



Leo Ward Craver

AUG 21, 1924 - NOV 23, 2020



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Leo Ward Craver

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Leo Ward Craver, was born 8/21/1924, and passed away peacefully on 11/23/2020 at MercyOne, Long Term Care in Centerville.

He was the third son of Blanche and Vest Craver. After graduation from Centerville High School, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Force in 1943, and fought in WWII, serving his country in the Galapagos Islands as a Medic.

Leo was honorably discharged and returned to Centerville, Iowa in 1946, where Leo and Barbara Jean Clarke, his high school sweetheart, were united in marriage on February 19, 1946. Leo joined his father and brothers, Harlan and Ralph, at Craver Lumber Company where he worked until retirement.

Leos life was far from boring, as he made every day an adventure. Leo and wife, Barbara, were on their way home, having had dinner on May 22, 1962, and came upon a large piece of metal in the road. They stopped the vehicle, and upon investigation of the piece, realized it was from an airplane.

They took it to the Centerville police station, and it turned out, it was from the downed Boeing 707, Continental Airlines Flight 11 from Chicago to Kansas City. Leo was part of the first team on the ground to search for any survivors.

Another time, Leo was part of a sheriff posse that searched for, and found a mass murderer from Iowa, Gayno Gilbert Smith, wanted for killing six people in 1961 and 1962. Along with being known as a hard worker, Leo also enjoyed wood working, crafts, golf, tennis, water sports and camping.

He and wife, Barbara were some of the first campers on Lake Rathbun, known to locals as "Cravers Point". The best way to describe Leo would be smiling, witty, loving, playful, and prankster. He represented the saying, "to know him, is to love him".



Obituary

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Leo was preceded in death by his loving wife, Barbara, his parents, and brothers. Leo has three surviving children, LeAnn Ducey (David), Diane Buss, (William), and Todd Craver (Doreen), nine grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren.

There will be a private family gathering at Oakland Cemetery. Memorials may be made out to either the First United Methodist Church or the MercyOne Medical Center, Long Term Care, and may be mailed to Lange Funeral Home and Crematory, C/O Craver Family, 1900 South 18th Street, Centerville, Iowa 52544.

Condolences may be shared online at www.langefh.com.



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 3:40 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 3:20 PM



Pat Van Lent posted:

My grandmother, Flossie Craver Garner, was Leo's aunt. I had the privilege of visiting Leo and we shared family pictures and stories. A delightful gentleman, we corresponded a few more times and shared pictures. Today I'm looking through Grandma's pictures and decided to check on Leo.. Not what I'd hoped! My thoughts, prayers and sympathy to the family. I'm sure you have many good memories to share. .

March 31 at 7:00 PM



Margery Davison posted:

Leo was a good man and is going to be greatly missed. Our condolences to his family. From the Ewing family Matthew, Margery and Marilyn

January 31 at 7:00 PM



Theresa Davis posted:

Such a great loving couple, Together again! Love you both Barb, Leo!

November 26 at 7:00 PM



Skip And Linda Campbell posted:

Deepest condolences on the passing of Leo. Used to see him at church and others places always had a smile and always talked to my wife Linda about Her family etc. Had a great memory. Thanks for his service to our country during WWII also. May he rest in peace. R.I.P. Leo

November 25 at 7:00 PM



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JR

Jamie Ruckman lit a candle in honor of Leo.

Lit a candle in memory of Leo Ward Craver

November 25 at 7:00 PM



JS

Judy And Larry Sales posted:

Leo will be greatly missed. You could help but love him. He was in the Lions Club and always created with a smile. He enjoyed life being with people. He was a sweetheart.

November 24 at 7:00 PM

SL

Susan Long posted:

Leo & Barb was great at Long Term Care at Mercy Hospital. Always made everyone laugh and smile. They will always be remembered. I think of them each time I go by the Craver name on the building uptown.

November 23 at 7:00 PM

MS

Mary Ellen Schmitz posted:

Condolences and prayers to Lee Ann, Dine & Todd and families. Many fond memories of Leo and his many stories over the years. He and Barb were a special, loving couple; always enjoyed our visits and conversations, especially Christmasget together.

November 23 at 7:00 PM

PK

Paul Tara Koestner posted:

Leo and Barb were the best neighbors! Leo always had a smile on his face. He will be missed.

November 23 at 7:00 PM

TC

Twyla Casteel posted:

sorry for your loss

November 22 at 7:00 PM



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TL

Tom Livengood posted:

Such a nice man.I remember as a kid knowing him at the lumber yard. I always loved talking to him when I seen him out So Sorry for your loss

November 22 at 7:00 PM

DT

Debbie Kirkland Tait posted:

Such a nice man!!!...thanks Leo for all the fun stories at the beauty shop!!!

November 22 at 7:00 PM

TC

Twyla Casteel T lit a candle in honor of Leo.

Lit a candle in memory of Leo Ward Craver

November 22 at 7:00 PM



DL

Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson lit a candle in honor of Leo.

Lit a candle in memory of Leo Ward Craver

November 22 at 7:00 PM



NT

Nellie Thomas lit a candle in honor of Leo.

Lit a candle in memory of Leo Ward Craver

November 22 at 7:00 PM



ST

Sara Tait lit a candle in honor of Leo.

Lit a candle in memory of Leo Ward Craver

November 22 at 7:00 PM





Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 3:20 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Leo by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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