



Receiving salvation and strength from her Lord, Geraldine Idella “Gerri” Leedy was confident even during moments of distress. Recognizing that He was her light and His promises true, Gerri stood firm on God’s word. “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” (Psalm 27:1)

On Tuesday evening, March 22, 2016, Gerri Leedy went to be with her Lord, from Country Court Nursing Home in Mount Vernon. She was 94.

The daughter of Ralph and Myrtie (Spayde) Clever, Gerri was born January 26, 1922 in Lexington. Crowned the first ever Bellville High School homecoming queen, Gerri was graduated from Bellville High School in 1940.

She began dating Leonard Eugene “Gene” Leedy just prior to WWII and the two continued writing one another during the war. Shortly after his honorable discharge, Gerri and Gene were married on January 11, 1947 in Cincinnati, Ohio by the Rev. Joseph O’Morrow.

As a young lady, Gerri worked for Hursh Drug in Bellville and later worked as a cook for Clear Fork High School.

Faithful in worship, Gerri was a very active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. She was a member of the ladies study group, Martha Circle, volunteered for fellowship days, and, while her children were younger, helped with VBS. Over the years, Gerri lovingly made hundreds of Cheer Baskets, made from Christmas Cards and filled with fruit. These baskets were given to shut-ins during the Christmas season. Gerri also enjoyed crocheting.

Ever present in the lives of her grandchildren, Gerri supported and cheered for her grandkids. Preparing food for holiday parties, attending sporting events, school functions, and dance recitals, Gerri never missed a chance to praise her grandchildren.

An excellent cook, family favorites include her delicious ham loaf, apple pie, dinner rolls made from scratch and famous baked apples.

She enjoyed reading, especially inspirational stories.

A woman who exemplified the fruits of the spirit, she will be remembered as a gentle spirit, who was full of compassion, expressing loving kindness.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law Steve & Laurie Leedy of Bellville, a daughter and son-in-law Becky & Al Szymanski of Valley City; grandchildren Lane Leedy of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, Allyson Leedy of Lexington, Ryan & Emily Leedy of Bellville, Lauren Szymanski & Doug Sheldon of Chicago, Philip Szymanski of Mission Viejo, California and Bethany Szymanski of Valley City; sister-in-law Marian & Clyde Bowman of Bellville; numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her loving and devoted husband Gene Leedy on November 23, 2012; siblings Robert and Howard Clever and Virginia Hull.

Her funeral service will be held Tuesday in St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bellville, with Pastor Doug Pretorius officiating. Burial will follow in Owl Creek Cemetery, Ankenytown.

Contributions in her memory to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Butler Nutrition Program, or Hospice of North Central Ohio may be made at the funeral home. To best honor Gerri’s life, a gentle act of kindness or encouraging word would best continue her loving spirit.

Gerri and Gene were always at the Leedy Reunion supporting the family by being Reunion officers and helping wherever needed.



Lester E. "Les" Leedy (above; Gerri Leedy, Janet & Don Smith, Les Leedy)

February 12, 1919 - March 14, 2016

Lester E. Leedy, 97, of Ontario, passed away Monday, March 14, 2016, at his home. He was born February 12, 1919, in Willard, Ohio, to the late Carl and Francis (Harriman) Leedy.

Les retired from General Motors where he worked in the Power House for many years. He was a very active member of Ontario United Methodist Church and started and served, along with his late wife, the Wednesday Silver Citizen Meal program. He also enjoyed participating in Sunday school, Bible study groups and the Tuesday Fellowship meetings. He spent his free time reading and was a master wood craftsman. Being outdoors, hunting and fishing were common pastimes, with Canada being one of his favorite places to visit and fish. He remained active in his hobbies, fishing until he was 96 years old. Les enjoyed researching and learning about many historical places and events.

Les was a thoughtful, generous man, who embodied the definition of a gentleman. His family was very important to him and he treasured each moment spent in their company. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought him much joy and kept him young at heart. He shared many life lessons and his legacy will remain an important part of their lives forever.

He is survived by four grandchildren, Steve (Cheryl) Shell of Crestline, OH, Karen (John) Green of St. Leonard, MD, Michael Shell (Dominique Thibault) of Yardley, PA, Rebecca Shell of Syracuse, NY; a son-in-law, Allison (Susan) Shell of Shelby, OH; three step children, David (Judy) Kibler of Boerne, TX, Ruthann Kibler of Tucson, AZ, and Jerri (Monte) Holmes of Shelby, OH; four step grandchildren, Melissa Knoll, Mathew (Carrie) Kibler, Amanda Kibler (Jeremy Townley) and Eric Keaton; four great-grandchildren, Jack, Will, Sam and Maggie Green; five step great-grandchildren, Alex, Cody, and Bailey Knoll and David and Cole Kibler; many good friends; and his beloved church family at Ontario United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Viola Leedy; second wife, June Kibler-Leedy; daughter, Tanya (Leedy) Shell; grandson, Christopher Shell; parents; and brother, Willard Leedy.

The family will receive friends Fri, March 18, 2016, at the Ontario Home of Wappner Funeral Directors. The funeral service will be held Saturday Ontario United Methodist Church with Rev. Peg Welch officiating. Burial will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery, New Haven, Ohio. Memorial contributions may be made to Ontario United Methodist Church Endowment Fund.

LESTER WAS A SUPPORTER OF THE LEEDY REUNION WITH HIS WOOD CRAFTS, AS WELL AS A ROLE MODEL FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS. LES WILL BE MISSED ON REUNION DAY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.