



Fred Caventer

April 28, 1943 - June 10, 2015

Fred Caventer, 72 of Lidderdale, died Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at Shady Oaks Care Center in Lake City.

A funeral mass will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 20, 2015 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lidderdale. The Celebrant will be Fr. Dale Reiff. Con-Celebrant and homilist will be Fr. Lynn Bruch. Mass servers will be Adam and Ryan Scharfenkamp. Music will be by Deanna Daniel, Holy Family Choir, with Kelsey Knorr as soloist. Lectors for the funeral mass will be: Mindy Skillen and Deb Brincks. Gift Bearers will be: Patrick Serafyn, Michael Serafyn, Kara Close, Kally Close, Nate Epperson, Christopher Snyder, Steven Snyder, Jerod Snyder, and Jada Snyder. Eucharistic Ministers will be Bill Stork and Ruth Lux. Honorary Casket Bearers will be: Gary Adams, Paul Daniel, Chris Daniel, Jim Von Ahn, Baron Brinkman, Stan Gordon, Larry Sporrer and Duane Sporrer. Burial will be at a later date.

Fred's family will greet friends one hour prior to mass at Holy Family Church in Lidderdale.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for Fred's family at www.sharpfuneral.com.

Fred was born on April 28, 1943 at Gary, Indiana, the son of Edward and

Elinor (Polite) Caventer. He spent his younger years in Gary, Indiana, graduated from high school in 1961 and later attended Indiana University.

In 1965, Fred began his 33 year career with J C Penney. He started in the Village Store and later moved to the downtown store in Gary, Indiana in 1968. From there he became personal manager of the Dixie Square Mall in Harvey, Illinois and two year later was promoted to assistant manager in Roseland, Illinois. In 1976, Fred became the GMM of Penney's in Council Bluffs where he spent a couple years and then moved to the South Roads Store in Bellevue, Nebraska.

On December 15, 1979 he married Sherry Sporrer in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Following their marriage Fred managed stores in Alliance, Nebraska and Sidney, Nebraska, before Fred's last assignment in Red Wing, Minnesota where he was the store manager until his retirement in 1998. Following his retirement, Fred and Sherry operated an antique mall in Red Wing before settling in Lidderdale, Iowa.

After retiring, Fred's passion was family, camping, and fishing. He and his family spent many weekends and summer vacations at the Box Butte Reservoir in Hemingford, Nebraska. Fred also worked part time on the grounds crew at the Carroll Country Club; a job he thoroughly enjoyed. Fred spent the past six months at Shady Oaks Care Center in Lake City. The staff and residents became very special to him; especially his roommate Stan Gordon and tablemate, Mary Toyne. Everyone at the nursing home enjoyed daily visits from Fred's special buddy, his dog Degan. When he was able Fred always enjoyed taking Degan for rides on his golf cart and going for drives in the golf cart around Lidderdale.

His greatest joy was spending time with his family, attending his grandchildren's sporting events, and cheering for the Chicago Bears.

Fred is survived by his wife Sherry Caventer of Lidderdale; his daughters: Deb (Rick) Close of St. Petersburg, FL, and Pam Serafyn of Largo, FL; his mother, Elinor Caventer of Tucson, AZ; his step-children: Scott Snyder of Carroll, Dawn (Scott) Epperson of Missouri Valley, and Todd (Shirley) Snyder of Carroll; his step-daughter-in-law, Shelly Snyder of Phoenix, AZ; his grandchildren: Michael (Niki) Serafyn, Patrick Serafyn, Kara Close, and Kally Close; his step-grandchildren: Nate (Sarah) Epperson, Christopher Snyder, Steven Snyder, Jerod Snyder, and Jada Snyder; his great-grandchildren: Gavin Serafyn, Madison Epperson, and Baby Boy Epperson, due in July; his sister, Janet Mertz of Tucson; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Tom (Joan) Sporrer of Council Bluffs, Karen (Ed) Heim of Carroll and Robyn (Mike) Brinker of Carroll; his close friends, Paul and Chris Daniel of Lidderdale; as well as his friends and Shady Oak Care Center, many nieces, nephews, and other extended relatives.

