



## Leo A. Kohlfeld

October 26, 2010

Leo A. Kohlfeld, 82, of Jackson passed away Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010, at his home, after a courageous three-year battle with cancer. He was born Sept. 14, 1928, at Apple Creek, Mo., to Carl and Dora Trapp Kohlfeld. He and Blandina "Blanche" Buchheit were married Sept. 4, 1948, at St. Joseph's Church in Apple Creek. Leo's most precious and first love was his family, and his last words were of how proud he was of his family. Leo was known for his kindness, humility and compassion. Everywhere he went -- from corporate board room to rustic tavern, from hunting lodge to family farm, from social club to church -- he took an interest in people's lives and made lifelong friends. The people he met over the course of his life were more than just acquaintances; they were friends about whom he cared deeply. Never too busy to lend a hand, to offer guidance, to donate his time, his talents, or his money, Leo was generous and gracious. His strong work ethic and love of a good time extended to every aspect of his life, whether it was playing cards, telling stories, working puzzles, cooking, hunting, fishing, or traveling. Leo loved his family, his farm, and his relationships. He was encouraging and nurturing to others along life's path, dedicated and loyal, inspiring to all who knew him. In 1948 he moved to Cape Girardeau and went to work at William B. Schott Distributing as a route salesman. After an ownership change in 1955, he became general manager, a position he retained while he bought the company in 1968, incorporating as Kohlfeld Distributing. He began to acquire additional beer product lines in the five counties he served. A son, Mike,

joined the firm in 1971, as did son Mark in 1982. Under his leadership the family continued their growth through additional acquisition and the formation of Kohlfeld Beverage, a non-alcoholic division in 1984. Today, Kohlfeld Distributing and Kohlfeld Beverage distributes more than 100 beer, wine, and non-alcoholic brands from 28 different suppliers in a 19-county area. Leo served on many boards within the beer industry and was active in many organizations including Cape Girardeau Elks Lodge 639, Knights of Columbus Council 1111, Perry County Sportsman's Club and Cape Girardeau Eagles Aerie. In 2006, he and his wife, Blanche, sons Mike and Mark, and their spouses Barbara and Bobbie, received the Friend of University Award given by Southeast Missouri State University Foundation, the first time the award was bestowed on a family. Mr. Kohlfeld is survived by his wife, Blanche; two sons and their wives, Mike and Barbara, Mark and Bobbie of Cape Girardeau; two daughters and their husbands, Gail and Frank Jones of Cape Girardeau, Jan and Bob Velandar of Blue Springs, Mo.; 12 grandchildren, Alexandra, Courtland and Parker Kohlfeld, Ryan Jones and wife Shannon, Natalie Jones Loper and husband Jonathan, Meghan and Madeline Jones, Jason and Jordan Bles, Robin Velandar, Julia and Taylor Kohlfeld; eight great-grandchildren, Luke, Claire and Claudia Jones, Briony Loper, Emma and Peighton Ireland, Lilly and Dylan Velandar; a brother, Charles Kohlfeld of St. Peters, Mo.; and a sister, Teresa Balsman of Perryville, Mo. He was preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter, Jennifer Ireland; three brothers, Wallace, Edgar and Joseph Kohlfeld; and two sisters, Bernice Bruening and Marie Meyer. Visitation will begin at 4 p.m. today and will also be held from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Friday at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Cape Girardeau. An Elks service, parish prayers and Knights of Columbus rosary will begin at 8 p.m. today. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the church, with the Rev. David Hulshof and the Rev. Oscar Lukefahr officiating. Entombment will be in Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum. Ford and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Memorial contributions may be given to St. Vincent de Paul Capital Campaign, Notre Dame Regional High

School Building Fund, Southeast Missouri State University Foundation or the Jennifer Ireland Foundation [www.jenniferirelandfoundation.com](http://www.jenniferirelandfoundation.com), whose purpose is to financially assist families who are in need while fighting cancer.

