



# Arthur Lemley

MAY 5, 1940 - MAY 10, 2021



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## Arthur Lemley

MAY 5, 1940 - MAY 10, 2021

**A**rthur Roger Lemley, age 81 of Plano, Iowa, passed away on Monday, May 10th, 2021, in his home.

Arthur was born the son of Leslie & Ethel (Kendall) Lemley on May 5, 1940 in Centerville, Iowa. He graduated from Centerville High School with the class of 1957. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1964 as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine then served as a Captain in the Army at Fort Douglas Utah for 2 years. Arthur was united in marriage to Mary Louise in 1964 at Fort Douglas Chapel.

Arthur and Mary moved to Cherokee, Iowa in 1966 where Arthur joined a veterinary practice. He was known around town for the next 37 years as "Doc" and was a kind and generous man to all who knew him; he never knew a stranger. He started his next chapter when he retired in 2001 and he and Mary moved back to the family farm where he was welcomed back as if he never left. A labor of love ensued as they spent the next 20 years making improvements to the land and creating a beautiful space for friends and family to gather. Arthur was extremely proud to receive the Iowa Heritage Farm Award in 2020 for having a family farm for 150 years.

Arthur was involved in many community groups that reflected his expansive talents and hobbies. Among them were Kiwanis, Toastmasters, Flying Club, International Comanche Society, Cherokee Airport Commission, Experimental Aircraft Association, and Valley Bank Board of Directors. He was a member of Brushy Community Church where he served as Board President and was an enthusiastic participant in the Brushy Community Church Music Group.

He was a remarkable man who was never too busy to offer a helping hand. He was a lover of people, animals, airplanes, tractors, hayfields, cornfields, music, God, and everything in between.

Left to honor his memory are his loving wife Mary along with their children and spouses Les and Traci Lemley, Ann and Kurt Griesheim, and Amy Lemley and Justin



## Obituary

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Horner. His grandchildren, who brought him such joy, are Derek, Alek, Violet, Rita, and Wyatt. Beloved sister Florence and her late husband Jerry were an integral part of his life along with their children Craig, Wayne, Bruce, Scott and Cheryl, along with his sister-in-law Pat Lemley and her daughters Cindy (Bill) Lewis, Kathy (Steve) Williams, Leanne (Dan) Carr) and Libby (Garrett) Byers. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Larry Lemley.

Funeral service will be 11:00 am, Monday, May 17, 2021 at Thomas Funeral Home in Centerville. Interment will immediately follow at Brushy Cemetery. Visitation will take place two hours prior to service from 9:00 -11:00 am. Memorials may be given to Furever Friends and condolences may be shared at [www.thomasfh.com](http://www.thomasfh.com) or [www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome). Art's service will be streamed live at [www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome).



# Tribute Wall

**Arthur Lemley**

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**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 4:25 PM



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



October 13 at 5:55 PM



**Celeste Jones** posted:

Kurt, I was sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. His life has so many touchstones, it would be impossible not to have liked him. He will undoubtedly be missed by his family and the community. Godspeed, and blessing on you and your family. Celeste Jones Current Technologies

May 17 at 7:00 PM



**The Smiths** posted:

Wishing you comfort and peace in this difficult time With Love, Brad, Kathy, Rachel, Felix, Lauren, Blake, Stacey, Parker and Teagan

May 15 at 7:00 PM



**Amy Patterson** posted:

Art was a force of nature and he leaves a hole in the world he left behind but a connector to the next. He was a mentor and had a heart of gold.

May 14 at 7:00 PM



**Julie Swift** posted:

To Granny and the Lemley Family-You are in our thoughts and prayers. Sent with love-Waukee neighborhood (Swifts, Keltings, Rivenburghs, Sandys)

May 14 at 7:00 PM



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FI

**Fred And Mary Lou Illingworth** posted:

As you grieve know that we are remembering you and honoring the memory of "Arthur Lemley". With much love.

May 14 at 7:00 PM

NG

**Nancy And Rich Griesheim** posted:

With heartfelt condolences,

May 14 at 7:00 PM

SS

**Scott Stratton** posted:

Dr. Lemley was a very good man, and had a kind heart for those who had sick animals. Heartfelt Sympathies goes out to the extended Lemley family in these times

May 14 at 7:00 PM

MI

**Mary Lou Illingworth** posted:

Art was such a joy to be around. Always the peacemaker, generous and full of grace. I will miss him greatly. The Brushy Church will never be the same without him. Love to a Great Man from Fred and Mary Lou Illingworth

May 14 at 7:00 PM

LK

**Lisanne Kaufmann** posted:

Such fond memories as a child of family gatherings and vet visits with Art, Mary, Les, Ann, and Amy. Such a great friend to our family. Very sorry for your loss. He will be missed. With sympathy and love to each of you, Lisanne (Florke) Kaufmann and family

May 14 at 7:00 PM

DJ

**Danielleandzeb Joiner** posted:

What a great man! He will be missed.

May 14 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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LF

**Love, Dr. Steve And Jean Benson And Family** posted:

Our Condolences....

May 14 at 7:00 PM

TS

**Tribute Store** posted:

With deepest sympathy,

May 14 at 7:00 PM

PS

**Paul & Arlys Slaughter** posted:

It was a pleasure getting to know Art through Brushy Church, flying, and our property there near Rathbun. He was always so encouraging, helpful and a godly testimony. He will be missed.

May 13 at 7:00 PM

LF

**Larry & Barbara Florke** posted:

Art was a special friend whom we dearly loved. We treasure our memories of his kindness, thoughtfulness, and fun loving spirit. We send our love to Mary, Ann, Les, Amy and families. Love, Larry & Barbara Florke

May 13 at 7:00 PM

NG

**Nadine Gilmore** posted:

Sorry for your loss, Sandy.

May 13 at 7:00 PM

CM

**Chuck Miholovich** posted:

So sorry to hear the passing of Art, Mary, I will never forget the dinner you prepared for me, It was mid week and Art hired me to work on the old D6 9U, He insisted we have a dinner break, We cleaned up and had hamburgers and a fabulous apple pie, We went back to work and finished the job. I have worked for Art several times, Always a good experience, we need more people like Art, I am sure he has a good seat in heaven, His favorite saying when I chatted with him was Blowing smoke and moving Mountains, May God bless you Mary.

May 12 at 7:00 PM



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MT

**Muffy Tonelli** posted:

Mary and the entire Lemley family, I was blessed to have known Art and know how much he will be missed by you all. He was a kind and gentle man. Prayers of comfort as you go through this time.

May 12 at 7:00 PM

RH

**Robert Houser** posted:

Prayers

May 12 at 7:00 PM

RS

**Rita And Mike Smiley** posted:

Art was such a wonderful person. He will be greatly missed. With love and sympathy, Rita and Mike

May 12 at 7:00 PM

TS

**Tribute Store** posted:

Though words can't take your loss away, we hope these flowers sent in sympathy help comfort you today.

May 12 at 7:00 PM

ST

**Steve, Liz And Your Current Technologies Team** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. With deepest sympathy,

May 12 at 7:00 PM

FM

**From Your Friends At Cargill Des Moines** posted:

Our heartfelt condolences to your family

May 12 at 7:00 PM

TS

**Tribute Store** posted:

Art was a wonderful veterinarian and friend to our family. Sincerely Wayne Stewart and Elizabeth

May 12 at 7:00 PM



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PL

**Pat Lemley** posted:

Our warmest condolences,Cindy, Kathy, Leanne, Libby and Pat lemley

May 11 at 7:00 PM

JC

**Jerry And Joyce Clark** posted:

Mary, we are very sorry to hear about Art passing away. It took us back to those many years we lived as neighbors and friends. When you left the neighborhood you left us with many good memories. May all your memories Art left behind be a comfort and a help to you and your family as you go through this time of loss. Some old neighbors in Cherokee. Jerry and Joyce.

May 11 at 7:00 PM

KM

**Kathleen Moore** posted:

Mary - so sorry to hear of Arthur's passing. I have a lot of good memories of you guys spending time in Oklahoma with mom and dad and our family that will cherish forever!! Prayers and thoughts are with your family thru this tough time.

May 11 at 7:00 PM

JW

**Jim Wittkamp** posted:

Art Gave me my first plane ride in the Champ. He was a wonderful pilot and friend of our family. I will sure miss him God bless your family Jim Wittkamp

May 11 at 7:00 PM

TS

**Theresa Riddick Samuel** posted:

A wonderful Christian man and good example; he will be greatly missed in all our lives at Brushy Church. Prayers and love all his family.

May 11 at 7:00 PM



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RH

**Robert Hahn** posted:

To Mary and family: We shall always remember Art as one of our "vets" when he practiced in Cherokee. Super nice guy. He offered to fly us to Salina, Kansas, for a relative's funeral one hot summer day. What a gift that was. Bob and Mary Hahn and son Dan.

