



In Loving Memory
JOHN O. LEECE



NISHNA VALLEY FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
SHENANDOAH, IOWA
WWW.SWIMEMORIAL.COM

John Otis Leece was born on May 1, 1933, at rural Webber, Kansas the eldest child to Elven Scheib and Juanita Verda (Briles) Leece. He entered into rest on Tuesday morning, August 13, 2019 at Methodist Hospital in Omaha at the age of 86 years, 3 months, 12 days.

John grew up in the rural Lovewell, Kansas community. He graduated from Lovewell High School with the class of 1951 where he participated in football and basketball. He joined the United States Army during the Korean Conflict serving from May 1953 to May 1955 as a camouflage expert.

John was a proud graduate of the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1959 with an Animal Husbandry Degree. He remained a Husker enthusiast and enjoyed his football tickets, retaining the same seats in Memorial Stadium for over sixty years. He worked at the Stockyards in Omaha, Farmers National, and later owned and operated his own farm management/realty business. He retained membership with the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. He experimented with new crops and ways to better help soil and production. He enjoyed driving the countryside and checking his crops of soybeans, corn and wheat. In his senior years he enjoyed working with his cow/calf operation. John was well known for his cooking and love of eating. He had the innate ability to always find the great out-of-the-way restaurants through all his travels.

On June 24, 1956, John and Marilyn Ann Pedersen were united in marriage at Hardy, Nebraska. To this union was born, Barry Wayne, Lorraine "Lorri" Kaye and John Patrick "Pat". This union was later dissolved.

On August 29, 1978, John married Mary Jayne (Eipperle) Stepanek, they made their home in rural Essex, Iowa. They enjoyed searching the countryside hoping to find old forgotten treasures and give them purpose again. He gained four daughters with this union, Dixie, Kim, Diana and Stephanie. Jayne sadly passed away on December 30, 1999.

John got reacquainted with an old friend, Donna Irene (Earle) Hansen and they decided their friendship was a special one. They were united in marriage on January 25, 2004, in Omaha at King of Kings Lutheran Church. They enjoyed their many friends and family. Traveling to Arizona during the winter months was a highlight. There they were involved in many activities with friends which kept them very busy. Donna was a constant and loving wife. She was by his side when he passed.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his wife, Jayne; and nephew, Mark Bouray. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Donna Leece, of Omaha; seven children, Barry (Pam) Leece, of Syracuse, NE, Lorri (Marlin) Meyer, of Superior, NE, Pat (Carrie) Leece, of Essex, Dixie (Chuck) Gerhart, of Omaha, Kim (Tom) Wheeler, of Henderson, NV, Diana (Alec) Esquivel, of Celina, TX and Stephanie (Tony) Thiele of Missouri Valley, IA; his only sister, Kaye (Wilmer) Bouray, of Superior, NE; grandchildren, Chris (Jodi) Straw, of Shenandoah, IA, Taylor Dennis, of Syracuse, NE, Tuesday Straw, of Beatrice, NE, Cody Meyer, of Salina, KS, Chase (Meaghan) Wheeler, of Henderson, NV, Amanda (Jon) Carlson, of Houston, TX, Cody (Jasmine) Wheeler, of Henderson, Landon (Jessica) Esquivel, of Rhome, TX, Kristen (Tyson Gach) Henriksen, of Brooklyn, NY, Rachel Esquivel, of Celina, TX, Luke Thiele, of Omaha, Hana Esquivel, of Mankato, MN, Colton Leece, of Lincoln, NE, Lexi Leece, of Syracuse, NE, Cade Leece, Addison Leece, Lynlee Leece, and Lincoln Leece, all of Essex; great grandchildren, Gunnar Carlson and Caroline Carlson, both of Houston, Marshall Wheeler, of Henderson, Madison Dennis and Jacob Dennis, both of Syracuse and Dax Straw of Shenandoah; step sons, Donald (Laurie) Hansen, of Omaha, Daniel (Janet) Hansen, of Hermosa Beach, CA, and Douglas (Sharon) Hansen, of Omaha; 14 step grandchildren; four step great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; other relatives; and a host of friends.

In Loving Memory

JOHN O. LEECE

May 1, 1933 – August 13, 2019

86 years, 3 months, 12 days

VISITATION

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 18, 2019

Nishna Valley Funeral Home - Shenandoah, Iowa

FUNERAL SERVICE

10:30 a.m.

Monday, August 19, 2019

St. John's Lutheran Church - Essex, Iowa

Pastor Ann Albert, Officiant

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

Jon Carlson and Tyson Gach

CASKET BEARERS

Amanda Carlson Kristen Henriksen Luke Thiele
Colton Leece Lexi Leece Cade Leece Addison Leece

HONORARY BEARERS

Chris Straw Taylor Dennis Tuesday Straw Cody Meyer
Chase Wheeler Cody Wheeler Landon Esquivel Rachel Esquivel
Hana Esquivel Lynlee Leece Lincoln Leece

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

Judy Lundgren, Organist

Musical Recordings

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee" "So God Made A Farmer"
"Shepherd Me, O God" "On Eagle's Wings"
"Hail Varsity" Nebraska Fight Song

REGISTRY ATTENDANTS

Linda George Joyce Long Marcene Johnson

USHERS

Larry George Jim Long Terry Johnson

MILITARY HONORS

Shenandoah American Legion Post #88

PLACE OF REST

Rose Hill Cemetery ~ Shenandoah, Iowa

MEMORIALS

John O. Leece Memorial Garden Fund

Following the committal service, lunch and fellowship with the family will be held at the church.