



## Brand Lee Niemann

June 6, 1941 - January 26, 2016

Dr. Brand Lee Niemann, a talented scientist, gifted musician, and devoted husband, father and grandfather, passed away unexpectedly at Fair Oaks Hospital on Jan. 26, 2016. He was 74.

Born in Omaha, NE, on June 6, 1941 to Harold and Helen Niemann, he was blessed with a large and loving family who were the most important part of his life. For 34 years, he was the beloved husband to his sweet eternal companion, Shirley Edwards Niemann. In addition to his wife, Brand is survived by his children and their spouses: Brand Keola (Katherine), Kaimi (Mary), Sterling's widow, Tiffany (David Wyer), Tirza (Shad Lofgreen), Spencer (Leanne), Susan (Ryan Knapp), Elaine (Craig Jackson), and 22 grandchildren. Brother, Dr. Gary Niemann, and sister, Sherry (Marc Faulkner). Preceded in death by his parents; his dear first wife of 19 years and caring mother of his 7 children, Tirza Moani Johansen, who died in 1981; and his loving son, Sterling, who died at the age of 32 in 2004.

Brand graduated from South High School in Denver, Colorado in 1959. In high school, he was given the honor of being the youngest timpanist invited to play for the Denver Businessman's Symphony. He went on to play with the Utah Symphony in college. He also supported his children's musical interests by taking them to lessons and performing in a pipe and drum corps while in their youth. His passion for music, notably the many percussion instruments he

excelled in playing, continued throughout his 25 years with the Mormon Choir of Washington, DC. This discipline of music was a grounding influence that helped him not only mentor and teach others, but brought him countless hours of joy throughout his life.

He received his master's and PhD in meteorology from the University of Utah. Brand found his love of meteorology through participating in the Boy Scouts of America starting at an early age with his father as a leader, and carried on that legacy through earning the distinguished Eagle Scout rank. This rank was also achieved by his 4 sons and 3 grandsons. The scout motto to "Be Prepared" paved the way for his life as he devoted his time to serving God, his family, friends, and colleagues.

Brand was a pioneer in the field of data science nationally and internationally. He retired after 30 years of federal service as Senior Enterprise Architect and Data Scientist with the US EPA in 2010. After his retirement from federal government service, he founded the Federal Big Data Working Group to continue what he considered to be both challenging work and fulfilling work; and work that could bring together a community of data scientists with a common interest. Many will remember him for these efforts and for the very practical ways he suggested working with data and large data sets. He shared his life's work and passion with all through [semanticcommunity.info](http://semanticcommunity.info), the Semantic Interoperability Community of Practice (SICoP), Federal Computer Week, and AOL Government.

He served faithfully in many church callings and received immense joy from serving others. He often shared his testimony of the tender mercies and love of our Heavenly Father, bearing witness of his personal salvation through our Savior Jesus Christ.

He will be deeply missed by his family and loved ones, friends, and all who

knew him.

The viewing will be held from 10:00-11:30 a.m., with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 6 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 4911 Ox Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030. Interment will be at Fairfax Memorial Park.

Funeral arrangements are by Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center St., Manassas, VA 20110. Please view and sign the family guestbook at <http://www.piercefh.com>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 6. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
4911 Ox Rd  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703) 273-5887

## Service

FEB 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
4911 Ox Rd  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703) 273-5887

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ *May the Angel Moroni always guide his soul in the afterlife ( and keep his holy diapers pure).*

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**Son of Moroni** - February 15, 2018 at 03:54 PM

JJ

“ *Many of Brand's colleagues and friends have posted of his tireless pursuits of value to his Country, employer, family, friends, and community... I want to share with you all that Brand was more than a good employee, friend, husband, and father, he was also a brilliant futurist, spotting the far future trends before anyone else seemed to see them developing along the horizon. He brought people, ideas, and technologies to be shared by early adopters who were themselves out in front of the smartest computer and information oriented scientists and engineers at nationally renowned think tanks like Mitre, and well respected 'smart' tech companies like Raytheon and Lockheed Martin. His tireless promotion and modeling of thought leadership and information sharing via the means made available to him through the Federal CIO Council in the early and mid 2000's lead to tremendous breakthroughs in Government IT, many of which have shown up in the projects and programs you see represented across the spectrum of Federal awards (for instance, FCW Fed 100, GCN Awards), and national awards such as the Fast Company 100 Most Creative People in 2009. Brand was humble to a fault; he did great things that fed virtuous cycles in Federal Government IT improvements from a perch of influence that few others have or will ever attain. I salute you, Brand. And will miss you, my friend.*

*-- Jana M Jackson, former Department of Defense Highly Qualified Expert to DISA*

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**Jana M Jackson** - February 06, 2016 at 11:43 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Brand Lee Niemann.*



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February 05, 2016 at 02:31 PM



“ *My condolences to Brand's family. He will be greatly missed. I first met Brand in 2003 when he originally set up the Semantic Interoperability Community of Practice group, and we had our conference at the White House Conference Room. He energized many of us to learn more and do more, including co-author a set of white papers addressing semantic issues -- which was a subject he was very excited about. Through the years, we have had many occasions to talk about these technical challenges. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

*Leo Obrst  
MITRE*

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**Leo Obrst** - February 04, 2016 at 01:37 PM



“ *Please let us extend our condolences and appreciation to Brand Niemann's family. In the technical community of knowledge representation and ontology, especially in emerging advanced e-government practices, we have valued him deeply as a tremendous contributor and engaging colleague. Regards, Jamie Clark, OASIS.*

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**Jamie Clark** - February 04, 2016 at 11:58 AM

JG

“ James and Kay Goodier purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Brand Lee Niemann.



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**James and Kay Goodier** - February 04, 2016 at 07:41 AM

DS

“ A founder and active member of SICOP and a regular participant of Forums such as Ontolog, he was keenly following and contributing to data and big data areas.  
He and his son shared with me several platforms and meetings and I pray and wish the departed soul Peace. Also condolences to the family.

Regards,

Ravi

(Dr. Ravi Sharma)

Physicist, Enterprise Architect and Ontologist.

drravisharma@gmail.com

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**Dr Ravi Sharma** - February 04, 2016 at 03:30 AM

SR

“ Brand was a tireless source of energy in the semantic data community. His enthusiasm was infectious and he will be sorely missed.

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**Steve Ray** - February 03, 2016 at 03:17 PM



“ Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of Brand Lee Niemann.



February 03, 2016 at 09:11 AM



“ Your work team and friends purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Brand Lee Niemann.



**Your work team and friends** - February 03, 2016 at 12:08 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Brand Lee Niemann.



February 02, 2016 at 12:27 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brand Lee Niemann.



February 02, 2016 at 11:06 AM

RC

“ *Rabindra Chakraborty purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Brand Lee Niemann.*



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**Rabindra Chakraborty** - January 31, 2016 at 08:55 PM

KH

“ *There was a loving warm spirit in the Niemann home that I was drawn to when visiting there on a business matter in 1981. At that time I was searching for a church home and Brand invited me to sit in on lessons given by the LDS missionaries serving in Vienna. While I was investigating the church, Brand took me and his entire family to the Temple Visitors Center. His children had recently received roller skates and when we spilled out of their van at the Visitors Center, all seven of the kids donned their skates and were zooming around the Visitors Center parking lot - all had become pros at skating. My daughter - then 18 months old - did not have roller skates. After returning home from the Visitor's Center her grandparents came for a visit. They were asking us about our day, and my daughter Heidi told them where we had gone. Then she named each of the children in turn, explaining solemnly to her grandparents that they skated. Then she said "But Heidi walked." I'm daily grateful to this family and especially to Brand for introducing me to the LDS Church, where I have found great joy and peace in my life. I know he has gone on to bigger and better things, but he will be sorely missed by those whose lives he touched.*

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**Karen Hammond** - January 29, 2016 at 01:54 PM