



Leonard Messer

May 29, 1922 - April 13, 2015

The funeral service for Leonard “Len” Messer will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, at the United Methodist Church in Wadena, with Pastor Jean-Claude Duncan officiating. Friends may call on Sunday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena. Visitation will resume at the church on Monday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service. Surrounded by his family, Len passed away on Monday, April 13, 2015, at the Tri-County Healthcare Hospital in Wadena. He was 92 years old.

Leonard William Messer was born May 29, 1922, to William and Dora (Gaumitz) Messer in Germania Township, MN. He grew up with 10 brothers and sisters on a dairy farm outside of Staples, MN. Len met the love of his life, Ruth Margaret Kohlhase from Bertha, while attending church youth functions. On May 22, 1945, they were married at the South Bertha Methodist Church. Leonard began his farming career as a dairy herd manager on the Spruce Shadows farm south of Minneapolis. Steven (1948) and Donald (1949) doubled the circle of their love.

In the early 1950s Len and Ruth relocated to the Wadena area, learning the turkey industry while living on the Jim Stearns farm. Soon they bought acreage just west of Wadena and began building their own turkey farm. The arrival of Gary (1954) and Kathleen (1958) expanded their family circle. Here Len, with Ruth, raised their family and were active in the community, while he

became a successful turkey farmer (later adding beef) which included serving on the board of directors of the MN Turkey Growers Association.

He drove school bus for the Wadena School District for over 40 years, being a positive role model for generations of students. It was a special treat that his grandchildren Josh and Abby rode his school bus in his later years. Len was a member of the Masonic Lodge, enjoyed bowling, and served in the Wadena United Methodist Church where he and Ruth actively attended with their family. He worked hard, teaching a positive work ethic to his kids. He also enjoyed play time with his family and friends, fishing trips, time at the lake, camping and going on vacations. As their kids grew up he and Ruth supported their activities and when grandchildren arrived they enjoyed traveling to concerts, games, dance competitions, scout celebrations, 4H shows, graduations and weddings. Once retired they loved to travel via train, bus, boat and car. He was a man of faith, serenity, integrity and honesty whose life touched countless people with a positive force.

He is preceded in death by his parents, son Steven, brothers Albert, Wesley, Webster, Wilbur and Roy Messer, and sisters Esther Ellis, Dorothy Skay and Lila Rothi. He is survived by his wife Ruth of Wadena, sons Don (Linda) Messer of Eden Prairie and Gary (Rebecca) Messer of Northfield, daughter Kathy (Jeff) Harrison of Wadena, his eight grandchildren, sisters Florence Hadley and Gladys Barrow, and many nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Len's grandchildren with their significant others: Paul and Erin Messer, Michelle and Ryan de la Garza, Kevin Messer; Christopher and Stephanie Messer, Jennifer Messer and Chris Feneis, Alexander Messer and Annie Wilson; Joshua Harrison, Abigail and Justin Rogge.

Burial will be in Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Leonard Messer*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - April 18, 2015 at 05:59 PM

HA

“ *Helen Allee lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer*



Helen Allee - April 29, 2015 at 12:12 PM

HA

He was a great guy and enjoyed life to the fullest. Glad to have known him.

Helen Allee - April 29, 2015 at 12:13 PM

BP

Leonard was my mentor when I started driving school bus in 1974 as a substitute driver. I drove for the Wadena district prior to my leaving Wadena in 1976 . I now reside in Superior Wi. [Thanks for the education Len] Bob Price

Bob Price - April 30, 2015 at 05:39 PM

JH

“ Have just good memories of our "Mr. Messer". He was such a kind man and was our bus driver for quite a while. What lucky kids we were! God's has no doubt called home a favorite.

Jean (Olson) Helander - April 21, 2015 at 05:10 PM

KS

“ He was the best bus driver a kid could ever want. I'm not sure how he could remain so calm with all those kids bouncing about, but he always had a smile and a kind word. There should be more kind souls like him in the world. My sincerest condolences to the entire family.

Kathy (Olson) Sletten

Kathy Sletten - April 21, 2015 at 11:24 AM

CG

“ Chuck & Michelle Goddard lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Chuck & Michelle Goddard - April 20, 2015 at 09:49 AM

JB

“ Joan Brauch lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Joan Brauch - April 18, 2015 at 09:40 PM

JB

“ Jack And Lucille Belch lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Jack and Lucille Belch - April 18, 2015 at 08:17 PM

MH

“ Marge And Harry Harrison lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Marge and Harry Harrison - April 17, 2015 at 12:25 AM

MH

Till you're together, forever in time
Thank God for the memories
Leonard, left behind.

Marge and Harry Harrison - April 17, 2015 at 12:27 AM

DA

“ Di And Jerry Anderson lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Di and Jerry Anderson - April 16, 2015 at 07:15 PM

JD

“ *Jerry&Janice Denny lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer*



Jerry&Janice Denny - April 16, 2015 at 05:28 PM

SP

“ *Sandi & Barry Pratt lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer*



Sandi & Barry Pratt - April 15, 2015 at 10:31 PM

SP

“ *Leonard was very special to me when growing up in the Methodist Church. He was always there with a kind hello and loved his stories of old. Barry & Leonard liked reminiscing about Bertha too, Barry, my mother Naomi, and I will truly miss him. May the Lord be with you Ruth and all you Messer kids. Blessings to you all. Sandi & Barry Pratt*



Sandi Pratt - April 15, 2015 at 10:25 PM

AA

“ Anna And Mike Almer lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Anna and Mike Almer - April 15, 2015 at 07:45 PM

RM

“ Roman & Barb Moench lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Roman & Barb Moench - April 15, 2015 at 02:33 PM

JB

“ Leonard was a bus driver when I started working at the school in 1968. I remember that he was a FAVORITE of the students and that he had a very quiet, calm demeanor. He was certainly missed when he retired from driving. God bless you, Leonard.

Joyce Boyne

Joyce Boyne - April 15, 2015 at 09:07 AM

BR

“ I met Leonard many years ago while working for my grandfather Peter Richter who lived across the road. Then later I drove bus for a while with him. Over the years we maintained a casual friendship. Leonard was a true gentle man and a caring, thoughtful man. I was blessed to have known him. Prayers for him and his family.

Bob and Mary Roggenkamp

Bob Roggenkamp - April 15, 2015 at 06:21 AM

DM

“ Dixie Murray lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Dixie Murray - April 14, 2015 at 10:29 PM

 Alan Schumacher

“ Alan Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Alan Schumacher - April 14, 2015 at 10:03 PM

ML

“ Mary And Terry Lynk lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Mary and Terry Lynk - April 14, 2015 at 09:14 PM

MS

“ Mike And Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Mike and Lea Snyder - April 14, 2015 at 04:53 PM

MW

“ Myron And Karen Winkelman lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Myron and Karen Winkelman - April 14, 2015 at 12:58 PM

LR

“ Leone Rowan lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer



Leone Rowan - April 14, 2015 at 07:29 AM



Our son Mike bowled with Leonard when he was just out of High School. He was the young one on the team. The whole team treated him great, especially Leonard. Mike had so much fun. What a great mentor.

Leone Rowan - April 14, 2015 at 07:33 AM

JS

“ *Jim Stoneman lit a candle in memory of Leonard Messer*



Jim Stoneman - April 14, 2015 at 05:04 AM

JS

Besides being a customer of Stoneman Oil for several years, I always consider him a friend. Just another good guy with great family values and a person you could trust. RIP my friend, until we meet again.

Jim Stoneman - April 14, 2015 at 05:08 AM