



Leon Kentch

October 20, 1939 - January 31, 2024

Emory Leon Kentch, a resident of Willow Springs, passed away Wednesday afternoon, January 31, 2024, at his home. Born October 20, 1939, in Burnham MO to Emory and Lula (Turner) Kentch, he was 84 years old.

Leon was married to Glenna Ruth (Johnson) Kentch on February 5, 1960. They had two children together. After high school, he worked at Conway Winter and Rawlings Sporting Goods in Willow Springs before taking a job at Mid-America Dairymen in Cabool, MO, where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 1999. After moving in 1969 to the farm which was his residence at the time of his death, Leon began cattle farming, a “job” he loved. Through the years, he expanded his operation beyond his farm, buying and renting various pieces of land in the area for his many head of cattle. Leon served in his church and community for many years. He was a member of the board of the Willow Springs Senior Housing. He was also a Deacon for many years at the First Christian Church of Willow Springs and was Chairman of the Board at the time of his passing. His greatest attribute was his love for God and love and devotion to his family. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, investing in their lives in countless ways. Leon will be remembered by his family and friends for his quiet, kind demeanor, always ready to help anyone who needed it. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents, Emory and Lula, and his brother, Kenneth.

Leon is survived by his wife and their children: Cheryl Kentch Fiedler of Farmington, CT and Keith Kentch of Topeka, KS. He is further survived by his grandchildren: Gabrielle Kentch and Christian Kentch, both of Topeka, KS; Lindsay Fiedler and Alexandra Fiedler, both of Farmington, CT. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Claudene Freeman and her husband Gerald and his nephew Matthew, of Willow Springs; his brother-in-law, Richard Johnson of Williston, SC, and his sister-in law, Linda Baker and her husband Charles, of McLouth, KS.

A graveside service for Leon will be held Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 11:00 am at Howell Memorial Park Cemetery, Pomona, MO with Pastor Bob Martin officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials may be made in his name to the First Christian Church of Willow Springs. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home. On-line condolences for the family may be made at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Graveside Funeral Service

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Howell Memorial Park Cemetery
5604 US Highway 63
Pomona, MO 65789

Tribute Wall

SA

“ Prayers for your family. We have many fond memories playing ball together and don't forget about those cards. Don & Joyce Nielsen

Shirley alter - February 07, 2024 at 10:16 AM

GK

Yes a lot of memories. I cherish all of them.

Glenna Kentch - February 16, 2024 at 11:20 AM

TW

“ Aunt Glenna, Cheryl and Keith

I just wanted to let you know how much Uncle Leon meant to me. He always supported me when I played football and baseball. I remember him giving me money towards my high school letter jacket. He also bought a Louisville slugger baseball bat for me when I was playing baseball. I remember Uncle Leon taking me hunting and fishing along with Grandpa Johnson and Red Holland. I remember being on a float trip with Uncle Leon and Red Holland when I was pretty young. We went under some trees on the creek and a snake dropped into the boat. Uncle Leon jumped out one side and Red Holland jumped out the other and I was floating by myself, just me and the snake. Uncle Leon caught up with me pretty quick and got the snake out of the boat. Soon Uncle Leon, Red Holland and I were back to our fishing. Love to all of you. Tony Warden

Tony Warden - February 07, 2024 at 09:49 AM

GK

Thank you Tony. Your Uncle Leon loved you. He also took you to get haircuts. Precious memories. Love you!!

Glenna Kentch - February 16, 2024 at 11:22 AM

GV

“ Leon and I grew up together in Burnham. I always considered him my big brother. He was always a kind person. I remember when he bought his first car, I don't think he drove over 20 mph on those dirt roads. My condolences to Leon's family.

Ginger Valentine - February 03, 2024 at 06:37 PM

GK

Thank you Ginger. Yes he was so proud of that car!

Glenna Kentch - February 16, 2024 at 11:23 AM

DS

“ So sorry for your loss. 🥺

donna Smith - February 03, 2024 at 02:04 PM

BG

“ Glenna, all our sympathy to you and your family. You're in our thoughts
Bethel and Jack Giberson

Bethel Giberson - February 03, 2024 at 10:50 AM

GK

Thank you so much.

Glenna Kentch - February 16, 2024 at 11:19 AM

SH

“ Sue Hedrick lit a candle in memory of Leon Kentch



Sue Hedrick - February 03, 2024 at 10:31 AM

GK

Thank you so much

Glenna Kentch - February 16, 2024 at 11:18 AM

KK

“ *Cheryl, Mr. Kevin and I were saddened to hear of your father’s passing. We are very sorry for the great loss to you and your family. Sorry Lindsay and Ally. Kathy and Kevin Kelley*

Kathleen Kelley - February 02, 2024 at 08:33 PM