



William "Leon" Wood

November 4, 1938 - April 13, 2026

W. Leon Wood

William "Leon" Wood (87) passed away on Monday, April 13 in Birmingham, AL He was the son of the late George Nathan Wood and Elza Curry Wood. He is survived by his wife Frances (Fran) Haskett Wood and his two sons, Lee Wood and Brian (Shari) Wood. He has two grandchildren, Matthew (Jessica) and Rebecca, two great grandchildren, Elia and Nahai and a brother Anthony (Esther). Leon and Fran were happily married for 65 years and would have celebrated their 66th in two weeks.

Leon was born in Gwinnett County in the Haynes Creek community. He graduated from Conyers High School in 1956 and worked at Callaway Mills in Milstead, GA for a short time. From there, he began his career as a draftsman with Southern Engineering Company in Atlanta and was part of an engineering team that mapped powerlines across several states. These mapping jobs eventually led him to Pickens, SC where he worked with the REA power system to map power lines in and around the Pickens county area. It was during this time that he met Fran, whom he often referred to as the love of his life.

While living in Decatur, he and Fran were active members of Avondale First Baptist Church where he became a deacon. He began his career with Liberty

National Life in 1964 and worked with this company for 44 years, serving in different capacities and increasing responsibilities in locations including Griffin, Ga., Alton, Il., and Rockford, IL. While working with Liberty National Life, Leon dedicated himself to learning the intricacies of financial planning and investments. This dedication pushed him to seek more knowledge regarding the insurance industry as well as financial planning. His diligence allowed him to complete specialized certifications and degrees including his LUTC & FLMI titles. He also achieved the coveted Chartered Life Underwriting (CLU) and Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) certifications. He continued his education to complete two Masters degrees. The Master of Science in Management (MSDM) and the Master of Science in Financial Services (MSFS). As he advanced in his career, Leon moved from Rockford, IL to Birmingham, AL in 1983 and continued his work with Liberty National in the Training Department for many years, retiring from full time work in 2003. He continued working part-time for 5 years where he enjoyed working with people requiring financial guidance. He loved to work on challenging tasks and never backed away from working through confusing and difficult financial situations.

For many years, he was involved with serving as a Cubmaster, a recreational basketball and baseball leagues coach. He also served as a Sunday School teacher to 6th & 7th grade boys. While living in Rockford, he served as a visiting businessman for Junior Achievement where he mentored young people in business basics and finance. He also served on the local Boy Scouts of America Council.

Leon enjoyed building and fixing things. He was a classic “shade tree mechanic” and would work on cars as time allowed. He was able to build a customized camping van that he and his family would take on vacations across the United States. He was also a master woodworker and designed and built a variety of furniture and cabinet components. He could build just about anything he could visualize whether it be made of wood, concrete,

bricks, or metal.

He and Fran were world travelers visiting 83 foreign countries and all 50 states. He was a hard worker and was always willing to help someone in need.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 25 at Holly Springs Baptist Church in Pickens, SC with visitation beginning at 1:00 PM followed by the memorial service, A CELEBRATION OF LIFE will be held after the memorial service at the Holly Springs Baptist Church Reception Hall.

OPP was founded in 2003 by a group of animal lovers who wanted to make a difference in the lives of animals. Since then, we have rescued and found homes for hundreds of animals. Our passion for animal welfare drives everything we do, from our adoption process to our volunteer programs. We believe that every animal deserves a loving home, and we work tirelessly to make that a reality.

Leon's son and daughter-in-law (Brian and Shari) have been volunteers here for years. Leon and Fran have actively continued to support this organization over the years.

In lieu of flowers, you can donate at the link below. Be sure to add a note that it is in memory of Leon Wood.

<https://www.opp.ourpalsplace.org/donate/>

Mountain View Funeral Home is serving the Wood family.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Holly Springs Baptist Church
3450 Table Rock Road
Pickens, SC 29671

Funeral Service

APR **25**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Holly Springs Baptist Church
3450 Table Rock Road
Pickens, SC 29671

Tribute Wall

TJ

“ Dear Fran and Family,

We were so saddened to hear of Leon's passing. Our hearts go out to you during this difficult time.

We have such fond memories of meeting you and Leon and Lee on that cruise back in 2007. It didn't take long to see what a special person he was. Leon had a warmth about him that made people feel comfortable right away, and a genuine kindness that stayed with you long after the conversation ended. He had a way of bringing people together, and those moments we shared remain truly meaningful to us.

Leon was the kind of person who left a lasting impression—not just because of what he said, but because of how he made people feel. That's a rare gift, and it speaks volumes about the life he lived and the character he carried every day.

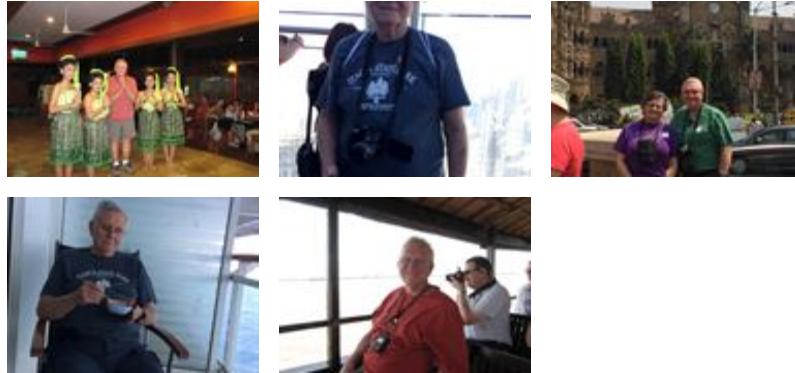
Please know that you are in our thoughts, and that Leon will be remembered with great respect and affection. We feel grateful to have known him in his life on this earth.

With deepest sympathy and warmest regards, Tom & Brenda Jones

Tom & Brenda Jones - April 25 at 07:16 PM

Mo

“ 172 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Mountain View Funerals and Cremations - April 24 at 11:07 AM

DO

“ Declan O. purchased the *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* for the family of William "Leon" Wood.



Declan O. - April 20 at 04:19 PM

JT

“ Leon was attended my Sunday School class at Lakeside Baptist Church for over 20 years, always with a smile on his face and a handshake. His absence has left a hole in our fellowship. On a personal note, Leon built an artist taboret (paint cabinet) for me based on nothing more than a sketch and a photograph. He was an excellent woodworker.

I pray God's comfort be on Fran and the family.

Jim Thacker

James A Thacker - April 18 at 10:31 AM

CG

“ Leon and Fran instantly became honorary grandparents to my two children when we moved into the neighborhood. Leon gave so much support and love to my family. He will be missed.

Connie Goodman - April 16 at 08:48 PM

LV

“ Leon really could do anything. Having become acquainted with the family in the mid 1980s, I witnessed he and his sons expand the size of his family from the foundation up. He even passed the construction test so he could pull the necessary permits involved with project. His construction expertise came for going of church building mission trips. Leon truly had a tremendous love for his fellow man demonstrated in the many acts of kindness that he would do for anyone in need. He will be deeply missed by those who knew him. My sincere sympathy to his family at this time of great loss. Leighton Vance

Leighton Vance - April 16 at 02:25 PM