# Tribute Wall

MR

“ Dear Kohlfeld Family, Very sorry that today I learned of Leo Kohlfeld passing from our world. Heaven has surely gained a kind and gracious man. His friends and family in heaven will surely be glad to see his smile. Thats what I remember about Leo as a little boy going to St. Vincents. I was not afraid to approach him because I knew he would recognize me and talk to me. My parents always told me about how kind and generous Leo was to friends and community. God Bless you all until you are reunited in heaven.

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**Mark and Theresa Ruopp** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ Dear Blanche & Family, We are so sorry to hear about Leo. We will keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time. We know he is up in heaven now and is spreading his support and friendliness upon everyone he is meeting now. He will reconnect with his friends who have gone before him and they can reminisce together. You can gain support from all the kind remarks his friends have left you and know how many people's llives he had changed. Love, Edna, Gordon & Sue Taylor

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**Gordon Taylor** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Leo A. Kohlfeld

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**Bob Stieneker** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ May God's loving arms surround you all and strengthen you through the loss of a really great man. God Bless. Karen McClendon (Pat Hacker's Sister-in-law)

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**Karen Webb McClendon** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ To Mike and family: I'm very sorry for the passing of your father and the grief it brings to those who love him. But what a blessing that he generated such honor and love from family and community - a reflection of his life. May the worst sting of grief and sorrow be short. The sun will shine again.

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**Donna Johnstone** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Blanche, Frank and Gail, Jan, Mike, and Mark: We are so sorry to hear about Leo. Our prayers are with you all. Every once in a while there is put on this earth by our Lord, a very special person and Leo was one of them. We feel so lucky to have known him and we hope that knowing how many lives he has touched makes the empty space in your lives at least a little more bearable. We hope you have comfort in knowing that he is at peace and is at home with the Lord. Take care.

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**Russ and Julie Foster, Wayne and Mary Helkenn** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ We are very sorry for your loss and wanted to let you know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless!

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**Scott and Diane Siebert and Family** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Blanche & Family, I was saddened to hear of the loss of Leo but know deep down in my heart he is up in heaven at Wibbenmeyers Mercantile sitting down at a table, playing Solo with his old friends, a Stag in one hand and a BIG smile on his face. He will always have a special place in my heart and the hearts of many of the Perry County folks.

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**Judi Wibbenmeyer** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ To the Kohlfeld family,my deepest sympathy for your loss of Leo.He was a great person,and will be greatly missed by all.  
Bryan(Bing)Haas. The Mascoutah Crew

Bryan ( Bing ) Haas - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I came to know Leo through Pat Patrick and visiting with him over coffee at the Sand's. We shared a common interesting in Fishing. Once while fishing at Sardis with another friend, Leo walked into the cafe where we were having lunch. He came in sat with us while we traded information on the best places on the lake. He had already had lunch and left shortly before we finished ours. When we left to pay our bill, we learned that Leo had paid it for us. I'll never forget him for the kindness he showed on that day and for the friendliness that he always showed. My sincere sympathy to the entire Kohlfeld family.

John Koch - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SORROW FOR YOUR LOSS.WE THANK YOU FOR ALL HE HAS DONE FOR OUR SCHOOL IN THE PAST.HE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNOW HIM. BETTY SPAULDING/ST JOSEPH SCHOOL

SAINT JOSEPH HOME AND SCHOOL /BETTY SPAULDING - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Leo had true grit, vision and a kind heart. He always had time to speak and ask how you were doing. He was greatly admired and respected by all that had the priviledge of meeting him. We will all miss Leo. Our deepest condolences to the family. God Bless.

Don & Helga Johnson - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *Blanche and family, our condolence to the family on the loss of Leo. He was a good friend to my Dad when he worked at Farmers Limestone. I still remember when I worked for Buchheit 30 years ago and Leo would show up during harvest time, and with his last load have a cooler of refreshments to share with the other farmers after a long day of work. We will miss him. Stan and Connie*

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**Stan and Connie Laurentius** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Dear Blanche, Mike, Mark, Gail and Jan, what a loss to your family and the community. I'm so sorry I can't come to the viewing or funeral due to surgery. Please accept my condolences. Every time I think of Leo, the image of younger years pops up at Oscar Smude's ranch and all the good times the familys had there. Kids running around playing, the ladies talking and the men drinking beer (Stag of course) and stiring the mulligan stew or frying fish. Then in later years, when I owned the Kelso Country Club, Leo, Mitch, Hank and the Kohlfeld gang would grace our presence by putting on a fish fry for me. Now you just can't get any better than that. Leo left memories where ever he went and will be greatly missed by all.*

