



Dennis L. Lynch

July 26, 1937 - November 17, 2019

Dr. Dennis (Denny) Lynch was born on July 26, 1937 in Coffeyville, Kansas to Ben and Margurite Lynch.

He grew up in Kansas and Oregon and then went to Colorado for college. In 1958 he graduated from Colorado State University with a BS in Forestry and was commissioned in the US Army. In 1959 he married Joyce Sheeley of Salida, CO. After the Army he became a forester on the Mt Hood NF. In 1962, Denny moved to the Roosevelt NF and, while working, completed a MS in Business at CSU. He was then transferred as District Ranger to the Pikes Peak District. Following this he was assigned to the Colorado State Forest and completed a PhD. In 1974 he became a Professor of Forest Sciences at CSU and loved teaching, advising, and mentoring students. During this time he and Joyce founded the Christian Foresters Fellowship on the CSU campus which met weekly for 24 years and has affiliated groups across the nation and world. Denny's times with students in the Fall semester forestry classes at Pingree Park and with the CFF meetings on campus and in his home are some of his fondest memories. He retired in 1998. He was elected SAF Fellow and Golden Member and received the SAF Carl Schenck Award for Excellence in Teaching Forestry. He also received the Erick Nelson Award from Christian Leadership Ministries and other awards for teaching and service to students. He was a life member of the NRA, the American Legion, and the Council on Forest Engineering. Later Denny became a Gideon who

loved to share the gospel.

Survivors include his best friend and wife, Joyce; children, Greg and his wife, Beth, and Kristy and her husband, Phil; grandchildren, David, Melissa, Jonathan, Nathan, Stacy, Matthew and Celeste, Shane and his wife, Kayston, Shannon; great-grandchildren, Daniella, Moriah & Benjamin, Payton, Clayton; a brother, Pat and his wife, Patty, and a sister, Lynda and her husband, Paul.

On November 17, 2019, he peacefully passed into the arms of Jesus.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice.

A Memorial Service will be at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Clearwater Church, 2700 S. Lemay Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80525

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 7. 1:30 PM (MT)

Clearwater Church
2700 S. Lemay Ave.
Fort Collins, 80525

Tribute Wall

GL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Greg Lynch - January 14, 2023 at 01:28 PM

GL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Greg Lynch - January 14, 2023 at 01:24 PM

RT

“ Dr. Dennis Lynch insisted his forestry students, which I was one back in the 1980s, call him "Denny." He was one of the most approachable professors I had in my 4 years at CSU and always made himself available to students. A great educator and human being.



Rob Tschudi - September 08, 2022 at 05:08 PM

RT

I am standing behind Denny, wearing a v-neck t-shirt.

Rob Tschudi - September 08, 2022 at 05:13 PM

GL

Hi Rob,

Thank you for posting this. My dad loved Jesus, he loved his students, and he loved his family. I know his most satisfying days on this earth were when he was out in the forest with the people he loved, showing them the awesome world God created, and sharing his faith because he wanted each of them to experience God's love and to spend eternity with them. I am certain he is walking through the forest in heaven, probably in an alpine meadow, asking God about all the amazing creations and waiting eagerly to welcome all that will join him on those daily hikes because they too gave their lives to serve as the hands & feet of the Master Forester, Jesus.

Greg Lynch - January 14, 2023 at 01:06 PM

AL

“ There are people who say they’ll pray for you. With Denny and Joyce, I knew they also have done so!

We were forestry students, my friend Pike and I, attending a summer program at Glen Eyrie, the Navigator’s headquarters. Someone kindly arranged for us a visit to Pingree Park, the CSU Mountain Campus, to meet with Denny and Joyce Lynch. It was lovely to experience field classes with students and to attend a get together in the evening with students and the Lynches.

Since then, I know, Denny and Joyce have been praying for us.

Years later I came back to Colorado with my husband and three children. Denny and Joyce took us on an outing to the mountains with their camper. How exciting that was to our children! And what a pleasure to reunite with the Lynches and share this relationship with my whole family!

A few years later, I started teaching at a forestry college and was taking part in arranging the IUFRO conference at Tampere, Finland. To my great joy, Denny and Joyce attended! Denny gave a lesson to my students and brought with him some books on participatory planning, something that was at time new in Finland. I started teaching the topic and got involved in several participatory planning projects in Tampere with the forestry and environmental management students, now at Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

Dennis was such a role model to me professionally but also in reaching out and caring for students.

*A little Californian girl said to me long time ago at a time of departure: “See you in heaven!”
I thank God for you, Denny! See you in heaven!*

Aura Loikkanen and the family



Aura Loikkanen - March 04, 2020 at 08:12 AM

GL

*Dear Aura (and family),
Warm greetings to you. Thank you for such a wonderful and kind tribute to my dad. I know they prayed for you and mom continues to do so... he was always eager to give me news about you whenever he heard from you. May God Bless you, your family, and Finland. Indeed, "see you in heaven"! Please pray for mom... she is missing Denny so much.*

Greg Lynch - May 27, 2020 at 04:24 PM

NG

“Denny was an inspirational Christian prof and a super person. He was always kind and engaging and I marveled at his commitment, like handing out Bibles at CSU after his retirement. We had some fellowship at Drake Rd Christian Church and previously, and I always thought Denny was the kind of person who really made a difference, no matter where.

Neil Grigg

Neil Grigg - December 07, 2019 at 04:22 PM

ER

“ To Joyce and your family, please accept my condolences. Denny was a brother in Christ, a friend, and a constant inspiration to me. We overlapped time at CSU, I was a professor in the Range Science Department and Denny continually showed me what it meant to be a Christian Professor and how important the university environment was for impacting the world for Jesus. I will miss his kindness, his smile, his joy, and his passion for Jesus.

Ed Redente

Ed Redente - December 07, 2019 at 11:47 AM

TL

“ Thank you Denny.
Love, Familia Longwell



Timothy Longwell - December 07, 2019 at 10:45 AM

KG

“Denny had an incredible influence on my life and the countless others that he taught. While imparting his knowledge and experience to us, he also believed in us and got us to believe in ourselves and what we could accomplish. I know the he and Joyce prayed for me by name and did so for every student that he had. I know that he asked for blessings on our lives and I know I have been blessed by him and by God. I remember clearly him telling me that there is always room in an occupation for those that apply themselves, even against the odds. He impacted me and I know I am making the world a better place because of him and that is a legacy that beyond comprehension. Looking forward to catching up with Denny in heaven.

Kelly Gouge - December 06, 2019 at 09:22 PM

KK

“ To Pat and Joyce and all of Denny's family, I offer my deepest condolences. I am certain that he is greatly missed by his family and friends and that his passing is an immeasurable loss.

Denny was a wonderful person who I first met as a forestry student at CSU many years ago.(It took me a good number of years to go from Dr. Lynch to Denny!). He was my favorite professor for many reasons. Some of these are: he was a standout forestry professor due to his deep knowledge of the subject matter and of the real world of a working forester, his unique and easy delivery of course material, his obvious caring about individual students, his mentoring, his continuing to work on real forestry projects as a professor w/students and agencies (providing research and work opportunities for students) and his example working and leading in the Society of America Foresters (SAF) and the Fellowship of Christian Foresters. But mostly he was a really good person! I have always felt grateful knowing Denny as a professor, mentor and friend and I miss him too. Thanks Denny for all you did and for just being you!

Kathy M Kurtz

Kathy M Kurtz - December 06, 2019 at 06:35 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Dennis L. Lynch.



December 04, 2019 at 06:11 PM

FA

“ *Faith Christian Church, Tucson AZ purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dennis L. Lynch.*



Faith Christian Church, Tucson AZ - December 04, 2019 at 04:23 PM

CS

“ *Christy Higgason Smith lit a candle in memory of Dennis L. Lynch*



Christy Higgason Smith - November 27, 2019 at 07:30 AM

JK

“Joyce and family, I am very sad for your loss of Denny but also, I am thankful, knowing that he is peacefully resting in the arms of Jesus.

You and Denny are credited with helping me learn to trust Jesus through your weekly Christian Foresters Fellowship on the CSU campus. You both changed my life by opening your hearts and home to all us students! Denny was such a good example to all of us. He was diagnosed with cancer the year I attended Pingree. He would go up to "Denny's Point" to pray. He never complained but it sure encouraged all of us to pray for him! I also credit him with helping me get my job with the Forest Service.

He put in a good word for me and encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone. Now, 30+ years later, I remain forever in his debt for a job that I love.

So, I pray for each of you, as you mourn your loss of Denny. He holds a special place in so many hearts. Thank you for sharing him with all of us. - Monica (Bargsten) Klingler



Jevon& Monica Klingler - November 26, 2019 at 12:13 PM

GL

“1 file added to the album Denny Lynch



Greg Lynch - November 26, 2019 at 11:37 AM

EB

“ *Ed Bailey lit a candle in memory of Dennis L. Lynch*



Ed Bailey - November 25, 2019 at 02:44 PM

DR

“ *Denny was one of my husband's favorite people. He often spoke of what a wonderful person he was to work along side him in SAF. I feel sure many will miss his dedication and loyalty not only to the Forest Service but to make our world a better place.*
Donna Ripley

Donna Ripley - November 24, 2019 at 05:56 PM

EB

“Joyce, Pat and all the family, I want you to know that I feel the loss of Denny, my friend. He was an example to me on how to live the Christian life and made me want to follow in his footsteps.

I remember many years ago, I think at a Society of American Forester Meeting, he was speaking and mentioned he had been reading in Bible and gave some scripture. That made a big impression on me!!

He influenced many lives for good during his life and will be greatly missed by us all.

My prayer will continue to be with all the family during this time of grief and loss!

Ed Bailey

Ed Bailey - November 24, 2019 at 03:17 PM

BM

“Denny was such a joy to have in our piano class..always happy and ready to learn new songs. He will be missed.

Bruce Mihalek

Bruce Mihalek - November 24, 2019 at 09:40 AM

HB

“ I clearly remember meeting Denny in 1975 after I had become a Christian at CSU. I remember attending CFF meetings and I remember his highly creative way of teaching the Outdoor Recreation Administration class. I remember him systematically praying for 2 Tim 2:2 leaders in each of the forests in the USA. But most of all I remember his undivided devotion to our Lord and then to Joyce and his family. He has left a legacy of devotion and prayer to our Lord in my life.

Hugh

Hugh Brandt - November 23, 2019 at 01:20 PM

CI

“ Dennis was one of the kindness men I have ever known. You could see Jesus in him. Sending love to the family.
Doug Max

Cindy - November 23, 2019 at 09:55 AM

JH

“ Janice Shoffner Hinshaw lit a candle in memory of Dennis L. Lynch



Janice Shoffner Hinshaw - November 22, 2019 at 06:52 PM

TA

Denny was and will always be a favorite to his students. May his soul rest in the arms of the Lord.

Thad Anderson - November 24, 2019 at 04:23 PM

BT

Dr. Lynch was my professor for the Outdoor recreation Administration class in 1975. I was captivated by the creativity, time and attention he put into teaching what looked to be a boring, required course. His enthusiasm was contagious. He was by far the best professor I had. More importantly though, he made a sincere effort to get to know every student and was always eager to share the Gospel with them. He is a great role model for me and will be greatly missed.

Brian Trout

Brian Trout - November 25, 2019 at 11:10 AM

KB

Joyce and family Denny Lynch was a great mentor and friend, and he brought needed connections to the land for our CSU studies. I experienced his wit, insight, and guidance in both Society of American Forester activities, and in his graduate level Forest Policy class during my MS and PhD programs. I was honored to serve on the "Lynch Mob" that helped staff and run the SAF convention here in Fort Collins. That event had the title: Foresters' Future: Leaders or Follower; 1984 Society of American Foresters national convention, Fort Collins, Colorado, July 28-31. The convention was a huge success, field trips showcased the link between forests and water and all the attractions that the Front Range gives to residents and visitors alike. Denny's US Forest Service insights were very meaningful to me as he worked on both the Roosevelt and Pike and San Isabel Forests in Colorado. I enjoyed sharing my Estes Poudre Ranger District experiences, and learned how similar his work was earlier on the same Forest. The challenges are the same, and learning to communicate continues to be a critical path to forest health in our times. He brought blessings to us all, and the CFF activities gave students a connection to the higher power through Jesus and our Lord. Thank you for his gift, his vision, and his time you gave to us to enjoy his skills, wit, and fellowship.

Karl Brown

Karl Brown - November 25, 2019 at 05:37 PM

CG

Dr. Lynch was my advisor at Colorado State University 1990-91. What a great man with so much knowledge, wisdom and patience. I was blessed and honored to have him walk my way through a Masters Forestry program. His dedication to CSU, his students and the Society of American Foresters is second to none. His life is to be celebrated and never forgotten.

Cary Green

Cary Green - December 04, 2019 at 03:41 PM

ML

*Joyce and family,
I loved Denny as a mentor and friend. Had it not been for Denny's influence, I would not be a pastor today. He was one of the most powerful and dynamic Christians I have ever met. And I appreciated his sage advice when I was going through a rough patch in college that eventually led me to finding my wife of nearly 40 years now, Mary. As the others above have said so well, Mary and I celebrate his life. Denny finished very well!*

Mike and Mary Lundberg

Mike and Mary Lundberg - December 06, 2019 at 10:59 AM