Fred was preceded in death by his father, Edward; and his parents-in-law, Don and Penny Sporrer.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Dear Sherry, Sherry's children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Fred's children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, if there are any,

I would like to take this time to share some thoughts, remembrances, memories that are near and dear to me and that were near and dear to my, now deceased husband, Jerry too.

We had special times of endearment of times spent together both with Fred and Sherry and with Gary and Nancy Adams and all of our children.

Sherry and Jerry had a special and unique bond via the APD/School Resource Officer for the Alliance, NE Police Department.

My association with Fred was with/through the Alliance J C Penny store of which Fred was the Manager.

He was always kind, always willing to be of assistance while being patient, pleasant, and always going and giving the extra mile.

On the personal level, I especially enjoyed the times we all went fishing and camping.

These were very relaxing and refreshing times of restoration in our many varied activities of daily living!

It is always nice to be able to spend time with people you can relax with, love, and laugh with and build cherished memories with whom that will stand the test of time!

Death is sweet parting, but the memories and times spent together are always a dear reflection of special times together that only the ones doing the sharing can fully appreciate!

It is always nice to see and experience the growth and expansion of our families through the years! The more fitting and note-worthy is

the reflection and heart-warming fact that we all weathered the storms of life and came through them unscathed!

We all participated in the annual Heritage Days activities in one way or another. We all enjoyed making/eating the funnel cakes.

Heritage Days was an annual event experienced by one and all and by communities throughout the Western Panhandle of Nebraska.

Fred gave all of himself in each and everything he participated in. He leaves a legacy of dependable, trust-worthy, unselfish, and always pleasant! He never worried about what his legacy would be; he left that to Father Time and trusted that his fruits would speak for themselves!

My prayers and thoughts go out to each and everyone of Fred and Sherry' Caventer's family and extended family.

Sincerely sent and meant

Joy Stricker

Joy Stricker - July 28, 2015 at 12:17 PM

MH

“ Sherry,

I don't see my first post so will try this again. My memories of Fred center around the time that you guys shared with Gary and Nancy.

*Every time you were there they would invite me over for Bluegill that Gary and Fred caught out of the lake. Had such fun tormenting Fred about who could eat the most fillets and who would get the last piece. Wish I could have gotten up to Box Butte when you were back. Maybe I could have out fished Fred. Not likely. Always enjoyed our time together and the fun we shared. I know he will be missed greatly. My love and prayers are with you and your family.
Margaret*


Margaret Harriger - June 24, 2015 at 03:46 PM

RS

“ Sherry I'm very sorry for the loss of your great husband and a great uncle. My earliest memories of Fred are fishing with him, Scott, and my dad. He was such a hard worker in all he did. Never once did he pass up the moment to speak his mind or share his knowledge. Fred, I caught my largest fish ever the other day and I dedicate it to you.

Bob Sporrer & family

Robert Sporrer - June 18, 2015 at 08:11 PM

 Heidi
Bekken
Heim

“ I have so many great memories of family trips with Fred & Sherry and all the kids. Fred was always very generous with his time and toys, and taught me a lot about fishing. I also have great respect for the wonderful marriage that Fred & Sherry shared on their journey of life together. Fred, you will be missed and it is sad to say goodbye. Sherry, hold your head high with pride for many great years together. We love you. The Heim's (Chris, Heidi, Lauren, Grant)

Heidi Bekken Heim - June 18, 2015 at 02:48 PM



“ I will always remember the wonderful dinners with Fred and Sherry .Fred was a grill master and made a delicious scotch and water , I will cherish those memories and miss him . Sherry my thoughts and love are with you

Jeri White

Michele Moore - June 17, 2015 at 11:29 PM

SH

“ All that I know is life is too short... All he wanted to do was go fishing.... He showed me that family is everything!! He was always there for Scott and I and Chris and Steven!!! Really sorry mom that you both did not get a chance to come to phoenix this year I know he was looking forward to it:(Fred u will always be that dad that I needed in my life💕 will see u again💕😭

Love and miss u already!!!!!!

