



## Lyle Edward Franzen

August 26, 2021

Lyle Edward Franzen, 81, of Omaha, NE, passed away on August 26, 2021. He was born at the Old Methodist Hospital in Omaha, NE to Edward and Rosalie Franzen. He was father to four sons, Marc (Dr. Meg) Franzen, Jeremy (Trissy) Franzen, Adam Franzen, and Dr. John (Dr. Marci) Franzen, and grandfather to two grandsons and eight granddaughters.

Lyle was a graduate of Omaha Technical High School, Omaha University (now University of Nebraska Omaha), the University of IL Jane Addams Graduate School of Social Work, and McCormick Theological Seminary (Presbyterian) in Chicago, IL. After graduation he worked as a minister for various Presbyterian churches in IN, IA and NE and was a professor of Social Work at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN, Briar Cliff College (now University) in Sioux City, IA, and Creighton University in Omaha, NE.

Lyle enjoyed traveling (which he wanted to do more of), Omaha restaurants (he had his “best of” list), reading, preaching, and especially teaching.

Lyle was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Rosalie, his siblings, Donald Franzen and Linda Franzen, and grandson, Evan Franzen.

A Presbyterian service will be held on September 8, 2021, at 10am at Peace Presbyterian Church in Elkhorn, NE. Coffee will be offered at 9am in

Fellowship Hall. A private family interment will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Plattsmouth, NE. Live streaming of the services will be available at [Reichmuthfuneralhomes.com](http://Reichmuthfuneralhomes.com)

Memorial donations may be made on Lyle's behalf to the Presbyterian Church USA at [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) or the Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands at [dsamidlands.org](http://dsamidlands.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 8. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Peace Presbyterian Church  
333 S 204th St  
Elkhorn, NE 68022

## Funeral Service

SEP 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Peace Presbyterian Church  
333 S 204th St  
Elkhorn, NE 68022

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Lyle Edward Franzen*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - September 07, 2021 at 04:19 PM

GS

*Lyle was cheerful, wise presence who served the church, the academy, clients, and his family with no hint of guile. At McCormick Theological Seminary my classmates Wayne Boulton (RIP), Bud Kanitz, Harry L. Strong learned as much from the dorm discussions between Lyle and Lyle's classmate, Ken Dobson as we did from our time in class! The conversations were between proponents of the philosophical theology of Paul Tillich (Lyle) and the biblical theology of Karl Barth (Ken).*

*The debates/conversations in Ken Dobson's room in Alumni Hall introduced those of us who were first year students to embrace and reflect critically on what we had once believed and how our minds and hearts were challenged and changed. Lyle's smile bespeaks a joy words only begin to express.*

Gordon C. Stewart - October 08, 2022 at 11:17 AM

GS

*Thank you for sharing the video of the service of Celebration and Witness to the Resurrection for those of us who learned only lately of Lyle's death.*

Gordon C. Stewart - October 08, 2022 at 02:58 PM



“ *Lyle Edward Franzen*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Lyle was a gifted teacher and one of the kindest and friendliest people in a faculty of kind and friendly people. He was an inspiration to all of us who knew him. May his memory be a blessing.*

*Jeff Willens  
Briar Cliff Dean, 1988-1993.*

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**Jeffleigh Willens** - May 29, 2022 at 11:24 AM

RK

“ *Lyle was an interesting Briar Cliff colleague of Herb's and a frequent guest at our dinner table. He was so kind to our growing children. As I see his photo, I still see that kindness...and mischief in his eyes. I know you will miss him. Condolences to all, rosie*

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**Rosie Kuehne** - May 28, 2022 at 03:08 PM

MD

“ I knew Lyle as a teacher and friend from 1973-77.

*Lyle met my Dad, Colonel Karl E. Dankof (USAF-ret), at some sort of informal gathering before I graduated. I vividly remember his comment later at how much he liked him, had a good sense of Lyle as a “good troop.”*

*I had no idea of all of Lyle’s Omaha roots back in those days of June 1977. Dad was at then Omaha University (now UNO) on a football scholarship from 1938-41. My parents married in Omaha in June of 1941, 6 months before Pearl Harbor, which ended my Dad’s football career there. See <https://mark1marti2.wordpress.com/2009/07/26/colonel-karl-e-dankof-shahs-imperial-iranian-air-force-logistici-an-dead-at-89/amp/>.*

*The loss of these great men is made bearable only by the assurance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*Romans 10:9.*



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**Mark Dankof** - April 23, 2022 at 08:24 PM

CA

“ *Cousin Lyle:*

*I am grateful to have shared a genetic family link as well as a shared values soul link with you. So many conversations about social justice, care for marginalized populations and the love of Nature. May your spirit be flying free and with ease. You will be dearly missed. Love you!*

*Cousin Carrie Lafferty*

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**Carrie** - September 17, 2021 at 07:21 PM



AH

“ *Lyle's personality would light up every room. I would see him every few years in Omaha for family reunions growing up and he always greatly enjoyed bringing everyone together again.*

*We will all miss you very much, rest in peace Lyle.*

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**Allie Holden** - September 08, 2021 at 10:36 AM



PI

“ *In 2002-2004 when I served Castelar Presbyterian Church Lyle was living in the parsonage beside the church. He and I visited frequently and he was always great to talk to and a real colleague in ministry. I will always remember his supporting presence from those days. Rev. Portia Iverson, Plattsmouth, NE*

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**Portia Iverson** - September 07, 2021 at 04:42 PM

JF

“ COUSIN LYLE

*I wanted you to know how very special you are to me and the Franzen Family. You were always there for me and my family, you helped out with several Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and were so very supportive of everyone. I know you promised my mother, Dorothy when she died in 1974 that you would watch over us, and I want to Thank you for always being there for the family.*

*Your Favorite saying,*

*It was nice we got together.*

*Love Jane Craig Bailee and Paige*

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**Jane Fleming** - September 07, 2021 at 10:44 AM

JF

“ *Jane Fleming lit a candle in memory of Lyle Edward Franzen*



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**Jane Fleming** - September 07, 2021 at 10:40 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lyle Edward Franzen.*



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September 06, 2021 at 10:03 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lyle Edward Franzen.*



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September 02, 2021 at 10:33 AM



“ *It was very sad to learn of Cousin Lyle's passing. Lyle was a first cousin to my mother, Mary Ann (Franzen) Holden.*

*Lyle always seemed to have a twinkle in his eye giving me the strong impression that he understood where I was coming from even before I could articulate it. I believe that perceptive ability served him well as he devoted his life to counseling and helping others.*

*Lyle, thank you for officiating the wedding of our oldest daughter, Kim. It was a beautiful service and we will forever be grateful.*

*Rest in peace, dear friend. We will miss you.*

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**Rick Holden** - August 31, 2021 at 04:55 PM



*Lyle was a beloved colleague at Briar Cliff University, where he taught Social Work. He always championed justice and peace on and off campus. One year he and I simultaneously won the student-chosen congeniality award for faculty. I didn't deserve it, but Lyle did. He was always positive and upbeat even while confronting serious societal wrongs. His colleagues and students loved him. My condolences to his family for the loss of his light.*

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**Jeanne Emmons** - May 28, 2022 at 12:37 PM