



## Leo Russell Bray

November 16, 1938 - September 4, 2022

Leo Russell Bray was born November 16, 1938, to Clyde and Pearl (Russell) Bray in Lowry City, Missouri. He fought a valiant fight against Mesothelioma for the last four years but passed away peacefully, at the age of 83 years old, on September 4, 2022, at his home in Independence, Missouri, with his wife, Alice and his beloved dog Sam at his bedside.

Leo attended a one room country school during his grade school years then went to the Lowry City highschool. He was involved in school choirs and was a High Jump Track star who was granted a scholarship to college. He graduated in 1956, and chose to go straight to work in Kansas City, Mo. He worked very hard to support his 4 children at the following jobs: Sears Corporation, Braniff Airlines, Ford Motor Company and then he worked 30 years for Armco Steel and worked his way up to being one of their accountants. After retirement, he worked six more years for Enterprise Rental Cars delivering cars across the city.

Leo had a passion for music, he had perfect pitch and could play any instrument he picked up, including plucking a branch off a tree limb and making a whistle. For 37 years, he was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Independence, Missouri and held the office of Elder and Trustee. He thoroughly enjoyed singing in the church choir for 35 years. He also sang with the Declarations of Independence for many years.

Leo enjoyed traveling the United States, Mexico, Bahamas, Hawaii several times and his all-time favorite to Australia and New Zealand.

Leo was multi-talented and had many hobbies including his love of cars. He kept a running list of (over 90) cars he owned in his lifetime. He loved all living plants and animals. He had a green thumb and could make anything grow, including his banana tree. He loved feeding and watching the birds in his yard and dearly loved his dog, "Sam 3" who will grieve him always. He loved to read and kept his reading materials by his favorite chair. Leo loved antiquing and you could see him all over town at estate and garage sales asking prices and requesting if they could be reduced (even if it was only a \$1.00). He was a talented woodworker who enjoyed finding antique tables and refurbishing them back to their natural beauty. He modeled for a modeling company in Kansas City, Missouri that produced advertisements for local magazines. He even played a part, as an extra, in the movies "Truman" and "Kansas City".

Leo loved his coffee buddies from Armco Steel and Denny's, that met for coffee daily - 365 days a year, including Christmas Breakfast at Leo, and Alice's home. He also had coffee with his Hub Motorcycle Shop group that met every Tuesday, these men were dear friends.

Leo served on many Boards throughout his life. He was on the Election Board and was the Executive member who had to deliver ballots. He served on The Independence Housing Authority Board, and United Consumers' Credit Union Supervisory Board for many years.

Leo is survived by his loving wife, of 50 years, Alice (Bellew) Bray; Sheryl Rohrman, their daughter, Independence, Mo.; his daughters: Paula (Bray) Brown (Steven), Osage Beach; Dana (Bray) Barbo (Gino), Springfield, Mo.; Kayla (Bray) Hogue (Pat), Harrisonville, Mo. and his son, Greg Bray, Osceola,

Mo.; Goddaughter: Renada Rasmussen (Tracy), Madison, WI. Grandchildren: Matthew Brown; Derek Brown (Kyla); Jessica (Brown) Nigro (Tommy); Zachary Brown (Kassi); Brandon Bray (Brittany); Crystal Bray (Russ); Russell Bray; McKenzie Barbo, Garrison Barbo, Remington Barbo, Nathan Hogue and Nicholas Hogue; Great-grandchildren: Moxie Brown, William Brown, Adaline Brown, Gabriel Nigro, Gracelyn Nigro, Luca Nigro, Blakely Brown, Quincy Brown, Lola Jane Bray, Clementine Bray, many nieces, nephews, family members and friends.

Leo was preceded in death by his father and mother, Clyde and Pearl Bray, his brother, Woodrow Bray, his sisters Lyla (Bray) Jones and Lucille (Bray) Donnell.

Leo was saved and had an eternal experience of salvation on Monday night, December 27, 1954, at Lowry City Baptist Church, in Lowry City, Mo. He was baptized at Muddy Creek in Lowry City, Mo., January 23, 1955.

Memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Independence, Missouri, Saturday, September 17th, at 1:00 pm with a Visitation/Reception to follow. On October 1st, at 1:00 pm there will be a graveside service internment at Iconium Cemetery, 12770 NE Highway C, Osceola, Missouri.

There will be a gathering at Iconium General Store following the service. Come enjoy a peach float and something to eat.

In lieu of flowers, Leo asked if contributions were made in his memory, that they be given to two families in need. To honor his request, Memorial contributions to Leo Bray Memorial, has been set up at Blue Ridge Bank and Trust: 4200 Little Blue Parkway, Independence, Missouri, 64057.

Leo will be greatly missed by those that loved him. Even though we are deeply saddened, we rejoice with great happiness because we know he is dwelling in Heaven singing with the heavenly choirs, and we will gather there with him for all eternity to hear his sweet voice again.

# Tribute Wall

CJ

“ Uncle Leo, I'm missing you. I loved our connection through music. I enjoyed listening to you play by ear whatever came to your mind. Also, I appreciated how you enjoyed listening to me playing a Chopin piece. My heart is breaking for Alice & your children as well as the rest of the family. My love goes out to all.

Cheryl Bray Jackson - September 11, 2022 at 08:05 AM

BW

“ Leo always loved my Strawberry/Rhubarb pies and he had one just a cpl months ago. I'll remember him every time I make one from now on! Love you Leo and Alice!

Bonnie & Alan Walker

Bonnie Walker - September 10, 2022 at 12:43 AM

KG

“ Leo was one of my favorite cousins. My parents were very fond of him, also. I remember trips to Sears with my dad to see Leo, when I was very young. He had a quiet demeanor, like his mother. My heart goes out to the family.

Kathie Bray Gibney - September 09, 2022 at 07:57 PM

AS

“ Leo had a great sense of humor. Every time I met him he would always joke and say something funny that made me laugh and smile. He was a real gentleman with loving heart and kind face. He will be missed by many people.

Angela Simion - September 09, 2022 at 08:07 AM