Shelly

shelly - June 17, 2015 at 11:11 PM

SA

“ Fred was a man who valued his friendships and always wanted to help out his friends. When I was in high school my dad owned a bookstore and insurance office just down the street from where Fred ran the JC Penny's. They were becoming close friends at the time and for some reason my dad could share about anything with Fred. You have to understand, my dad didn't share all of his thoughts about me, with me. I believe that he just decided some things were not worth battling over. Well Fred had a different way of handling things! He was bold, funny and wanted to help Dad out, at least that is the way I saw it. He would say things to me like:

Hey, it is getting close to wrestling season isn't it? Why don't you make your dad happy and prepare your hair for it now (he would say this 5 months before the season started).

It is so great that you and your friends spend a lot of time at the lake with your parents. Skiing, swimming, and eating all their food on your dad's fishing weekend!!

And my favorite: I am so sorry that you and your fiancé broke up, but it is probably for the best. Your parents never liked her anyway. (I had no clue this was true until I asked my mom about it!)

Yes, Fred was bold, funny and even scary sometimes, but he would do about anything to help out a friend. I am proud to say I was a friend of Fred's. We will miss him, but always remember him. We love you Sherry.

Shaun Adams - June 17, 2015 at 09:58 PM

SA

“ Sherry, even though I am unable to be there, know that I hurt and grieve with you and your family. I pray that God will bring you comfort and peace by knowing that Fred is no longer suffering and strength to get through the many days ahead.

I married into the "family" of which I consider you and Fred. You have been a big part of our lives. One of the many things that I remember about Fred is how caring he was and when he said he would do something, he did everything in his power to make it happen. The summer right after mom passed away, I remember my family was coming back to Nebraska to vacation and see extended family. You, Fred and dad were going to be at the lake in Hemingford, where we were going to meet. Fred had told the boys that he would have his boat so that they could water ski. He knew how much they enjoyed that! There ended up being a mechanical issue with your boat, but Fred, I am sure did not want to disappoint the boys, so he called a friend from Alliance that had a boat to see if his could be borrowed for the day. Fred easily could have just said, "Oh well, that's how it goes sometimes", but he went the extra step to make sure that the boys had a boat to use. That speaks volumes to Fred's character and how people felt about him. First, in that he did go the extra mile to follow through, when he could have just not bothered and second that he had friends that cared for him enough they were willing to drop everything and bring their boat to the lake for the day. I will never forget this and the many other kindnesses from both you and Fred towards my family. I also very much appreciate the deep love and friendship that you and Fred have had for Gary and Nancy. The two of you were a God send to the family when mom passed away. I pray that you have a strong support of many family and friends to help you get through this difficult time. I love you and Fred will not be forgotten. My family will continue to stay in touch and be here for you. Let us know if there is anything we can do!

Love to all,

Susan Adams

P.S. Shaun will write up a separate post.

Susan Adams - June 17, 2015 at 01:15 PM

GA

“ Sherry,

Fred and I have been friends since you and him moved to Alliance, Nebraska approximately 35 years ago. My wife Nancy, you, Fred and I had so many wonderful times together on weekends at the lake fishing, swimming, water skiing, camping and playing cards. There was an instant bond with Fred and Sherry, and we shared so many great times together with them and our families.

Fred and I especially enjoyed fishing together. We would get up at 4:00 A.M. when camping at Box Butte, and go after the big bass. Many times we had great success. There were times we didn't do so well, but we thoroughly enjoyed our fishing escapades together. I will miss Fred more than I know how to say. I will never have another friend that means so much to me. One of our greatest times together, was the trip to the Harlan County Reservoir a few years ago. We were camping with you and Fred, and Fred and I found a fantastic walleye fish hole. We caught several walleye up to 7 or 8 lbs. Each time we went back to this spot that week, we caught nice walleye. Fred expressed his enthusiasm by posting on his email, a picture of himself in his boat holding one of these walleyes. Each time you looked at Fred's email this picture was there. Most of my greatest memories were with Fred. He will live in my memories forever. Fred was a very likable person.

I share your pain Sherry, and you are in my thoughts. I know this is a very hard time for you, and if there is anything we can do for you, please let us know. We love you and you are always welcome at our home.

Love Gary and Aggie

P.S.

This is Aggie Adams. I have only known Fred for three years, but we did a few camping trips together. He was quite a guy. He was funny and made me laugh. He loved to fish and spend time with

Gary. I really feel blessed to have met him and Sherry. They have become a part of Gary's family and Gary's family loved him and Sherry. May God give your family peace and serenity to get you through this most difficult time.

Gary Adams - June 16, 2015 at 01:53 PM

CA

“ Sherry,

*We are so sad and sorry we can not be at the memorial for one of the best guys we know and lucky enough to have in our lives. Just know we thought the world of Fred as we do you and am so glad that we got to spend the last couple weeks visiting him and still hear him put out a few joking comments and tell me he loved me-you just don't know how much that meant (after the little misfortune he thought I did). We have so many memories from when we all meant, to going out for our birthdays, to just going out for Mexican, to Fred just giving me a bad time and you telling him to be nice, (haha, until the last couple years I always took him serious) to the last time we got to enjoy being together in your living room in December watching football and Fred having such a great time just so happy, I just can't get over that night, we all just had so much fun. I am glad we had that time. Thank you for being part of our lives and sharing Degan with us, we can not ask for better friends that just happen to be our neighbors and just know you are truly loved and we will be there for you when we get back. We will be thinking of you.
Love you, Paul and Chris*

Chris Andersen - June 16, 2015 at 02:00 AM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Fred Caverter.*



June 15, 2015 at 11:28 AM



“ *Sherry. We are so sorry for your loss. We have many fond memories and you and Fred and the little dogs. Our neighborhood has not been the same since you moved. Fred was like a gentle teddy bear. Our thoughts and prayers and love is with you.*
Paul and Bonnie

Paul and Bonnie Curry - June 15, 2015 at 11:26 AM

BA

“ Sherry and all, My memories of Fred are so real and vivid even though so many of them go back 30-40 years. I have always considered you and Fred as a second set up of parents and very important in my life. Fred could always be counted on to tell you what he thought and what he would and wouldn't do for you. I think I learned that back when I was about 10. Many people thought he was a strict rigid person, but Fred would always do about anything for you in his own way. I still remember that yellow VW bug with the makeshift fender and bumper! The countless days at the lake will be cherished forever with the fishing and playing...and so many times of getting Fred and my dad to forgo some fishing time to allow us kids to go waterskiing and tubing. I will also always be grateful for the caring and support that Sherry and Fred provided me and my whole family when my mom passed away. I know Fred will be watching over us all as we continue on without him. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and all of the family. My thoughts of Fred will cause some initial pain, but the memories will always bring a smile to my face and peace in my heart.
We love you and will be here for you whenever you need it,
Brad, Candis, Reed and Chloe

Brad Adams - June 15, 2015 at 11:03 AM

RW

“ Sherry we are so sorry for your loss. All the great times we had when you lived in Alliance have been running thru my mind for the last few days after hearing from Todd that Fred had passed. The times at Box Butte, fish fries, grouse hunting, fishing etc etc the list goes on. I will always remember the rattlesnake catching with Lanny Colvalt. That was a crazy day. I will miss seeing you and Fred on your excursions to Box Butte. Hopefully you will be able to get up this way once in a while. Freds battle is done, he was fighting against so much. His pain has ended and I much as I would have liked to see him around for a lot longer, I am glad he is suffering no more. Sherry please take care of yourself. You too have been battling along with Fred and need some time to rest, reflect, remember and grieve. If there is anything we can do for you please let us know. You are in our prayers.
Love you! Rick and Carol

Richard Wacker - June 15, 2015 at 10:34 AM

GR

“ Sherry and family. Your baby brother Mike and Ed and I send our hopes and prayers that your memories and Fred's love for you will comfort you. Gail, Ed and Mike in Blair.

Gailanne Rhoades - June 12, 2015 at 09:15 AM

JK

“ Thinking of you all!! We have already been missing Fred drive past on the golf cart with the dogs but always hoped he would be back someday. Our thoughts are with you during this time.

JR & Shannon Reising & kids - June 12, 2015 at 08:16 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Fred Caventer.*



June 11, 2015 at 06:14 PM



“ *Mary Ann Moore lit a candle in memory of Fred Caventer*



Mary Ann Moore - June 11, 2015 at 10:14 AM



Our hearts, thoughts, prayers and Sympathy are with you and your Family, can't begin to tell you how this breaks our hearts, you and I have been special Friends for many, many years, Fred was such a great guy and I know he will always be watching over you, He is now at peace with no more pain, that is a comfort to all. I'm sure he has his little notebook in his shirt pocket too, bless his heart.. So, So Sorry for your loss Sherry, love you much. Mary Ann & Danny Moore

Mary Ann Moore - June 11, 2015 at 10:23 AM



Thoughts and prayers to you Sherry and family. Know that you have many friends to help you through this very hard time.

Cheryl Wernimont

Cheryl Wernimont - June 11, 2015 at 12:36 PM

JG

Thoughts and Prayers are with you.

*Julie Gray RN
Regency Park of Carroll*

Julie Gray - June 11, 2015 at 02:55 PM

RM

Sherry, our prayers and thoughts are with you and family at this time. Fred and I have been close friends for 47 years, which started in 1968 in Gary, Indiana. We worked together in Gary, Indiana and Harvey, Illinois. We were involved in two of the most dangerous locations where J C Penney opened stores. We should have written a book about all the things that happened at those stores. I am so sad about Fred's passing and that I could not make the trip to Iowa to see you and Fred. I know Fred has a special place with he Lord and he is at peace now. All our love, Bob & Wanda McIlvain

Robert McIlvain - June 11, 2015 at 04:37 PM

TS

Sherry, Fred will be greatly missed by a lot of people as he touched the lives of a lot of us. We shared many great times and he will be surely missed. As a J.C. Penneys manager he took his job very seriously and so he did with life. You and Fred went out of your way to help many people over the years and never asked for anything in return. You and Fred will be greatly rewarded in heaven. Fred is at peace now and can enjoy endless time doing his favorite hobby of fishing the great waters of heaven.

*Love You, your brother
Tom*

Tom Sporrer - June 12, 2015 at 01:55 PM

MS

Fred it was difficult to witness what you had to endure, but through it all you still opened your door and your heart for us. Your love was unconditional and your humor never faded. I will forever think of you when I see an oriole flying about.

*Love, your niece
Mindy*

Mindy Skillen - June 12, 2015 at 04:01 PM

DH

Sherry, We are so sorry for the pain and suffering you are going through right now. Fred was such a great man and it was obvious from the first time I met you both how much you both truly loved one another. Even though meeting in the hospital wasn't exactly the most ideal place to start a new friendship, I wouldn't change a thing. I appreciate the time we shared together discussing politics and life in general just helping one another pass the time and attempting to forget for a few minutes where we actually were. I pray that you will find some peace and comfort knowing that Fred is no longer suffering. Continue to surround yourself with friends and family. You are loved by so many!
Love,
Diane

Diane Heckman - June 14, 2015 at 08:30 PM

NA

Sherry, I am so sorry for your loss. I know that you have endured more than anyone should ever have to these last few years. You have given so much of yourself to others. Remember, "The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you." I have very fond memories of visiting you and Fred growing up. We always seemed to have the best time...the best homemade popsicles and the best mud fights!
Love you much,
Niki

Nicole Anderson - June 14, 2015 at 09:33 PM

CA

Sherry, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Fred will be missed by our entire family. Brad has shared many fond stories of Fred over the years and we were blessed to get to know him as well. He was such a kind, loving and giving person. Chloe was so touched with giant Bears pillow he sent her a few years ago. Please know how much we loved and cherished him as a part of our family.

Candis Adams - June 15, 2015 at 10:22 AM

JS

Sherry, I have tried so many time to do this and stopped. Fred was a brother-in-law that I could call friend. I loved him so much. Many a time I would just need to talk and he would listen. The respect he showed me and Tom will never be forgotten. And Sherry, you are such an inspiration to all of us. The love and kindness you gave to Fred thru his hardest days were overflowing with the thoughtfulness that the two of you have always shared with everyone. You are one of a kind! God Bless You and your family. Joan

Joan Sporrer - June 15, 2015 at 12:35 PM