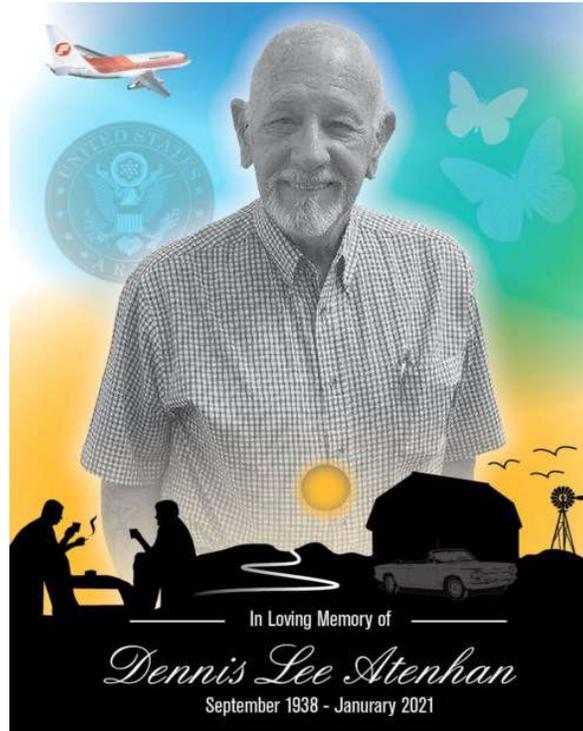


## MEMORIES DENNIS LEE ATENHAN



Gilbert Caldwell  
January 19, 2021

I knew Dennis as Freddy my entire life. Visiting him and my cousin Rose(Skipper) were always highlights. He was great fun to be around and was always in a good mood. He didn't have an unkind word for anyone. He will be missed.

Claudia and Gary Swigart  
January 18, 2021

"Freddie ", that's what we called him, was a kind soul who loved life, friends, his woodworking, coffee with the boys, his family and sharing his life stories with all. Trips to the DQ a couple times a week for hot fudge sundaes where one time he saw to it that a homeless person had food. Hollering "hey kids get over here and visit" when we walked by. Making a piggy bank for our great granddaughter. Making airplanes in his shop and giving them to friends and to the museum in Deshler. Freddie was one of a kind who will be missed by those whose lives he touched. Hugs and Love to the family.

Justin Montgomery  
January 18, 2021

To the Atenhan Family and Friends.

I have many great memories of my Uncle Fred. My brother John has already noted some memoirs that we shared together when we visited their Mission Viejo home in the 80s and 90s growing up.

It is true... as I remember him getting the pizza and soda pop...and it was a luxury!

We played board games and he rented us kids movies. In other times that we visit coming from Alliance, Nebraska to stay with Aunt Skipper, Uncle Fred...and cousins Chanda and Todd...I always looked forward to going to this house especially in the basement to see all of his model airplanes either that were built or of what he was working on. The tools in his garage were fun to check out and of course to sit in his black Chevy El Camino (drivers side) with the truck

bed. Sometimes, I would even get in trouble for that (when he caught me).....and it is fun to look back on and laugh at that.

A great memory that I will always cherish of when I was 18 in 93'... he took me (and I think Max went also) to DIA before it was even open for an air show, which I'll never forget.

Even as I grew older.... in my twenties, thirties and even forties he was always very much interested in what I had going on in life even if now having a family of my own. His presence was always a blessing, and I enjoyed it fondly. It will be missed.

Godspeed Uncle Freddy.

Patty Pecoraro

January 18, 2021

Dennis was my oldest cousin and I loved being around him!! Several things come to mind when I think of Dennis. I thought he was so brave when our grandfather Atenhan passed away in 1955. At that time the tradition was that the deceased was brought back to their home for visitation until the funeral and he laid in state in the living room. At night Dennis slept on the couch in the living room with Grandpa in his casket and I felt like he did that to keep the rest of us safe since I was only four. After Dennis graduated from High School and before going to Denver he lived with our family in Minden, NE for a period of time and helped at my parents business. That is when I decided he was like a big brother. One weekend in the summer he was going back to Deshler and Grandma wanted me to come with him and spend the weekend. Dennis had a really cool convertible and we made the whole trip with the top down and the music blaring which was so much fun. When we got to the family farm he dropped me off and headed off with a friend. He and his friend had only gone a mile or two and wrecked his car in a ditch. We were relieved to know that no one was hurt and no wonder my mom was a little nervous to have me go with him to Deshler!!

Dennis had tons of friends in Deshler, but while he was in Minden he dated a girl that use to walk her pet skunk on a leash passed our business a couple of times a day! Thank goodness the skunk was descended and declawed!! I always wondered why he would want to date someone with a skunk for a pet!

Another great memory was one Christmas when my grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins came to our house. We were playing the Peppermint Twist on our player piano and everyone started dancing and of course Dennis and his dad were the life of the party! Such fun!!

Dennis was always full of fun times with a twinkle in his eye, and a personality that was like a magnet!! Dennis will be deeply missed but the memories will be with me forever!

Dennis Carr

January 18, 2021

Clara and I met Dennis and Rose Atenhan through the Loveland Nazarene church some years ago. The novelty of having identical first names created a unique kind of friendship with Dennis that lasted. Having known few with the name 'Dennis' in my life and now there were three named Dennis in the same church, and with the same middle name! Now that was awesome! Dennis Lee Atenhan, Dennis Lee Cox, and myself Dennis Lee Carr. Discussions, and the friendship, among the three of us are cherished memories for me!

As Dennis' walking became unstable, Clara, a nurse, 'adopted' Dennis and walked arm-in-arm with him to his car after church to help steady him. Not sure Dennis was as bad as he made it seem, though, but Clara didn't mind. She was a nurse!

Dennis was an artist and sculpture with his beautifully crafted models of planes and cars. He gave me a model of a Boeing 747 carrying the space shuttle, which I treasure and keep in a safe and visible location in my home. Wish I had his skills.

Dennis had no enemies, everyone he met was his friend. He liked to talk, but was great at listening. McDonald's was his second morning home where he met with friends most mornings of the week for coffee and talk. Talk about past friends, past adventures and, of course, politics and solving the world's problems!

Dennis is gone from this life, but not forgotten! And, as I told him the last time I saw him, "Enjoy the beauty of Heaven, and save a place for me! The good Lord willing, I will see you in a few!"

Phil Gamble

January 18, 2021

After reading the many memories by friends and loved ones, my immediate response was "Yep, that was uncle Fred!" Fred was such a giving, unselfish man with a true servant's heart! I have many fond memories of Fred from my early years of returning back to Denver in '68. Typical of Fred and Skipper, they opened their home to me and I lived with them for approximately 10 months. Space won't allow the many funny experiences I had with uncle Fred.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to spend any time with Fred these last few years, but I have a blessed assurance that we're going to be spending a lot of time together in eternity!! May God bless and comfort you, the family!

Marie Johnson

January 18, 2021

I will always have the fondest of memories of Dennis, who I knew as Fred. Fred was the kindest of people, had a gentle heart, and an ever present smile. Most of my memories are from childhood and he was always welcoming and nice to us kids. He played with us and shared his lap. Fred was a quiet person but he made his presence known with his laugh. I remember him enjoying making us laugh. I have no doubts he will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. I send my condolences and prayers to his family. I pray they feel the peace of our Heavenly Father during this time of grief.

Joe Sherrell

January 18, 2021

I remember Fred since I was a child. He was always sweet and friendly. He knew how to make everyone feel apart of the family and never seemed to have a worry in the world.

We'll miss Fred, dearly

Liz Monroe

January 18, 2021

Oh Gramps. From the minute Brantie brought me home to meet you, you treated me like your own. We've had so many great times and when we had Avery, you two became thick as thieves, constantly getting into mischief as only a girl and her Pappy could. Emerson came along and rounded out your little trouble making trio. You've instilled your love and sense of wonderment for the simple pleasures of life into all of us, and we are grateful. We're going to miss our 4th of July driveway parties and drinking coffee listening to one of your many stories. Whether it was about the farm when you were young, working for the Airlines way back when, or just getting morning coffee with "the guys" earlier in the week; you always had something fun and interesting to say. We're going to miss your contagious laughter, the twinkle in your eye and your warm hugs. You were one in a million, and I love you, "old man".

Love always,

"Elvira" xoxo

Stacy Boyce

January 18, 2021

Today and always, may loving memories bring you peace, comfort, and strength. Dennis will be held in our hearts as one of the sweetest believers to welcome our family into our church family. Instant friends and always a good laugh shared. We will forever cherish our sweet memories of Freddie.

Jennifer Wogahn

January 18, 2021

"The memory of a good person is a blessing." -Proverbs 10:7

Certainly the memories we have of Dennis are a blessing. As we are all grieving the loss of such a wonderful man, it is a comfort to know his is home with Jesus.

Dennis is my uncle. In my own childhood memories I always think of him with a smile and a kind word for everyone.

"Let not your heart be trouble; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." -John 14:1-2

John Montgomery

January 18, 2021

I have many fond memories of Uncle Fred. Most of them from the early 1980s. I'll share a few that stand out in my mind. As a grade schooler, my mom used to bring me and my siblings to Denver to visit our relatives. We would spend a few nights at Uncle Fred's and Aunt Skip's place. I loved to visit them because Uncle Fred would always order a bunch of pizza, a novelty for us, and there would be a whole bunch of 2 Litre soda pops on the counter that he would let us drink as much as we wanted. I loved when he took us downstairs to show us his model airplanes. I loved his car, which was an El Camino or something like it, that I had never seen before and was fascinated as to whether it was a car or a truck. I loved that he had a sweet tobacco smell that I can still smell today if I close my eyes. As I grew older I didn't spend as much time with him but I recall how passionate he was about the construction of DIA. I will miss him.

Claudia & Gary Swigart

January 18, 2021

"Freddie", as we called him, was one of a kind. A Christian man, a good friend. He loved to visit and would holler at us to "get over here and visit" when we walked by. He always had a good story. His wood working skills went above and beyond. I don't know how many airplanes he made for friends and for the museum in Deshler. Our great granddaughter has a piggy bank he made for her and she remembers he made it. He loved going to his school reunions and sharing stories on his return home. His coffee gang was important to him and he looked forward to the days they gathered. Trips to the DQ were a once or twice a week trip for him, Rosie and us. On one DQ visit we encountered a homeless man, and Freddie helped him out with something to eat. He is going to be missed, but he is with Jesus and no longer suffering. We love you "Freddie".

Max Monroe

January 18, 2021

Dennis was my Father in law. I've known Dennis for 35 years. We called him Fred. Fred was a very funny, Nice, and great guy. He helped, and was there for me countless times over the years. He would always say hi Maxey.(that was his nick name for me. Freddie loved to play cards. He was instrumental in getting me a job at United Airlines. He was always there for me when doing landscaping, or moving, or anything that required fixing things. Fred loved to build model airplanes. Freddy was a great man, and gave me the love of my life. (Chanda, his daughter). Dennis was very loved by all who knew him. Rest in peace buddy....Maxey

Hayden Swanson

January 18, 2021

My favorite memory of Dennis is him sending me a bunch of cool handmade model rockets and planes. I still have one in my apartment today and it is a very sweet memento to have.

Hayden Swanson's photo of Dennis Lee Atenhan on January 18, 2021

Norma Montgomery

January 18, 2021

Dear Fred, I should've written this to you earlier. I appreciate riding to work with you and you putting up with me by being late and doing my makeup in the car. I appreciate you taking care of my car and cleaning it because you thought there were chicken wings in the seats. You also checked the oil and made sure I had gas. You knew how much I loved donuts and would get those for breakfast. I loved you and loved your humor and caring for me. You always shared your family plane tickets that allowed us to take some great trips. I'm sorry you got so ill and that I couldn't see you to tell you goodbye! Rest now!

Todd Atenhan  
January 12, 2021

Dad,

I feel incredibly blessed to recollect so many great memories with you, and reflect on the positive influence you have had over my life. Your actions continually spoke louder than words into what I now recognize as qualities that have helped shape the man I have become. Your work ethic showed me to persevere through hard times in order to reach my goals. Your kindness toward all others has demonstrated to me the value of everyone that God brings into our story. Your positive attitude in all situations inspires me to be the best person I can be in the good times and the bad. Looking back from where I sit now, I can clearly see that it would have been impossible for you to teach me these lessons if you had not possessed a humble and gentle of spirit. For your humble and gentle spirit, I will be eternally grateful.

However, I would never confuse your gentle spirit with a lack of strength. I know that growing-up on the farm instilled a strength in you that few people possess today. It is this strength and discipline that I am sure are, at least partially, responsible for your knowledge that there will always be a harvest from the words we sow. This is likely why I cannot recall you ever saying a negative word towards, or about, anyone. For your acceptance of others, I will be eternally grateful.

Not only am I left with a picture of what it looks like to be an influential dad, but also a desire to make memories with my family, because I so wish I could go back and make more memories with you. We had such a good time on our father and son vacation, fishing, shooting, playing cards, celebrating Christmases, driving to the mountains, hanging out on the deck, soaking-up the sun, watching my kids play, listening to classic country music, and eating good food. I will be eternally grateful for the memories I have with you.

I will miss you, and your contagiously vibrant spirit, but I will see you again!

Your Loving Son,

Todd

Pamala Reece  
January 12, 2021

Dennis's son, Todd, is married to my niece. As my niece and I are very close, I have had the pleasure of calling Dennis my friend for the past 25 plus years. All I can say is that from the first time I met Dennis I was warmly welcomed into his circle, and for that I am grateful. Over the years we were able to share the joys of Christmas, the sadness of lost love ones, many meals, good conversation, and plenty of laughs. Dennis had so many good qualities that it becomes difficult to sum-up my appreciation for him. But, I must say that creativity serves as a legacy for this kind-hearted gentleman. I fondly remember four of his amazing woodworking projects that displayed a labor of love for his grandchildren beyond compare. The time he must have spent creating the most unbelievable wooden dollhouses and barns completely astonished me. They were built with such painstaking detail that it became obvious to me how much he loved his sweet grandchildren. I will surely miss this loving man, but know that I will someday join him for more good conversation, and plenty of laughs.

Pamala Reece

Joseph Domenech  
January 12, 2021

As I reflect back to all my wonderful memories of Mr. Atenhan, I can say that his wonderful spirit of friendship, generosity, and compassion are just to name a few of Fred Atenhan. I've known him for 50 of my 53 years of my life as I was one of many Todd's best friends. On "sleep overs" and "movie nights" Fred would pop his pop corn and we all would share from his big brown paper bag of popped corn. On "game night" we all would play cards at the kitchen table with Rose and Fred, that was the life. Fred loved mowing the lawn with his white sun hat. His influence is why I have my lawn to be the greenest on my block. On July 4th we would all gather at the Atenhans' to watch Fred "light up" the sky with his fireworks.

You will always be in my hart and an eternal part of my life.

Thank you for such wonderful memories.

Love Pep

Cindy Alexander

January 12, 2021

My homecare experience with Dennis & Rose was one of my first and favorites. Dennis was stubborn and picky about things and sometimes I had to have a "chat" with him. He would listen and meekly say "you think so"..? He would quickly soften and be his ole sweet self. And each time he would later say with that grin "you're a good woman". On his way to get ready for bed I would turn to Rose and say to Dennis who is that? He would say "my sweetie". Then I'd say tell her good night and you love her and he would tell her " I love you". Then he would say " I guess you have to tell me what to say". When I saw a portrait of the 2 of them in the house leaning next to the couch I asked who was in the photo? Rose told me it was the two of them many years earlier. I told Dennis wow you caught one nice looking lady!" He said " I thought so!" He loved his Rosie! I will miss him but am happy to have spent the time I had with both of them. Rest in peace my friend.