



## Leonard E. DeBrie

March 29, 1934 - July 16, 2024

Leonard Eugene DeBrie passed away on July 16th, 2024. He was born to Milton and Gwendolyn DeBrie on March 29, 1934 in Gibbon, NE. His growing years were filled with basketball, football, baseball and track. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Suzanne Lindenstein, they headed to Ft. Collins, CO, where he attended Colorado State University for undergraduate studies and Veterinary school. He was offered a spot on the basketball team but decided to pitch for the baseball team. After playing for one year, he decided to put all of his effort into studying in order to compete for a spot at the Veterinary school. He became a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1959 and was a member of the Phi Zeta honorary society.

Leonard and Suzanne had four children, Lauri, Karan, Brian and Gayle. It was his joy to teach them about life, to love animals, and to enjoy the simple things in life. He enjoyed family vacations, as well as 4-H, where he volunteered as the Buffalo County Fair Veterinarian for 50 years and received an award of distinction.

Dr. DeBrie joined Kearney Veterinary Clinic where had both a large and small animal practice. He left for his own large animal private practice, which eventually led to animal herd health, specializing in food animal consulting and nutrition for beef producers. He enjoyed his veterinary practice until he was 83. Leonard was a life-long learner and loved teaching cattle production.

Leonard was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Academy of Veterinary Consultants, and was a Charter member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. He raised purebred Angus cattle and Angus crossbreds. He was one of the first to use artificial insemination and continued to build his cow herd with his son Brian. He later adopted sustainable grazing practices. Talking cattle and farming was one of his favorite conversations.

Leonard enjoyed watching sports and an occasional hunting and fishing trip. He and Suzanne travelled across the country for baseball and football games, including a World Series and bowl games.

Leonard attended the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney, where he was a deacon and an usher. His spiritual mentor was David Jeremiah and he was continually blessed by his sermons. His family was blessed to have him as their spiritual leader.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years Suzanne DeBrie, his children Lauri Thanheiser, Karan (Kevin) Staten, Brian (Jane) DeBrie, and Gayle (Turner) Gill; his five grandchildren, Alex (Elsie) DeBrie, Alyssa (Travis) Hagan, Nicole (Sida) Niu, Jordan (Marcus) Sallis, Margaux Gill; and ten great-grandchildren, Lanie, Charlie, Sam, Joe, Collin, Millie, Jolie, his namesake Leonard, Annie, and Lucas. He has three surviving sisters, Millie (Russ) Shultz, Patricia (Chuck) Sadler, and Anita (Joe) Wittman, He is preceded in death by his mother Gwendolyn, his father Milton, his brother Stanley DeBrie, and his sister Lorraine Miles.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, August 3rd at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
4511 6th Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kimkay R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard E. DeBrie.*

Kimkay R. - September 06, 2024 at 05:16 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Leonard E. DeBrie.*



August 01, 2024 at 03:03 PM



“ *The Westesen Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard E. DeBrie.*

The Westesen Family - July 31, 2024 at 03:49 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard E. DeBrie.*



July 31, 2024 at 03:49 PM

OB

“ Our sincere condolences, Shan & Bruce purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Leonard E. DeBrie.



Our sincere condolences, Shan & Bruce - July 31, 2024 at 01:22 PM

SI

“ Sizemores planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard E. DeBrie.

Sizemores - July 30, 2024 at 12:33 PM

SI

“ Sizemores purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Leonard E. DeBrie.



Sizemores - July 30, 2024 at 12:33 PM



“ Lorna Livingston lit a candle in memory of Leonard DeBrie



Lorna Livingston - July 28, 2024 at 05:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leonard E. DeBrie.*



---

July 24, 2024 at 01:12 PM



“ *Ryan and Angela Cure Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard E. DeBrie.*

---

**Ryan and Angela Cure Family** - July 24, 2024 at 01:12 PM



“ *Great Plains Beef purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Leonard E. DeBrie.*



---

**Great Plains Beef** - July 22, 2024 at 03:02 PM



“ *The Cure Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard E. DeBrie.*

---

**The Cure Families** - July 18, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard E. DeBrie.*



---

July 18, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ *Jeremy Kuklish & Family purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Leonard E. DeBrie.*



---

**Jeremy Kuklish & Family** - July 18, 2024 at 10:56 AM