



Leo Esterle

January 5, 1934 - January 4, 2021

ESTERLE,

Leo, 86, passed away Monday January 4, 2021.

He was a Korean War Veteran.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Esterle; brother, Durward "Skip" Esterle; and his parents, Louis Durward and Loretta (Lorenz) Esterle.

He is survived by his daughters, Sandra Constant (Danny), Linda Bosch (Ed), and Peggy Schenck (Garry); six grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and sisters, Clara Lanham and Patricia Petty.

His funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday January 11, 2021 at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Hwy with burial to follow in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central at 2:30 p.m. Visitation will be from 2-7 p.m. Sunday at Owen Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 10. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Service

JAN 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Owen Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Leo Esterle



Owen Funeral Homes - January 11, 2021 at 12:30 PM

CS

Leo's Eulogy delivered by Grandson Chad Schenck

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." Dr. Seuss Hello, everyone. On behalf of Leo Esterle's family, we thank you all for being here today and sharing with us as we honor him and say our final goodbye.

My name is Chad Schenck, Leo's oldest grandson. Leo Esterle was one of the most wonderful people I've ever known, and I am honored to be standing here in front of you today to illustrate his life's legacy.

5. John 14:1-3

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Leo Esterle, 86, passed away Monday, January 4, 2021. He was a Korean War Veteran. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Esterle; brother, Durward "Skip" Esterle; and his parents, Louis Durward and Loretta (Lorenz) Esterle. He is survived by his daughters, Sandra Constant (Danny), Linda Bosch (Ed), and Peggy Schenck (Garry); six grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and sisters, Clara Lanham and Patricia Petty. Papaw was born on January 5, 1934 in Louisville, KY. Papaw died peacefully one week ago today, January 4, 2021 in Leavenworth, IN. Often we see on grave markings the date of birth and the date of death separated by a simple, plain dash. We are here this afternoon to look at Leo's Dash. For it is in Papaw's Dash that we find that his life was not simple nor plain. There is so much that happened inside Leo Esterle's dash that we should remember, we should smile upon, that we should use as examples of how to live a full life...capturing every moment together with family and friends.

Papaw was born to Loretta and Louis Esterle and grew up at 18th & Kentucky Avenues and later at 18th & Maple Street. All of which were in the heart of Louisville, KY's downtown area along a stretch of town affectionately known as "The Corner". For on this corner were all the happenings of young life in the shadows of an ice cream shop.

Perhaps foreshadowing things to come for Leo.

Leo had three siblings and was the second oldest boy. Growing up, Leo made many wonderful memories, despite tough times in the post-depression era of our nation's history.

• Pat (Tiny as she was called back then) recalls being twirled about by Papaw. Aunt Pat remembers thinking how special Papaw was as a much older brother to be playing with her.

• Clara recalls how handsome Papaw was and how proud he was of his hair....she remembers that before ever leaving to go anywhere, his hair had to be just right.

• Leo never shyed away from hard work. At the age of 15, Leo started his first job, delivery groceries to people in their apartments above the store and surrounding area....if only he could've had the idea for Uber

Eats back then. His boss let, Bill Moss, let him use his truck...at 15! However, most of the deliveries were made on his bicycle and basket.

- *After working at the store of couple of years, and as Leo came of age, well, even before that...he decided to begin his love of traveling and began a period of hitchhiking with his two best friends, Bike and Hitch. Their travels took them all over the nation: Upstate New York, Florida, and at some point, Texas, where Leo and Bike unloaded cargo ships; making really good money at the time. However, the job was only temporary.*

- *Leo always looked up to his older brother, Skip, so much so that when Skip enlisted in the Air Force, papaw (and his best friend Bike) both wanted to be like Skip. After having a resourceful friend "edit" Leo's birth certificate, he enlisted in the Marine Corps.*

- *During his three years in the service, Papaw was stationed first in Korea as the war neared its end, spending some his final military duties in Japan...where rumor has it, he got the idea for the name Peggy. (another story for another time).*

After returning stateside to California (at about the same time Skip returned to California as well) he again hitched back to Louisville, KY. Thank goodness he did, for while working at Brown and Williamson, Leo met and fell in love with Ms. Betty Wells. Their love story was one for the ages. They courted for a time and were married on May 20, 1955. They curated a wonderful life together and raised their three girls on Main Street in Louisville until 1970. For the rest of their marriage, they called 9305 Venago Drive (PRP) home. They were married for 55 long and happy years. Grandma and Papaw loved to travel out west, to national parks, the Ozarks and Smokey mountains, and were especially fond of the Amish country in northern Indiana and Ohio. Peggy remembers getting a voicemail message from grandma saying that her and Leo were headed out to see the mountains...not sure which mountains or which state, or for how long. They clearly both had the free spirited travel bug running in their blood.

