Co Rd 82 SE
Alexandria, MN 56308

Prayer Service

AUG 12. 6:30 PM (CT)

New Life Christian Church
1910 Co Rd 82 SE
Alexandria, MN 56308

Visitation

AUG 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Life Christian Church
1910 Co Rd 82 SE
Alexandria, MN 56308

Funeral Service

AUG **13**. 11:00 AM (CT)

New Life Christian Church
1910 Co Rd 82 SE
Alexandria, MN 56308

Tribute Wall



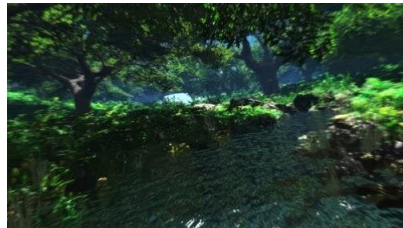
“ Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr.



Anderson Funeral Home - August 20, 2015 at 08:07 AM



“ Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr.



Anderson Funeral Home - August 11, 2015 at 09:51 AM

MH

Very beautiful video..... sometimes hard to see for the tears flowing.....

Marilyn Henn - August 12, 2015 at 11:19 AM

JL

What a beautiful tribute!! My sympathy to all of his family...

Judy Linhoff - August 12, 2015 at 12:41 PM

SJ

“ I don't think there's enough room on my computer. Not enough for yours either. I don't think.

suzanne Jenson - September 11, 2015 at 04:25 PM

SJ

“ I remember when he almost made it to Johnny Carson's Tonight Show, Then I saw and heard him closing the Jeopardy show yesterday. They showed him at the end of the show, doing his thing, When I turned it on, I couldn't believe it, so I had to checked my computer to see if it was there. NOPE, not mine; JEAPORDIES !!!

suzanne Jenson - September 11, 2015 at 04:22 PM

SJ

“ Memories, were so many and appreciated by his family and friends I was one of his 4 daughters. I was ever so proud of Dad. Memories. What a wonderful way to spend his life, and mine too. Love you Dad!.

Suzanne Marie Jenson - September 10, 2015 at 04:46 PM

PC

“ So sorry for your loss! You may not remember me or my parents but my parents were very good friends with Jimmy's brother, Bob. I grew up listening to Jimmy's music too. We came to your Hillside Club once when I was pretty young. I remember feeling pretty special being at a celebrity's place. My parents both passed on in 2013 and 2014. Leroy and Janet Doeden. I also received a barbie dream house from Bob & Eunice's (?) daughter years ago and still have it. Best wishes to you all! May all the good memories bring comfort to you.

Sincerely,

*Pam (Doeden) Cota
West Fargo, N.D.*

Pam Cota - August 31, 2015 at 06:02 PM

AK

“ Jimmy and I were in school together in Moorhead. I even stayed at their farm in Park Rapids and his dad, Ernie, taut me how to drive. We used to sing together a lot also. I ran into him in Mpls when he had a acordian show in a bar and we sang together. i brought up our 2 kids on the Swinging Swede's music and I still have some of his "golden oldies". He could really rattle the keys on the piano playing boogie woogie also. I heard him once since we came home to Moorhead but lost track of each other after that.

Please pass this on to the family if you would. I would like his family to know much he was thought of even when he was a youngster. I am 84 and still like to hear some of his music. Sorry this is so late but I just found out about his passing. He was a friend.

