



Delbert Gerald Leaf

September 20, 1926 - January 30, 2021

Delbert Gerald Leaf

9/20/1926-1/30/2021, age 94. Preceded in death by parents Arvid and Bessie Leaf; siblings Earl Leaf, Lorraine (Paul) Stavig, and Glenn Leaf. Survived by spouse Lorraine (nee Johnson); sister, Carol (Irvin 'Bud') Nelson, sisters-in-law Helen Jo Leaf, Patricia Lundeen and Rianne Leaf; children Thomas (Susan), Timothy, Linnea (Jon) Asp, and Kirsten (Peter Osterberg); grandchildren Andrew, Katie, John, Christina Leaf; Kris, Emily Asp; Linnea, Elsa and Carl Osterberg; three great-grandchildren; Emrik, Astrid and Otto. Born in Minneapolis, Del grew up in St Paul where he graduated from Marshall High School. A WWII veteran, he served on the USS Midway as a radio operator. He graduated from Hamline University in 1949 with a BA degree in sociology and continued graduate-level education at the U of MN. Del and Lorrie were married on 10/13/1951 at St Paul Lutheran Church. Del spent the majority of his career with troubled youth in the Minnesota Department of Corrections. He spent three years as superintendent at the Red Wing, Minnesota Juvenile Correctional Facility.

Del the social worker most loved being social with friends and family. He played hockey and football in his youth, softball leagues with his brothers, league golfing and bowling, fishing with family and friends. He was active in the Lutheran church throughout his life, including St. Paul Lutheran Church youth league (where he met his future wife), church choirs and multiple visits to Holden Village in Washington. He loved games such as cards and

dominoes. Outdoor activities included Bocce ball, canoeing in the BWCA with family and friends, and skiing downhill and cross country. Del and Lorrie traveled with their four children and later took each grandchild on a special 9-years-old trip. They enjoyed tour groups and Elder Hostel trips in their later years.

Del was humble and invited others to joke with him. His grandchildren learned early in life that he opened himself up to be the object of the funny story. He once tried to walk through a freshly cleaned window at a local hardware store. As he recounted the story about the broken glass his only regret was that he could not think fast enough for a quick retort.

We will miss the twinkle in his eye when telling a good story.

There will be a private interment service at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi. A memorial celebration is planned for a future date. Memorials preferred to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Community Resource Center or Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

Tribute Wall



“ *I just learned of Del's passing today, when I went to visit my mother, Betty Goodman. My parents were great, lifelong friends of both Del and Lori, and my mother was heartbroken to learn of Del's passing. The whole Goodman family extends our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Lori and the rest of the Leafs.*

Mary Mohn - February 11, 2021 at 07:58 PM

LA

Thank you, Mary, for your kind words and memories. Yes, our parents were the best of friends for many, many years. Give our best to your mother next time you see her!

Linnea L Asp - February 27, 2021 at 02:21 PM

SB

“ *So sorry to hear of Del's passing. I had the pleasure of getting to know Del many years at the DOC central office. He was a lovely, kind man. RIP, Del, and my condolences to his family.*

Shari Burt - February 07, 2021 at 12:19 PM

LA

Thank you for your kind words, Shari. Linnea Asp (Del's daughter)

Linnea L Asp - February 10, 2021 at 10:02 PM

AL

“ I will always remember Del's humor and how he and Lorraine worked hard to show me their Minnesota. Together with Del, Tim, Tom, Tom and Sue I went canoeing in the Boundary Waters. My thoughts are with you all.

Kram Anna

Anna Bernadotte Larsén - February 07, 2021 at 12:05 PM

LA

Thank you so much, Anna. We did have wonderful times together. He loved the BWCA and I'm so happy you could experience it with him and the others.

Tack så mycket. Hälsa din familj åt mig.

Linnea L Asp - February 10, 2021 at 10:04 PM