

Leighton S. Baker was born on June 11, 1904, in Villisca, Iowa, the fourth child of James D. and Emma (Forbes) Baker. The family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, when he was a very small child. He attended the Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln High School where he was center on the basketball team. Leighton was an electrical engineer graduate of the University of Nebraska. He married his college sweetheart, Pearl I. Axe, on June 19, 1929, at the Elm Park Methodist Church in Lincoln. To this union one daughter, Shirley, was born in 1932. He began his career as an electrical technician for Iowa/Nebraska Light and Power Company in July of 1929 at Norfolk, Nebraska. In 1930 he was promoted to the Assistant Superintendent at York, Nebraska. Continuing in his career he was transferred to Shenandoah, Iowa as District Superintendent in 1935 where he served until 1947 when he became District Manager for a short period at Missouri Valley, Iowa. He was transferred back to Shenandoah in 1948 as District Manager and he served in that capacity until 1961 when he was sent to Des Moines as Supervisor of the Work Center Headquarters for the entire central division based in Des Moines, Iowa. Leighton retired from Iowa Power (MidAmerican Energy) in 1969 after completing 40 years of service. Following his retirement the family moved back to Shenandoah where they had lived most of their married lives to be near to their daughter, son-in-law and family. He worked for the George Jay Drug Company for 16 years following his retirement from the power company.

He was active in the community and served on the Shenandoah Hospital Board of Directors, Shenandoah Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the United Methodist Church where he served as an usher for many years and was a member of The Official Board, was President of the Men's Brotherhood, the Builder's Class and received the Kiwanis Legion of Honor Award for over 50 years. Leighton served as President and Lieutenant Governor of the Kiwanis Club. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge A.M. & F.M. #232 in Missouri Valley and received his 50-year pin in 1998, Eastern Star, a past Rainbow Dad, was a past officer of the Elks Club, and was a member of the Southwest Engineer Club. Leighton was supportive of all the Shenandoah School activities, enjoyed his electric trains, woodworking and taking his grandchildren on vacations. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Leighton was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and three brothers. He is survived by his wife Pearl, daughter Shirley Teachout and her husband Elvin, five grandchildren, Cynthia Schuler and her husband Warren of Red Oak, Iowa, Diane Setterburg and her husband Kent Setterburg of Bethesda, Iowa, Edward Teachout and his wife Gina of Portland, Oregon, David of Des Moines, Iowa, and John Teachout and his fiancée Carol Christopher of Madison, Wisconsin, six great-grandchildren, Vanessa Raj Sethi and Kirk Schuler, Zedary, Hilary and Wyatt Setterburg and Alyson Teachout. Leighton and his wife Pearl celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 19, 1999, at the wedding of their great-granddaughter Vanessa in Red Oak. He is also survived with nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and many many friends.