



Leonard A Klenzak

January 22, 1921 - November 1, 2017

Leonard A. Klenzak, 96, of Kankakee, Illinois went home to be with his Lord and Savior on November 1, 2017. His parents are the late John E. and Agnes Klenzak; who had three children, Leonard, Walter and Pearl (Pomon) Klenzak. Walter preceded Len in death. Pearl Pomon is still living in Bradley, Illinois. Len, as Leonard was known, was born January 22, 1921 at home in Kankakee, Illinois. He grew up in Bradley, Illinois as a typical small-town boy. He played sports (football, baseball and track) during his teenage years at Bradley High School. Len enlisted in the Marine Corp. while he was still in high school and went on active duty in May of 1941. He saw actions in the South Pacific campaign on such islands as Guadalcanal, Guam, and Iwo Jima as a squad-leader and attaining the rank of platoon sergeant. While Len was stationed on the islands of Bougainville and E winatok, he made island topology maps for future invasions as part of his other duties as assigned. Len left his service years behind in October 1945 when he came back to Kankakee to start his family. He married Francis Lucille Garrett (Lou) as she was known around town. Len and Lou had three sons; John T., Stephen L. and Donald W. Klenzak. Steve and Donald preceded Len in death as did his wife, Lucille. He has one living son, John who is married to Cheryl L. Jones. They live in Acworth, GA. Len has two grandchildren, Robert and Lisa Klenzak and two great granddaughters, Kaitlyn and April Klenzak. Robert and Paula live in Clifton, Illinois, while Lisa lives in Dallas, Georgia. Len worked at the Bear Brand Hosiery for 17 years as a knitting supervisor and then at

Armstrong Tile Company in Bradley for 27 years which included such jobs as lead tile inspector.

Paul and Marianne Surprenant, Mike Peters and Tony Hiser all very close friends who helped Len survive during the last 10 years by doing whatever tasks he needed done.

Len belonged to several veterans groups including the Kankakee American Legion, Kankakee VFW and the Kankakee Marine Corp League. He also served his fellow man by being a credit officer in the Armstrong Credit Union and serving as a long-time usher at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or to the American Cancer Society.

The family would like to thank Heritage Village; Tess, Kevin, Emily, Neisa, Kelly and Dr. Meisenbach for all the loving care they gave to Len.

There will be a visitation Friday, November 17, 2017 from 4-8 pm at the Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel. The funeral service will be 10 am Saturday, November 18, 2017 at St. John Paul II East (St. Teresa). Rev. Don Wolford will officiate. Burial will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Please sign his online guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

2000 E Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Mass

NOV 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II East
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ Leonard A Klenzak

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ 95 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schreffler Funeral Home - November 15, 2017 at 03:13 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Leonard, got to know him at Heritage Village. He was fun to sit and talk to, lots of good stories. Barbara Gessner Casey

Barbara Gessner Casey - November 15, 2017 at 11:45 AM



“ Dear Family, Bob and I will sure miss uncle Len. We visited him every time we were home to visit and truly enjoyed talking to him and listening to his stories about the family. We are so glad we got to see him several times when we were there in June. Our prayers are with all of the family and his dear friends. Sincerely, Debbie (Klenzak) and Bob Netherton

Debbie and Bob Netherton - November 12, 2017 at 11:12 PM

CF

“ *My parents got to know Leonard when they all resided at Heritage Village. My dad enjoyed sharing war stories and felt a special connection to another military veteran. He was a wonderful man who lived a very full life. We know he will be missed.*

*Rest in peace,
The Carson Family*



Carson Family - November 12, 2017 at 05:23 PM

MB

“ *MINNIE BREWSTER lit a candle in memory of Leonard A Klenzak*



MINNIE BREWSTER - November 11, 2017 at 05:50 PM

MB

To the Klenzak family i work with leonard for years and i love that man this wife would say Leonard its yr girl friend on the phone. we would have a big laugh, but he lived a long and full life i will always LOVE HIM . HE GAVE ME WHAT I WANTED IN THE CREDIT UNION

MINNIE BREWSTER - November 11, 2017 at 05:55 PM

TD

“ *It was always an honor to spend time with a Marine like Len. He was truly Semper Fidelis!*

*Tom Draude
BGen USMC, Ret.*

Thomas V Draude - November 07, 2017 at 11:14 PM

NF

“ *Klenzak family:*

*Sorry for your loss, my late husband Ralph, worked with Len at Armstrong and when Ralph hunted, he would bring Len pheasants and rabbits, many years ago. Prayers and sympathy, God Bless.
Natalene Ferrari*

Natalene Ferrari - November 06, 2017 at 11:30 AM

MM

“ *My dad, Don, and my Uncle Omer both worked with Len. I was lucky enough to have spent time with him and Lou during the times I was home visiting from Atlanta. Len always had a smile, a kind word, and funny joke. I always looked forward to getting to see him and Lou. Wishing the Klenzak family my sincere condolences and sympathy.*

Missy Meredith-Magda

Melissa Magda - November 05, 2017 at 10:48 PM

RZ

“ *I worked with Lenard for many years and his stories never got old. He was a great guy and his sons and their families have our deepest sympathy and prayers...*



Robert Zirkle - November 05, 2017 at 09:27 PM

JS

“ Prayers for peace and comfort during this time of grief.



Jeff Stinnett - November 05, 2017 at 12:04 PM

JK

“ John Klenzak lit a candle in memory of Leonard A Klenzak



John Klenzak - November 05, 2017 at 08:44 AM

JK

Thank you dad for always being there for us 3 boys and for your grandchildren and great grandchildren. I will do my best to lead and mentor all of us who are left to carry on the heritage of our branch of the Klenzak family tree. I hope and pray that mom, Steve, and Donald were there to greet you as you passed into heaven.

John Klenzak - November 05, 2017 at 08:50 AM



“ Jim Weber lit a candle in memory of Leonard A Klenzak



Jim Weber - November 04, 2017 at 02:36 PM



Leonard was a great friend and a great source of information on the Marine Corps. and the 5 battles that he fought in. He always said that Guadalcanal was for him, much tougher than Iwo Jima because of the lack of supplies in the beginning and then the massive suicide charges and then the malaria. Marines had to have over a 103 degree temp. to be taken off the line. What a great pleasure it was to know him and pick his brain for info. and Sea stories. Semper Fi Leonard....

Jim Weber - November 04, 2017 at 02:50 PM

MH

“*MR MRS H sent a virtual gift in memory of Leonard A Klenzak*



MR MRS H - November 03, 2017 at 09:19 AM

JR

I only meet Leonard once, but it was enough to make an impression. I come from a long line of Marines, and just wanted to give my sympathies to his family and those he touched. "Another Old Marine going home". Semper Fi

James Puswaskis, LtCol retired - November 15, 2017 at 04:06 PM