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**Jean Hengst-Freeman** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Trevor Michael** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RY

“ *Very few of his kind. A very kind-generous-friendly, and compassionate man. He will definately be missed. Sorry that we couldn't make it to the visitation.*

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**Robyn Roy & Keith Yamnitz** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *Mark (and family): Just wanted to pass along my condolences on the passing of your Dad. I unfortunately will not be able to attend the ceremonies, due to work obligations. But be assured that your family is in my thoughts and prayers... Take care, Kevin Wells*

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**Kevin Wells** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *The Family has my most sincere sympathy. Leo was a great man and friend to my Dad and Mom, Bob and Velma Walker, and to me. It was an honor to know Leo and family.*

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**Kay Michael Workman** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *What a loss to the world it is to lose such a prince like Leo Kohlfeld! There really aren't enough words to say to describe the impact this man and his precious wife had on our family. Even though they were someone we didn't see all the time, or even run in the same social circle, let me say this gracious man, this kind, gentle person who could never have possessed even for a moment one ounce of snobbery, even though he had achieved so much and could have used his power any way he chose. Leo chose to use his gifts and talents to make the world a better place by his generosity to others. In my family his gift to us were the beautiful, positive, uplifting words he gave to us--powerful information about the truth of our own mother whom we had become seperated from because of the hand that life had dealt us. During a time when a child needs to hear a good truth about their own heritage, their own D.N.A., about their very own mother, Blanche and Leo Kohlfeld were our touchstone in our family of nine children, nine children who needed the goodness of a Leo Kohlfeld. He was truly a gift to us and probably never knew what he meant to all of us for so many years. In truth, they gave us back our mom, and we carry her in our hearts because of them. Blanche, we will never forget--never forget! All our love to you in the loss of this great prince of a person. You and he made this world a kinder, sweeter place. And we are grateful to you for that--forever grateful! All our love, The Ressel Family Stephen, Sandra, Benjamin, Clint, Jody Paul and Philip and the Buchheit children--Phyllis, Paul, Ellen, Cheryl, Laura, Anita, Sandy, Karen and Tracy (with the Lord)*

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**Sandra Buchheit Ressel** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Kohlfeld was an iconic figure in every human way. Heaven received another present -- Mr. Leo Kohlfeld. The world will surely feel his absence in many ways. God bless his family today and always. Thinking of you Barb, and the entire Kohlfeld family. Jeannie Lauck Chapman

Jeannie Lauck Chapman - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

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SR

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Sandra Buchheit Ressel - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BI

“ You have our heartfelt condolences. We feel privileged to have known and worked with Mr. Leo over the past years. A contribution was made to the Jennifer Ireland Foundation today in his honor.

Bruce Martin Construction, Inc. - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Dear Blanche, Mike, Mark, Gail and Jan and families, so sorry to hear of your loss. He was a wonderfully compassionate and caring man to all his family, friends and business associates. Our prayers are with you all. May God bless you and keep you safe. Dan/Mary Seyer

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**Dan/Mary Seyer** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Dear Frank and Gail, I am so sorry to hear of Leo's passing and want to offer my condolences to you and your family. The extended Jones family has surely had a heavy burden this fall. Please know that you are in our thoughts. Sincerely, Tom and Kim (Jones)Eggemeyer

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**Kim Eggemeyer** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Mike and Mark, I am so very sorry to hear about your dad. I enjoyed my interactions with him many years ago. It always amazed me how many people knew him. Know that your whole family is my prayers. God Bless, Kevin Alfultis

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**Kevin Alfultis** - April 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Tom and I are saddened by your loss. We know how greatly your Dad will be missed and how much joy he brought into the lives of his family and friends. You are in our prayers. With Love, Jane and Tom DeBoe

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**Jane Rader DeBoe** - January 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. We are thinking of you and praying for you.* ”

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**Gary and Carol Presley** - January 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM