



Leland L. Willard

April 6, 1929 - September 27, 2018

Leland Willard
Kearney Resident

Leland "Lee" Willard, 89, of Kearney, died, surrounded by family, Thursday, September 27, 2018 at his home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be 1:30 p.m. Monday, October 1, 2018 at St. James Catholic Church with Father Art Faesser officiating. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery with military honors provided by the American Legion Post #52, VFW Post #759 in conjunction with the United States Navy Honors Team. Visitation will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, September 30 at the church followed by a vigil/prayer service beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Leland Leroy Willard was born April 6, 1929 to Milton and Mary (Raitora) Willard. He was raised in Miller and graduated from Miller High School in 1947. Following his graduation, Lee enlisted in the United States Navy where he was stationed on Midway Island in Hawaii, and proudly served his country until his honorable discharge in 1954.

Lee was united in marriage to Betty Hamik on October 28, 1954 in Stuart, Nebraska. To this union five girls were born: LeAnne, Lori, Lisa, Lynelle and Lichelle. The couple made their home in Kearney and they enjoyed traveling extensively together.

Lee worked for Clausen's Shoe Store until he was hired to be the manager at Famous Shoe Store in downtown Kearney. Lee later purchased and operated Famous Shoe Store until his retirement.

Lee was an avid fisherman and hunter, he enjoyed his daily coffee with friends, dancing and reading westerns. He enjoyed cheering on the Huskers, but above all else valued his time spent with his family.

Lee was a member of St. James Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, B.P.O.E. and the American Legion.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Betty of Kearney; daughters LeAnne Lacey and her husband Mike of Shelton, Lori West of Kearney, Lisa Schwab and her husband Kent of Silverthorne, Colorado and Lichelle Aden and her husband, Jim of Gothenburg; grandchildren Jessica Frink (Jeremy), Justin Lacey (Jill), Timmy, Nicole and Dillon West, Sydney Schwab (Gavin Dalgliesh), Kyle Schwab (Elle), Bailey, Grace, Maggie and Sophia Aden; 4 great-grandchildren: Owen and Elliot Frink and Madi and Barrett Lacey; as well as many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Lee was preceded in death by his parents; daughter Lynelle (Willard) Parks; grandson Isaiah Aden; and sister Madeline Adelong.

Memorials in Lee's honor are kindly suggested to St. James Catholic Church or the Nebraska Veteran's Memorial in Kearney. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com . Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 30. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Vigil / Prayer Service

SEP 30. 5:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 1. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Leland L. Willard*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *So very sorry for your loss. Such a nice man. We'll be honored to send a memorial in his honour to the Veterans Home.
Dottie Kinkade and Dan Kwiatkowski.*

Dottie Kinkade - October 01, 2018 at 01:49 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Leland L. Willard.*



October 01, 2018 at 10:26 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leland L. Willard.*



October 01, 2018 at 10:22 AM

SS

“ So very sorry to hear about the passing of your Dad Leann. My sincere sympathy to you and all your family. My thoughts and prayers continue for all of you ❤️

Sharon Schwartz

Sharon Schwartz - October 01, 2018 at 08:23 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Leland L. Willard.



September 30, 2018 at 11:40 PM

TF

“ Tom & Dee Schneider Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Leland L. Willard.



Tom & Dee Schneider Family - September 29, 2018 at 03:17 PM

ML

“ Much love, Bill & Kelly, Tom & Nancy, Gary & Linda purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Leland L. Willard.



Much love, Bill & Kelly, Tom & Nancy, Gary & Linda -
September 29, 2018 at 10:01 AM

VJ

“ *Betty: Sending our prayers and sympathy to you, the girls and your whole family. So many great memories on our block when the kids were all young and playing back and forth along our block. Always had great block parties and fun games with everyone. Sending God's peace to each of you through this transition time. Love and prayers from Jerry & Verlene Jacoby, Loveland CO*

Verlene Jacoby - September 28, 2018 at 09:43 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leland L. Willard.*



September 28, 2018 at 06:56 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leland L. Willard.*



September 28, 2018 at 11:40 AM

YF

“ *Your 96 Ranches family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Leland L. Willard.*



Your 96 Ranches family - September 28, 2018 at 08:29 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Leland L. Willard.*



September 27, 2018 at 11:20 PM



“ *Our sympathies to Aunt Betty, and the family. We have such great memories of Uncle Lee at the cabin in Burrell. He is smile was contagious and laugh infectious. Our hearts are sad at his passing. Know you are in our prayers.*

Krystal Hamik - September 27, 2018 at 05:53 PM