If I could describe Leo to you in only a few short words, they would be

- *Honest, caring, and peaceful.*

- o *Honest: I'll always remember driving with Papaw in the "Red Rabbit" VW. We were on our way to get ice cream mix. I asked...after tugging on my seat belt, "how do these things work?" Immediately, Papaw grabs the e-brake, pulls it up while going down Venango Drive, and we come to a screeching halt...at which point, my belt locks me in place. "That's how."*

- *Honest question, honest answer.*

- o *Caring: Papaw always could be found loving and taking wonderful care of Betty. His devotion to her was seen as an example of how a husband should honor his wife.*

- o *Peaceful: The only time I can ever remember Papaw and Grandma even having the slightest argument, Michael Dukakis and George Bush were involved. I learned early, never discuss politics with your grandparents or mess with grandpa's hair...a lesson Jeff tested often*

when we would visit.

□ Many people describe Leo as peaceful. Whether you knew him as a sibling, a father, an uncle, friend, or patient....all can agree that Leo Esterle was one of the most peaceful, unassuming men they have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Papaw's smile could light up a room. With his smile came a peace and comfort to all around him. His belly laugh was contagious and he loved a good story or joke. He loved to play a few jokes on us too.

□ Leo's daughters spent the last 10 years taking care of him after the passing of Betty. Working together, they provided Leo opportunities for independence, family experiences, and love. As his body became weaker and tougher decisions on his care were made, he never got upset. He simply took it all in stride with a peace that served as a wonderful example to all those around him.

I once heard it said of man that "The idea is to die young as late as possible."

Some of papaw's favorite activities revolved around spending time with his children and grandchildren. As is evident in the pictures in this room, you can clearly see how much he loved his family. Whether it be birthday parties, Christmas, or trick-or-treating, he could be found with a huge grin on his face taking part in the festivities...and even sorting out his candy right alongside the grandkids. We all knew how much he loved his M&M's, even after it may have been scattered on the carpeted floor by Jeff and Stacy.

As we officially honor Papaw today and say our goodbyes, we must not let our hearts be troubled. I've thought a lot about Papaw's 87 years and how he spent the last 10 without grandma by his side. In the past, I could be heard saying to Kristi and the kids, if I'm ever in a nursing home, I don't want that. I don't want that type of life... But I've had a change of attitude. Papaw's life and legacy has given me that. Over the past 10 years, I've seen his example of love poured out from his family to him. I've witnessed his daughters, (my mom and aunts) tend to his needs, wants, and wishes with the same caring spirit they saw in their father all the years of his life. Over the past 10 years, I've seen Papaw smile countless times, while being able to attend birthday parties and family events. Recently, I've seen the love and care he received by caregivers at the nursing home bring peace to Papaw. He never complained of his circumstance, never got upset with the nurses or doctors....in fact, in the few days before his passing, he was asking me how Kaden was feeling (who had been under the weather a week prior) and FaceTiming his doctor and told him, "You look really good today doc!". That was Papaw, always thinking of others first before himself.

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Leo Esterle, we're going to miss you. Your decency, sincerity, and kind soul will stay with us forever. So, through our tears, let us see the blessings of knowing and loving you – a great and noble man. And in our grief, let us smile knowing that Papaw is smiling down on us with Betty by his side.

Chad Schenck - January 14, 2021 at 12:27 PM

PM

*“ Garry and Peggy we are so sorry for your loss and wish we could be there with you. May God Bless you and your family at this sorrowful time. We love you both.
Roger, Pat, Trevor and Robin*

Patricia Michels - January 11, 2021 at 02:43 PM

KE

“ Kathryn E. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Leo Esterle.



Kathryn E. - January 09, 2021 at 01:10 PM

LB

“ Love, Rob and Debbie Baker purchased the Fair est of All for the family of Leo Esterle.



Love, Rob and Debbie Baker - January 09, 2021 at 12:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Leo Esterle.



January 09, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Leo Esterle.



January 08, 2021 at 11:30 AM