



Donald Michael Leonard

October 23, 1927 - May 11, 2021

Donald Michael Leonard of Hacienda Village (formerly of South Yarmouth, MA and Vernon, CT) died peacefully Tuesday May 11th after a brief illness. He was born October 23, 1927 in Buffalo, NY. He was the oldest of two children—the son of late Pauline (Klein) and Francis Leonard. After being raised in North Java, NY he left to join the Merchant Marines to enlist in WWII at 16 years old. After the war he attended Kings Point College, NY and became a mechanical engineer. He served in the Merchant Marines as an engineer for 14 years. Following his service in the Merchant Marines, he worked for the Grace Line sailing to Chili, Peru and The Great Lakes. He loved his job and shared many stories of his travels.

He met his wife Suzanne (Miller) at Bill Miller's Riviera on Lake Erie and they were married on February 7, 1953 in Buffalo, NY. They recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

Don joined the Travelers Insurance Company as an engineer in 1955 in Buffalo, NY. He transferred with the company to Erie, PA, Chicago, IL, and spent the remainder of his career at the home office in Hartford, CT.

He lived in Vernon, CT where he and Sue raised their six children. He was actively involved in his community as a member of the Rockville High School Boosters and as a lectern at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He retired after 35 years with the company and moved to Cape Cod in South Yarmouth, MA. He was an active member and president of "TREG" (Travelers Retired Engineer Group) and traveled extensively with the group annually until 2006. He was also a member of the American Legion in Massachusetts and Florida.

He was known as the neighborhood "fix it" man. From cars to washing machines, everyone knew to call Don for any household emergency.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by his son, Donald M. Leonard, Jr. and his

grandson Bryan Leonard. Don is survived by his wife Suzanne (Miller) of Bonita Springs, FL, daughter-in-law Linda Leonard of South Windsor, CT, daughter Michele Lynch and husband John of North Falmouth, MA, daughter Cynthia Prete and husband Paul of Cromwell, CT, son Doug Leonard of Bonita Springs, FL, daughter Lori Leonard of Buffalo, NY and daughter Janet Nichols and husband Chris of Norwell, MA. He leaves behind 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren who all loved spending holidays and summers on Cape Cod listening to Grandpa's stories. He is also survived by his brother William Leonard and his wife Joyce of Wayne, PA. Don's passion was his family, friends, jazz music and reading books on past presidents.

He lived life to its fullest and was always there when you needed him. He was very proud of his family and all they have accomplished. His ashes will be placed at the National Cemetery in Bourne, MA. A celebration of his life will be held at a future date in Massachusetts.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned Since 1978.

Cemetery

Bourne National Cemetery

Bourne, MA,

Comments



“ Dear Sue, just heard today of Don’s passing. We remember all the wonderful times we had together in Hacienda. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Love, Susan and Dennis

Dennis Robiski - July 30 at 06:21 PM



“ Dear Mrs Leonard, Michele, Cindy, Doug, Lori, and Janet.

I am very sorry and greatly saddened to hear about Mr Leonard's death. At this time I lack any words that can really bring you comfort so I thought I might share a couple of my memories of Mr Leonard.

I remember going back many years, perhaps more than 50 and Michele was our babysitter. I was very young and back in those days I was afraid of the dark. This one night Michele was babysitting at our house on Patricia Drive and I was absolutely convinced that the evil boogeyman had come for me, I was truly terrified and difficult to console.

Michele called her dad and to a small kid this was a huge strong superhero that searched the house and was willing to take on the boogeyman to keep us safe. I am sure he was your hero many times in your life but that night he was my hero.

Another memory was back in 1996 when my Dad died, Mr and Mrs Leonard postponed their departure to Florida to be here to support my Mom and family during that rough time. This kind hearted gesture meant the world to my Mom and to me and will never be forgotten.

And I must say that to this day when I hear the word or see a Ford Mustang, I think of Mr Leonard working on those 1960s era Mustangs for his kids.

I do hope that you will find peace in your memories of this special man.

Love
Steve Baker

Steve Baker - May 23 at 06:29 AM



“ Dear Sue, Doug, Lori, Michele, and all the family --
I just learned about Don's passing. I am so sorry for your loss. I'll miss Don's smiling face.

I wish you comfort and peace.

Sincerely,
Your neighbor, Barbara Osborne

Barbara Osborne - May 21 at 06:18 PM



“ Don and Sue have been our neighbors since 2005 in the Hacienda Village, Bonita Springs, FL, and we have always enjoyed their friendly hospitality and kindness as well as loved Don's stories of his travels as Chief Engineer on ships abroad. His cheerfulness and ability to engage anyone in conversation has delighted us throughout the years, and he will be sorely missed in the neighborhood. RIP, dear Don.

Carla & Wolfgang Conrad - May 21 at 05:41 PM



“ Don was a wonderful neighbor and friend and will be sorely missed in Hacienda. Rest in Peace my friend.

Jerry Carlin - May 21 at 05:34 PM



“ A life WELL lived...My thoughts and prayers to your whole family Lori, LOVE YOU!!
XOXO

MICHELLE HAGER - May 19 at 09:23 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home - May 14 at 11:11 AM