



Les Leonard

April 17, 1931 - July 22, 2012

The funeral service for Les Leonard of Verndale, MN, was held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at the Central United Methodist Church in rural Verndale, with Pastor Chuck Horsager presiding. Surrounded by family, Les passed away on July 22, 2012 at the age of 81, at the hospital in St. Cloud. Leslie "Les" Arnold Leonard was born to Arthur and Estelle (Wehmeyer) Leonard on April 17, 1931 in Ocheydon, IA. He moved to the Verndale area in 1948 from the Iowa/Minnesota border and graduated from Verndale High School in 1949. Les met the love of his life Darlene Thompson in High School and they were married in 1951. Les logged and trucked before going into full time farming. He had dairy cattle for 42 years before retiring in 1993 to pursue his hobbies/interests in year round fishing, deer hunting, gardening, and an 8 year surplus of firewood. In 60 years of marriage, Les and Darlene raised 4 children: Diane (Phil) Olson of Finlayson, MN; Dona (Jim) Durbin of Basin, WY; Duane (Shelley) Leonard of Verndale, MN; and Darrel (Valerie) Leonard of Zumbrota, MN, all of whom blessed him with 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Les enjoyed camping and traveling with family and friends ("the group"). He was a member of the Central United Methodist Church, Men's Club and the Boondocks afternoon coffee group. Les is survived by his wife Darlene and siblings Darwin (Wilma) Leonard of Verndale, MN; LaVonne (Larry) Baker of Verndale, MN; Don (Kathy) Leonard of Sauk Centre, MN; sister-in-law Beverly Leonard of Aitkin, MN; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. Les was preceded in death by his parents

Arthur and Stella (Wehmeyer) Leonard; brother Laurence Leonard; and son-in-law Ron Stebleton. Honorary pallbearers were Bob Baker, Larry Baker, Doug Hess, Adrian Landwehr, Kenny Edin and Les' grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Serving as pallbearers were Larry Rogers, Al Finn, Barry Blaha, Ben Landwehr, Chet Anderson and Wally Anderson. Burial was in Greenlawn Cemetery in Verndale. Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Wadena County, 23862 158th Ave., Menahga, MN 56464.

Tribute Wall

JW

“ *Darlene and family,*

My deepest sympathy and love go out to all of you. I know just how you are feeling and what you are going through at the loss of a loved one at this time. I didn't know Les had passed away until this evening, and am sorry I wasn't there for you. It's strange to think we both lost our husbands in the same month.

May the Lord give you strength and comfort in the days ahead.

Much Love to all,

Jo

Josephine Weiher - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ *Darlene and family, we are so sorry to hear of Les' passing. We feel so sorry for your loss. Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

God Bless you all..

The Lane's - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Farewell my old neighbor Les*

Betty J. Klatt Schmidt - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *What a nice guy Les was. I usually saw him at faculty events escorting Darlene. And to think you had sixty years together...wonderful.
My heart goes out to you at this sad time. I'll keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers.
With love,
Mary Ellen*

Mary Ellen Kollodge - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ *Darlene and family-
We just wanted you to know we are thinking of you and pray for God to comfort you. Thanks to Him...Goodbyes are not forever.
Love,
Donna (Heern) Trana Wadena
Wanda (Heern) Marquardt Duluth*

Donna (Heern) Trana - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VL

“ *When people talk about their in-laws they are usually complaining. Darlene, I have to say both you and Les were the best ones of all. The first time meeting Les he was very intimidating, but then I really got to know him and he was the most kind, loveable and soft hearted person I know. I loved him very very much and I will always carry him in my heart. I will miss him terribly. Darlene, I want you to know I love you very very much and you are in my thoughts and prayers everyday and always.
Love always,*

Val

Valerie Leonard - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *My dearest sympathy to Darrell, Valarie, Issac, Sophie. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family in this time of loss.*

Love you guys!!!

Leslie Hutter

Leslie Hutter - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *My sympathies as you grieve and contemplate the loss of Les. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Denise*

Denise Pederson - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *My prayers are with you Darlene and the family. I knew Les back in the River Inn days when he and Darlene came down with lots of other Verndale people. He will be deeply missed by everyone including me and the others that waited on him at the Boondock's.*

jane hieb - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ *There's little we can do or say now, just know that our hearts and thoughts are with you in your time of sorrow.*

Calvin & Cheryl Petry - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *Darlene and Family, You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Wish we could be there to give you all a big hug. Remembering that my mother passed away last year she told us not to cry for her she wanted us to celebrate her new life in heaven. I am sure that is what Les would like also. But I lied and cried anyway and that is alright , Our hearts go out to you and your family at this time of your loss. We know they are in a better place waiting for us someday. Love and Hugs with our deepest sympathy the Walsh's Bill, Jennifer, Molly, and Adam*

Bill Walsh - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM