



Leroy Neal

March 5, 1930 - May 16, 2015

Leroy Neal, 85, lost his long, courageous battle with cancer on May 16, 2015. Born to Roy and Mamie Neal in Miami, Oklahoma, on March 5, 1930, he spent most of his life in this area where his Cherokee ancestors settled after having been driven from Tennessee on the Trail of Tears.

Leroy began his education at the elementary school in North Miami and moved on to Commerce High School, where he graduated in 1948. Later, after military service, he completed his education at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College.

Work played a large role in Leroy's life. He liked to say that he began working at the age of five when he was paid to ride a horse, keeping the wheels turning at a sorghum mill. At nine, he was employed as a cobbler's assistant at a local shoe store. While in high school, he worked as a caddy at the Miami Country Club and as a mason's assistant, helping construct many homes in Miami and the Southwestern Bell Telephone building that still stands.

After graduating from high school, Leroy traveled to Peoria, Illinois, to work for Caterpillar Tractor Company, but after a two-year stint, he returned to Oklahoma to help take care of his ill father, and he began working for Burtrum's Ford Motor Company. It was at this time that he met his future wife, Irma Gene Greninger, at the Woolworth's candy counter. Eleven months later they were married in Harrison, Arkansas, on August 4, 1952. Their union lasted until his death, nearly sixty-three years.

Leroy was drafted into the U.S. Army shortly after he and Irma were married,

and they were stationed at Camp Rucker in Alabama. Later, they would be transferred to Ft. Benning, Georgia. While in the Army, Leroy attained the rank of Sergeant and won several awards, including the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

After being honorably discharged, Leroy returned to his job at Burtrum's before accepting a position with Wonder Bread. He continued in their employment until being hired as a tire builder at B.F. Goodrich, where he would remain for nearly thirty years until the plant closed.

Leroy was baptized as a young adult at the First Baptist Church in Commerce, Oklahoma, where he worked with the congregation's youth. After moving to Fairland, he joined the Hudson Creek Baptist Church, but he became a member of Southern Hills Baptist Church after re-locating to Miami. For many years he loved being a part of their music ministry.

In fact, music was one of Leroy's greatest loves, especially bluegrass and gospel. After retiring, he loved traveling to bluegrass festivals, especially in Kentucky and Tennessee. Leroy could play almost any musical instrument with strings and was blessed with a beautiful singing voice. Joining a number of bands throughout the years, he devoted his time to performing at churches and nursing homes, as well as participating in charitable fund-raisers. Since he loved collecting, buying, and selling instruments, Leroy became the "go to" man for anyone wanting to purchase a Martin or Gibson.

Leroy was also a life-time fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Family vacations almost always included a ballgame in St. Louis. It seems appropriate that the Cardinals were playing on television as he departed this life.

Besides his wife Irma, Leroy is survived by his daughters, Jeanne Jackson (Mike) and Linda Reising (Jim). He is also survived by two grand-daughters, Hope Staubitz (Mike) and Amanda Jackson, as well as a great-grandson, Reid Neal Staubitz.

Leroy's survivors also include two brothers, Jim Neal (Cleeta) and Sam Neal, and three sisters, Shirley Donnell, Sandra Randolph, and Judy Bond. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews, as well as a large number of

friends whose kindness will never be forgotten.

Leroy was preceded in death by two brothers, Clyde and Harley Neal, and a sister Wanda "Susie" Hopper.

The family would like to thank the staff at Quaker Hill Manor and Leroy's roommate, Jerry Hart, for making his last days as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

Visitation will be from 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Miami.

Services will be 10:00 AM at Southern Hills Baptist Church in Miami with Reverend Ed McFall and Reverend Dale Neal officiating. Interment will follow at the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in Miami under the care of Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Mr. Neal's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Cemetery Details

Grand Army of the Republic

2801 North Main Street
Miami, OK 74354

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **20**. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service
5 B Street NW
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 542-3311
info@brown-winters.com
<https://www.brown-winters.com>

Funeral

MAY **21**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Southern Hills Baptist Church
1925 E St. SW
Miami, OK 74354

Tribute Wall

Ron
Hanes

“ I Loved Leroy like a big brother. We shared a lot of fun playing music and going to The "Chicken Swap" One of the finest men Ive ever had the honor to know.
Ron Hanes Cushing Ok

Ron Hanes - October 18, 2015 at 06:26 AM

PC

“ Uncle Leroy was a dear sweet man....he was always teasing MOM and she loved it. He was always so kind and good. He will be missed.

Pam Craig - May 21, 2015 at 11:09 AM

TM

“ May God's peace and mercy surround you and guide you in your time of grief.

The Rev. Dr. Beth Macke - May 20, 2015 at 04:36 PM

JL

“ You are in our prayers.
Jerry & Evelyn Lowe

Jerry Lowe - May 20, 2015 at 12:19 PM

BM

“ Our sympathy to Hope, Mike, Reid and all of the Leroy Neal family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, New Harmony, In (Brenda McFarland)



Brenda McFarland - May 19, 2015 at 07:42 PM

JB

“ *Jimmie Bond sent a virtual gift in memory of Leroy Neal*



Jimmie Bond - May 19, 2015 at 02:31 AM

BM

“ *Our sympathy to Hope, Mike and Reid Staubitz and all of Leroy Neal's family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Everyone at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in New Harmony, Indiana*



Brenda McFarland - May 18, 2015 at 09:54 PM

MH

“ *I loved to hit the music stores and pawn shops whenever Leroy came to Muskogee to see Mom.*

michael hopper - May 18, 2015 at 08:53 PM

SA

“ Linda, I only met your dad a couple of times but immediately liked him because of a shared love of music. I was buying the martin d 28 from him and he was telling me (and my youngest son who was with me) how to appreciate the resonance and projection of the guitar, by saying "boo!" into the guitar. We thought it was funny at the time and even years later when my son would come into the room when I was tuning or putting on new strings, I would hold the guitar up to my face and say "boo!". I think of your dad often when I am playing that guitar so I also think of you too. I am so sorry for your loss. Sincerely..Steve Thomure

sathomure@gmail.com - May 18, 2015 at 08:38 PM

MJ

“ Leroy was my father in law, my friend and a brother in Christ. His influence on my life is incalculable. In many ways, I was as close, or closer, to him than my own father. I shared his love of music and he taught me many things about country and blue grass music that I will never forget. He was truly a man who never met a stranger and he was as kind and as generous as any man I have ever known. The most wonderful and profound thing he did for me was being the father he was to my wonderful wife, his daughter, Jeanne. He and his wife Irma raised the finest woman I have ever known and I will be eternally grateful. The Neal family, with Leroy as the head, changed my life forever and I will never forget him and how much he has meant to me. Tune up that guitar Leroy, I will see you in Heaven.

Mike Jackson - May 18, 2015 at 08:35 PM

BM

“ *Sending our sympathy to Mike, Hope and Reid Staubitz and to all the family of Leroy Neal. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Everyone at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in New Harmony Indiana*



Brenda McFarland - May 18, 2015 at 07:10 PM

CW

“ *He made the best home made ice cream ever!*

connie welch - May 18, 2015 at 03:42 PM

CW

“ *Connie Welch sent a virtual gift in memory of Leroy Neal*



connie welch - May 18, 2015 at 03:39 PM