May 11 at 7:00 PM

BK

**Barb Kindwall** posted:

The Lemley family have been friends forever! We will miss Art very much. I remember his love of Johnny Cash and his version of Ring of Fire on Christmas season. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all Lemley's. Phillip, Barb, Jacob and Josie Kindwall

May 11 at 7:00 PM

SJ

**Sharon Judson** posted:

Doc was a brilliant, compassionate man with a little boy's mischievous wit! Dale Judson

May 11 at 7:00 PM

RA

**Roberta Atwell** posted:

Will miss his smile and silly laugh, was a good friend to Bill and Bert Atwell .will miss Author and prayers to Mary and family

May 11 at 7:00 PM

RS

**Raneen Schulte** posted:

I have many fond memories of Art as a kid when he would come to our farm in Cherokee County to help tend to any of our animals. He was the best vet! Art and my dad, Ron Nelson, had a special relationship. Art would always come in to our kitchen after his work was done and my dad and him enjoyed each other's company over a cup of coffee and some sort of treat my mom would make. His laugh was contagious! He was a very special man and we appreciated his years of service he gave to the farmers and their livestock in Cherokee County. Sending our sympathy and prayers to Mary and the entire family. May God give you comfort and peace. Raneen (Nelson) Schulte, Wauke, IA.

May 11 at 7:00 PM



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PF

**Pam & Tom French** posted:

We are so sorry to hear of Art's passing. Our sincerest condolences to his family. Such a beautiful obituary of a beautiful life. Pam and Tom French

May 11 at 7:00 PM

YY

**Yining Yuan** posted:

Dear Arthur, I still have fond memories of visiting your farm with my family. Thank you so much for your hospitality. Your kindness and laughter will always be remembered. We will miss you. May you rest in peace.

May 11 at 7:00 PM

DC

**Dan Cunningham** posted:

God bless you Art. You inspired me to be the best I could be. I looked to you as a teacher, a leader, and a friend. When ever I needed to lift my spirits I drive to the century farm to have a cup of coffee with you and Mary. I always left feeling better than before. I will miss you very much. Thank you for your service Major Lemley. Dan

May 10 at 7:00 PM

BL

**Bruce Lear** posted:

I am so sorry to hear about Arthur. He was an icon in Cherokee, and he will be remembered as making a difference. Bruce Lear

May 10 at 7:00 PM

JH

**Jerre Hunter** posted:

So sad, and I am so thankful that Leslie and I got to meet and spend time with Art and Mary last summer and reconnect our family ties. We had such a good visit that day. Prayers for the entire family.

May 10 at 7:00 PM



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PS

**Paula Smith** posted:

I will never forget when we went for an airplane ride and we buzzed a farmer in the field! I will miss you Art and your comical adventures!

May 10 at 7:00 PM

SM

**Sandy Mitchell** posted:

Third generation of Arthur Lemley's will be missed so much , Grandpa, ArthurLemley, my Dad, Arthur Lynn Lemley and now Arthur Roger Lemley. Know they are all in heaven, enjoying each other. Until we all meet again. You will be So Missed.

May 10 at 7:00 PM

SM

**Sandy Mitchell** posted:

Third generation of Athur

May 10 at 7:00 PM

CT

**Catherine Zipparro Tyrrell** posted:

He sounds like a wonderful man. How lucky you were to have him as your dad, Ann! I have your family in my prayers.

May 10 at 7:00 PM

SC

**Scott Christensen** posted:

We have all lost a true treasure with Art's passing. The kindest and most amazing person I have ever had the privilege of knowing and proud to have called him my friend. I look forward to flying with him again.

May 10 at 7:00 PM

JK

**Jerry Kaster** posted:

Heaven gained one heck of a man right there,rip Art

May 10 at 7:00 PM



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AK

**Angie Kendall** posted:

I am so glad to have met Arthur at the Kendall reunion. Rest in peace and my deepest sympathy to the family. Angie Kendall

May 10 at 7:00 PM

JB

**Jack Briggs** posted:

I will miss Art as he was a intergal part of Brushy church. RIP

May 10 at 7:00 PM

MF

**Marcia-Don Florke** lit a candle in honor of Arthur.

So very Sorry to hear of Art's Passing..Our Condolences to Mary and Family. You are in Our Prayers..RIP Art! Don & Marcia Florke..Cherokee, Iowa..

May 10 at 7:00 PM







## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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