



Leonard Leo Tanksley

February 3, 1931 - January 10, 2025

Leonard Leo Tanksley of Springdale passed away Friday, January 10, 2025 with family by his side. He was born February 3, 1931 in Amagon, Arkansas to Bessie Elizabeth Salmon and Robert Lee Tanksley and was the only boy of five siblings. He served in the United States Army from 1950 to 1953. Leo was married for 67 years to the love of his life, Faye Lindsey Tanksley. The two corresponded while Leo was stationed in Korea and married in 1954 when he returned from the Korean War. They moved often between Michigan, Missouri, and Arkansas, living in over 20 homes together before settling in Springdale in 1970. They then retired to Huntsville in 2000, where they shared many memorable creek-side moments with their grandchildren.

Leo was the well-known and respected owner of Tanksley's Body Shop in Springdale from 1975 to 2000. He was a carpenter and expert tinkerer who could build or fix just about anything. In retirement, he also became an avid birdhouse builder. He was known for his green thumb and grew an abundant annual garden he enjoyed sharing with his neighbors. Leo had a servant's heart and loved helping others, including traveling to rebuild communities hit by disasters and tragedies. He was active in his church community and attended Brush Creek Baptist Church in Springdale and Calvary Baptist Church in Huntsville. He was a loving husband, wonderful father and father-in-law, and the perfect grandpa. Despite developing Alzheimer's in recent years, he remained a kind man who always communicated his love. Leo lived a long,

full, and honest life; one his family is proud of.

Leo was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Faye, his parents, three sisters, Virginia Tanksley, Louise Graham, and Reva Niblett. He is survived by his sister, Betty Baker and husband Frankie of Norfolk; three children: Linda Maestri and husband Les of Tontitown, Mitchell Tanksley and wife Cris of Huntsville, and Tami Toler and husband Robert of Savannah, GA; 13 grandchildren: Brannon Pack, Roxie Olsen, Misty Harriman, Lindsey Maestri, Heather Hachmann, Katie Drake, Falyn Tanksley, Candice Anderton, Cara Leto, Kelly Johnson, David Henson, Dakota Tanksley, Mariah Fairley; 27 great-grandchildren: Destiny, Alison, Bailey, Isaiah, McKinley, Kayla, Makenna, Kamryn, Owen, Taylor, Briceson, EveyLynn, Wyatt Blake, Jaylyn, Charli Jo, Ethan, Jackson, Tinley, Kylor, Blaine, Clairra, Malachi Leo, Brock, Jackson, Poppie, Journey, and Psalm; and four great-great-grandchildren: Nova, Oakleigh, Hayden, and Kymari, and one on the way, Roman Leo.

A funeral service will take place Saturday, January 18th, 2025, at Sisco Funeral Chapel beginning at 11 AM. Burial will follow at Elm Springs Cemetery. Visitation will be on Friday, January 17th, from 5 PM to 7 PM at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Elm Springs Cemetery

101 Lawnview Lane
Springdale, AR 72762

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 W Meadow Ave
Springdale, AR 72764

Funeral Service

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 W Meadow Ave
Springdale, AR 72764

Tribute Wall

CR

“ So sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Charlinda Reeves - January 17, 2025 at 04:00 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Leonard Leo Tanksley.



January 16, 2025 at 10:15 PM

RH

“ FAMILY,I WAS A INSURANCE CLAIMS ADJUSTER FOR FORTY YEARS HERE IN NWA. LEO AND I ENJOYED BANTERING BACK AND FORTH, PICKING MY ESTIMATE APART. COMPROMISE IN OUR FIELDS IS VERY COMMON..GETTING TO A FAIR APPRAISAL. ALL THOSE YEARS, EFORE HE TURNED HIS SHOP OVER TO MITCH, WE NEVER EVER ADMITTED THE OTHER'S OPINION WAS BETTER..WE WERE GOOD FRIENDS. I REMEMBER HIS DIFFERENT BODY SHOP LOCATIONS..LAST WAS FACING DON TYSON'S PARKWAY..MY HOME DOWN ON HARPER LN. SOUTHEAST BEHIND HIS HOME AND SHOP. WE SEND OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE EXTENDED FAMILY. GOOD MEMORIES 👍

Ron Harrison - January 16, 2025 at 09:47 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Lots of Love for Leo



Mitchell Tanksley - January 15, 2025 at 10:25 AM

TL

“ My first meeting of Leo and Faye was a wedding in Florida. I was in awe of how we were treated like family. The Tanksley's were very kind. Many,many years ago but they were both very special. I am sure they are in a better place now. Our deepest sympathies, Terry and Pat Lamirand

Terry Lamirand - January 14, 2025 at 09:29 PM

MM

“ I have so many memories of time spent with this sweet man, who you never saw without his his ear to ear grin. prayers for comfort to the family as they mourn their loss and rejoicing in the promise that we be reunited in Heaven.❤️🙏

Marlene McCamey - January 14, 2025 at 05:06 PM

MT

“ Leo always had a great smile and a true love for his family. His heart of service impacted many. He was a great team member of our Disaster Relief team. Many jewels in his crown!

Mike Taylor - January 14, 2025 at 04:56 PM

MT

“ One of my funniest memories of my Dad was when I was only about 8 he got me and my older sister Linda a Shetland Pony, He saddled it up one day for us and set us on it and we took off, we didn't get far before he bucked us off. My daddy was not happy so he was gonna teach that pony a lesson , he jumped on his back and took off and about the time he got going the saddle slid down to his belly and threw Dad off to!. I cant imagine what my life would have been without him. You are already terribly missed Dad.

Mitchell Tanksley - January 14, 2025 at 03:30 PM