*I am: Arthur Knudtson adjskb@gmail.com
2901 Monad Rd. Apt #5
Billings, MT 59102-6103*

Arthur Knudtson - August 20, 2015 at 05:37 PM

PM

“ I grew up with my Aunts going to listen to Jimmy Jenson playing in Fargo in the 1960's 😊 they would come home singing Hilda oh Hilda 😊 Great Memories 😊 Prayers for the Family!!! Mike & Putt Muzik

Putt Muzik - August 13, 2015 at 05:42 PM



“ Al & Judy, So sorry to hear about your dad...prayers from the Becher's

Lisa Becher - August 13, 2015 at 11:46 AM

BO

“ Beautiful video. My favorite memory of Jimmy was listening to him on the radio when he played with my Dad and the Minnesota Woodchoppers at the Moorhead Armory (The Saturday Night Jamboree). My Dad really liked Jimmy. He told me what a good singer Jimmy was and how he really enjoyed his impersonation of Elvis. I still enjoy listening to Jimmy’s music. One of my favorites is "The Viking Snowmobile." My sympathy to all of his family. Bernie Ostrom, Jr.

Bernie Ostrom - August 13, 2015 at 09:15 AM

KA

“ My favorite memory was when a bunch of us Pelican Rapids high schoolers went to one of his gigs out at Perry's. This would have around 1974. He was taking requests that night and we asked for Swedish Auctioneer. He said that he couldn't remember it so my good friend jumped up there, grabbed the mike and sang it FLAWLESSLY! The band didn't miss a beat and Jimmy was floored and so appreciative that the younger generation was into his music. We had practiced that song for months before that fun night! RIP Jimmy, you were one of a kind.

Kevin Anderson

Kevin Anderson - August 12, 2015 at 06:18 PM

SS

“ Wow, what a great video. He was the best uncle and I would go with my dad (Bob) where he was playing and we danced. Rest in peace Uncle Jimmy, much love, Sandy Jenson Smulders

sandy melton smulders - August 12, 2015 at 05:40 PM

Jl

“ *Jigar Vyas and team at Invescence, Inc. purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



Jigar Vyas and team at Invescence, Inc. - August 12, 2015 at 04:32 PM

RW

“ *So sad to here of Jimmy passing, I was coming down to look him up in a couple weeks. I danced to Jimmy at the Galaxy Supper Club in Barnesville. Jim also worked for me at the car wash in Alexandria while I had it. So sad to see him go, I will miss all the story's he had of his career in music. My sympathy to Jim's family and prayers are with you, I am sure he is playing that Box of his for the lord himself.*

Roger Wagner, Grafton ND

Roger Wagner - August 12, 2015 at 04:27 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 12, 2015 at 12:30 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..



August 12, 2015 at 10:55 AM



“ *The Thomas Family* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..



The Thomas Family - August 12, 2015 at 10:26 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..



August 12, 2015 at 09:35 AM

JD

“ *Jenson Family, my deepest sympathy to the entire family. I have lots of wonderful memories of your dad and mom. Jimmy was always so kind to those with disabilities and provided the music for special occasions for them. They enjoyed dancing, listening and singing along to his music. Helen and Jimmy are making music in heaven, it was a long wait for both of them. Blessed be the memories. Hugs, peace and love to all!*



Janice Doebber

Janice Doebber - August 11, 2015 at 10:43 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 11, 2015 at 06:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 11, 2015 at 06:14 PM

FB

“ *Fay Beman lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr.*



Fay Beman - August 11, 2015 at 05:21 PM

FB

I have lit this candle in memory of Jimmy, from all of his friends at the "H. J. Jenson Home!" We will miss Jimmy dearly. Our Condolences to Jimmy's friends and family.

Fay Beman - August 11, 2015 at 05:23 PM

BT

What a wonderful tribute to you Dad, Cheryl. I had no idea he was an accomplished musician. May his music remain forever in your heart. Peace, Barb

Barbara Tuckner - August 12, 2015 at 09:16 AM

BH

“ *Brian, Michele, Blair, Nicholas, & Cory Hansen purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



Brian, Michele, Blair, Nicholas, & Cory Hansen - August 11, 2015 at 05:16 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 11, 2015 at 04:51 PM



“ *Pat Higgins, Bill Toops and Gerry Gries purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



Pat Higgins, Bill Toops and Gerry Gries - August 11, 2015 at 04:44 PM



“ *Andy and Anna Burish purchased the My Fair Lady for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



Andy and Anna Burish - August 11, 2015 at 03:58 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 11, 2015 at 03:43 PM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 11, 2015 at 03:08 PM



“ *63 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Anderson Funeral Home - August 11, 2015 at 09:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 10, 2015 at 07:17 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 10, 2015 at 03:54 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 10, 2015 at 01:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 10, 2015 at 01:13 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..*



August 10, 2015 at 12:19 PM



“ I remember when Jimmy Jenson performed at my folk's South Shores Resort on Big Toad Lake years ago (I was about 12). He asked me to go get him a pack of cigarettes and he gave me a quarter. Funny what we remember.

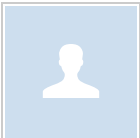
Jeff Janke - August 09, 2015 at 02:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



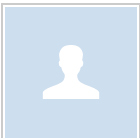
Rochelle Jenson - August 08, 2015 at 05:33 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..



August 08, 2015 at 04:58 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr..



August 08, 2015 at 04:02 PM

HK

“ Henry & Shirley Kluver lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" E. Jenson Sr.



Henry & Shirley Kluver - August 08, 2015 at 02:29 PM

HK

We loved Jimmy Jensen and his music, we danced to his music for over 55 years, he knew us and always acknowledged us, he was a very kind loving man and will be in our memory forever--

Henry & Shirley Kluver - August 08, 2015 at 02:33 PM

DT

Dear Kim, Jay, Suzanne, Cheryl and Mark,

Please accept our condolences at the passing of your father.

We have so many happy memories when we were young and attending his shows in Fargo, Detroit Lakes and Minneapolis. It was so much fun.

We came to Minneapolis to see all of you. You were so little and adorable. We can still see you as you were back then.

The Best of Wishes to you and your families. Love Uncle Al and Aunt Dorie

Dorie Tiseth - August 08, 2015 at 03:13 PM

JM

Jimmy's Family,

My dad, Del Woodard, played for years with your dad. While I have never met Mr. Jenson, I knew him well. He was always spoken highly of in conversation of my dad's and we all appreciated their relationship. My dad called to have me help with flowers and I will certainly do so. I want you to know he was quite moved about your dad's death. He himself will be 85 the 13th of August, and stated he was the last survivor of their band.

Our entire family over Labor Day, will be celebrating with a special reception (jam session/dinner) in dad's honor as he is being inducted into the SD Country Music Hall of Fame that Sunday at the SD State Fair. It wouldn't be possible without times like those played with Jimmy and also with his sons, my brothers.

May you find peace and comfort in your memories. From what I know, he was a remarkable human being and a fantabulous musician! God's peace to you all.

Jeanie (Woodard) Meiers

Jeanie Woodard Meiers - August 09, 2015 at 08:22 PM

TW

From the time I was very young, my father, Del Woodard would tell stories of Jimmy and himself. Stories of growing up and playing with "Bernie Ostrum and the Minnesota Woodchoppers". I have a poster of them, hanging in my recording studio. We used to put on his records and listen to him tell his musical stories. "Big Tom" a tuff top cat, was my favorite. We were fortunate enough to meet him at my dad's 80th Birthday party. It was one of the highlights of the day for my dad, to reunite with Jimmy. Listening to him with his one-man-band was just wonderful. As a musician, I know the fondness that comes with musician "brothers". My sincerest condolences.

Ted Woodard - August 10, 2015 at 12:27 PM

BS

We danced to Jimmy many times over the many years, mostly at the VFW, when we came on the weekends to visit my dad and Bill's parents. We always remember the great music and all the wonderful people Jimmy drew in. We miss those days. We just spoke of Jimmy when we were in MN. in July, wondering about him. Jimmy & Schmidty are playing again. We extend our deepest sympathy. Bill & Bonnie Sharp, Maricopa, AZ.

Bonnie Sharp - September 03, 2015 at 03:08 PM