



## Leonard Leon Palmer

November 9, 2013

Leonard Leon Palmer, 82, of Cape Girardeau, passed away peacefully November 9, 2013, at the Missouri Veteran's Home, after a seven-year struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). He was born April 5, 1931, to Leonard and Louise (Kelso) Palmer in Stoddard County, MO and raised in Wolf Lake, IL, where his family moved while he was still an infant. He served in the Korean War from 1950-1954 on US Bataan 29 and later in Adak, Alaska. He married Patsy Wilson in Wolf Lake on August 20, 1957. Dr. Palmer, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Southeast Missouri University, retired in 1995, after 33 years of teaching mathematics. He received his undergraduate degree at SEMO University in 1958, his Masters' Degree from the University of Illinois in 1961, and his Doctorate Degree from Oklahoma State University in 1971. Palmer, a devoted husband and father, enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He attended Grace United Methodist Church and he had many interests including woodworking, gardening, collecting gas engines and antique cars. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, Patsy, and together, they visited all fifty states, Mexico and Canada. Their drive to Alaska was one of their most memorable trips. Palmer is survived by his beloved wife and three children, two daughters, Leah (Jim) Zondlo, Laura (Steven) Peel, and a son, Les (Karen) Palmer. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Anne (Darren) Jones, Katie Peel and Jacob Palmer, also his brother-in-law, Alfred (Judy) Wilson, nieces, nephews and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Cletus, and a sister, Oleva

Carter. Friends and family are invited to attend a visitation from 11:00am to 2:00pm on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at Ford and Sons Mt Auburn Funeral Home. A private committal service will be held at 3:00pm on Wednesday at the Missouri Veteran's Cemetery in Bloomfield, MO with the Rev. Stan Hargis officiating. Military Rites will be conducted by the Missouri Honor Guard. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Leonard and Patsy Palmer Math Scholarship at SEMO, % University Foundation, #1 University Plaza MS 7300, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 or The ALS Association, 1275 K Street NW, Suite 250 Washington, DC 20005, or the Missouri Veteran's Home, 2400 Veteran's Memorial Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Patsy, so sorry to hear about Leon, you and your family are in my prayers. Carole*

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**Carole Kinder Watkins** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ *We come from a strong Palmer family. Family with good morals and values. God bless*

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**Audrey Palmer** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ *To Ms. Patsy & The Palmer Family. On Behalf of Betty, Teresa & I, Please accept our Deepest Sympathy & Sincere Condolences. What a Life Leon led. From his Service to His Country, a distinguished career as an Educator. Husband, Father, Grandfather. So many lives he touched. His travels to all fifty states & Mexico & Canada. Sounds as though he lived a full Life. May God Bless Him, & Gods Speed.*

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**Ron Doerr** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ *Just want to let you all know how sad I am that Mr. Palmer is gone. I think of your family often when I think of our neighborhood in the good ol' days! Like the rest of the Palmer family he was a super person. You ALL are in my thoughts and my prayers! Tom*

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**Tom Neal** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Leah, we were so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Kevin and Tammy Sides

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**Kevin and Tammy Sides** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Elmer and I are thinking of your family and praying for peace and comfort. Good memories of your family when we lived on West Mount. Elmer and Sherry Ford

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**Sherry Ford** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Leah and Family, Extending my deep and heartfelt sympathy to you and your family Diana Alston

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**Diana Alston** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Love, Sondra and Delbert

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**Delbert and Sondra Phillips** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FW

“ Our hearts go out to you and your family at your time of loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Frank and Olivia Whealon** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Leah: We are so sorry for the loss of your father. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this difficult time. God Bless. Phil and Andi Riordan Thousand Oaks

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**Phil and Andi Riordan** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Leah: We are so sorry for the loss of your father. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this difficult time. God Bless.

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**Phil and Andi Riordan** - December 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ My sympathy to your family. Dr. Palmer was my math professor at SEMO in 1972 or 1973. Math is not easy for me but Dr. Palmer was so patient & took extra time to help me. I never forgot that. What a wonderful model for future teachers. I know he certainly influenced me. Again, my sympathy.

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**Polly Elfrink Bradford** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ I doubt that any of you know me, but I was a math major in the 1970's and got my masters in the early 80's. Dr. Palmer was a fantastic teacher who influenced me greatly. I have been teaching math and science at Notre Dame for 36 years, and I still find myself borrowing phrases and techniques from him. I will remember him fondly. He was one of the best.

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**Brad Wittenborn** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ I doubt that any of you know me, but I was a math major in the 1970's and got my masters in the early 80's. Dr. Palmer was a fantastic teacher who influenced me greatly. I have been teaching math and science at Notre Dame for 36 years, and I still find myself borrowing phrases and techniques from him. I will remember him fondly. He was one of the best.

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**Brad Wittenborn** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ My sincerest condolences to you and your family. I'm sorry for your loss.

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**Sal Kulkarni** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ My sincerest sympathies for the loss of your beloved father. Thinking of all of you. Katie Nugent

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**Katie Nugent** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Leah, So sorry to hear of the loss of your father. My thoughts will be with you and your family.

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**Jenny Peters** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I would just like to say that Dr. Palmer was the most understanding algebra teacher I ever had in my life! He knew we all didn't have the gift but he liked us anyway and treated me with respect in college! Thank you Dr. Palmer. I graduated from SEMO because of you!!!

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**Dee Cookson** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VE

“ Pat & Family. So sorry about Leon. I have keep in touch with your family thru the years with Margaret. He will be missed Love all of you. Love, Vada

Vada Pearson Elders - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ My sincerest condolences. Your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so sorry for your loss.

Payal Patel - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Dear Leah, My thoughts & condolences are with you and your family. Your father seems to have touched many, many lives - his memory will clearly be alive in many hearts for years to come. I hope that provides some comfort in the days and years to come. Thinking of you. Darshna

Darshna Patel - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this difficult time. My deepest sympathies for your loss.

Jennifer Robinson - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Patsy, You have our sympathy. Bill and Shirley

Bill and shirley Beggs - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ We share your loss of our dear friend Leon. He was special in our lives too.

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**Joan and Wayne McPherson** - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM