



## Leonard R. Anderson

May 13, 1940 - July 22, 2017

Leonard R. Anderson, 77 of Cloquet, passed away Saturday, July 22 in his home after a courageous battle with MDS. He was born May 13, 1940 in St. Paul to Harold and Selma (Pearson) Anderson. Leonard was raised in rural Aitkin area and graduated from Aitkin High School in 1958. Len served as a reservist in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1960-1967. He married Bethel Cottrell in St. Paul in 1961. He attended Bethel College and received his B.S. in 1964 and he continued his education at St. Mary's Winona and received his M.S. in 1971. Len's teaching career started in 1964 at Sibley High School in West St. Paul, then in Germany at the Berlin American High School and in 1968 he became a teacher at Cloquet High School, where he taught science until 1998. During this time he also coached wrestling, track and advised Science Fair students. After his retirement, Len taught part-time at the Fond du Lac Community College.

Len attended Grace Baptist Church for 30 plus years, was a member of the Izaak Walton League-McCabe Chapter, was a lifelong environmental activist and had won several environmental awards. He enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, planting trees, cutting firewood, managing timber, harvesting maple syrup, traveling and taking care of the St. Louis River. He was a volunteer with the Memorial Blood Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Len is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Bethel; sons, Grant (Britt Johnson) of Duluth, Ole (Chris) of Shevlin; daughter Sheila (Mark) Wilcox of Mt. Iron; grandchildren, Aaron, Andrew, Lizbet, Kylli, Katja, Grace, Charlotte, Logan, Sam and Siiri; brothers, Maurice (Tami Beutow) of Stacy, Paul (Sue) of Wyoming, MN, Tim (Carol) of Ogilvie. Also by aunts, an uncle, many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Memorial service 11 am Friday, July 28 in the Grace Church, 601 14th Street, Cloquet. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 27 in the Atkins Northland Funeral Home, 801 14th Street, Cloquet and continue one hour prior to the memorial service Friday in the church.

Memorials to the Izaak Walton League of America-McCabe Chapter, the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center or donor's choice.

Len's family would like to thank Dr. Jeffrey Miller, University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center; Dr. Homam Alkaied and staff at St. Luke's, Duluth; Dr. Victoria Heren and infusion therapy staff at Cloquet Community Memorial Hospital for their care and thousands of blood donors from Memorial Blood Centers for their generosity.

# Comments

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“ 9 files added to the album Len, Bethel and grandkids



Atkins-Northland Funeral Home and Cremation Service - April 03, 2018 at 11:28 AM

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“ 13 files added to the album Len and Bethel celebrating 56 years of marriage



Atkins-Northland Funeral Home and Cremation Service - April 03, 2018 at 11:27 AM

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“ 10 files added to the album Len and the outdoors



Atkins-Northland Funeral Home and Cremation Service - April 03, 2018 at 11:27 AM

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“ 9 files added to the album Len Childhood through early career



Atkins-Northland Funeral Home and Cremation Service - April 03, 2018 at 11:27 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album Len and Grant on Isle Royale 1981



Atkins-Northland Funeral Home and Cremation Service - April 03, 2018 at 11:27 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album



Atkins-Northland Funeral Home and Cremation Service - April 03, 2018 at 11:27 AM

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July 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Len was a great inspiration as he lead me through my science career at Cloquet. He always instilled the true excitement of the outdoors. To embrace nature, and protect it. He provided me the foundation which lead me to the person I am today. I'll never forget that Mr. Anderson. Thank you. You will be missed.

Mark C. Nyholm  
Class of 1997

July 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ He was a fun cousin. All the cousins loved him. I remember him telling the story about Bruce and the time he put dynamite in the brush at 25 lake to make a little cove. The Knoke boys were rowing across the lake at same time. Boy, was their mom made! Anyway, it got bigger every time he told that story. I'm sure the cousins remember that story.

July 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I had Mr. Anderson as a 7th grader and a freshman in junior high and have always held him in such high respect! Especially after becoming a teacher myself, I have been so impressed when I remember his patience and easy demeanor. Imagine having the patience to spend many study hall periods answering our (three pre-teen friends) questions about science, evolution, and the bible. These conversations had a great impact on me and it was always a treat to have the opportunity to visit in the years that followed. Rest in peace, Len!

July 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Will miss running into Len at the fitness center and in the community. We had many great conversations about the outdoors. I always had my eye out for him as there was a cool story with some kind of learning along with it when we chatted. RIP Len, and condolences to the family!

July 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ He was a great teacher that motivated many of us Cloquet Senior High alumni. Sorry for your loss and prayers to the family.

Shawn Switzer  
Class of'89

July 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I got to know Len through his work to protect the St. Louis River and other Minnesota watersheds from contamination, particularly as a result of sulfide mining. Len was a gentle person, with a stalwart morality and a rigorous scientific mind as well as a deep warmth and compassion. He was the first community leader to pull together citizen experts to analyze the PolyMet copper-nickel mine and the mining industry proposals to weaken the rules limiting sulfate pollution. Len put many of us on the path to seek the truth about sulfide mining pollution and believe in the strength of community as well as science to protect the clean waters he held dear. We will miss him and remember him -- may his name only be for a blessing. Paula Maccabee (WaterLegacy)

July 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Even as a young man Len showed integrity and garnered respect. It's clear to see the world is a better place because he was in it.

Janice Fischer Rey

July 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Of course we have known Len ever since he was telling everyone his name was "Blenny Albin"! He provided so much for our whole family to appreciate and remember - his growing up years as an athlete and student in college, and then as husband and father. He was a hero in all his roles. We will miss him altho' not seeing him often we have always had a respect and appreciation for his accomplishments in his life. Our love go out to the family - Uncle Bob and Mary

July 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Len taught, inspired, enlightened, and amused many of Minnesota's future pharmacists by sharing his health/care/med stories with our students. Thoughts and prayers to the entire Anderson family. Hugs from Keri Hager and Jeff Pykkonen

July 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I met Leonard in January of 1998 at the Carlton Feed Mill planning for Grace Baptist's first blood drive. We got to be good friends and he and Bethel welcomed me into their home so many times over the years. We went hunting, wild ricing, fishing on the St. Louis River, tapped maple trees, car shopping and took in some movies as well. Leonard helped me pick out my first shotgun and laughed when I picked "the cuter one" of my two choices. He taught me much about public speaking for the blood center and accompanied me on many educational trips around the Northland to help recruit blood donors. He made a real difference in my life and in the lives of many. Bethel, you and Leonard mean the world to me, and I am so sorry for your loss. He fought the good fight for many years, and we are blessed to have known him. He is missed and cherished. Thank you for the good memories. ~Mary Jane Thomsen

July 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Leonard was a terrific individual and teacher. He was thoughtful, compassionate, had a keen intellect, enjoyed and promoted outdoor recreation, and always engaged with the people he met. I wish his family well.  
- Steve Tomhave

July 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am very sorry to hear of the passing of classmate and Glory Baptist church friend, Lennie Anderson.  
Prayers to the family.  
Anna Marie Ecklund Pihl

July 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sending our thoughts and prayers to the Anderson Family. We are very sorry for your loss and thinking of you Grant, Brit and all of the family.  
FierkeLepp Family

July 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ A legend has passed, and will leave a big gap on Earth behind him, but lots of quality kids and grandkids to fill in. Rest in peace Len. Thinking of Bethel, Grant, Sheila and Ole.

July 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Len was a veteran teacher when I came to Cloquet in 1987, and he and Charlie Butcher were very good to me. They even invited me to The Museum before conferences (two drink max)! I always admired him so much--smart, funny, passionate, dedicated. I feel lucky to have known him.

July 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Len was a great friend, teacher, and role model. He taught by example. He lived his life with passion. He influenced my decision to become a teacher and continues to influence the way I teach. Best memory: Isle Royale in the summer of '81 with Len and Grant.

July 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Bethel, I'm so sorry to hear of Len's passing. He fought a good fight with you by his side. You were a great wife to him and we know he's in a better place. I enjoyed buying Christmas trees from him!

July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Len was a teacher and a mentor to so many of us in the environmental movement. He taught us to investigate, to learn, and to understand what we were talking about. His integrity was unimpeachable. I've already missed him over the last couple years, but this morning I am in tears. Bethel, my heart is with you right now, as are so many others.

July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ John Green  
We are all in a better place for Len's being among us. He was such an inspiring teacher and dedicated environmentalist and all-around Good Guy, with the highest integrity. My very best wishes to Bethel.

July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Len's environmental activities and his passionate teaching about caring for our natural resources is an incredible legacy he left to many of his students, His impact will continue for generations.

July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am sorry to hear of Len's passing. He was a good classmate all those years ago.

July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Len was an exceptional teacher and an even better man. My condolences to his entire family.

July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ We are so very saddened to hear about the passing of our friend, Len. Our prayers are with Bethel and family.

July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Mr. Anderson was such an amazing teacher! He was able to show students alternative ways of thinking and encourage them to strive to learn more! I'm so sorry for your loss!!

**Candle of Love** - July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Rest peacefully Mr. Anderson. You were one of the best teachers. One of my fondest memories is going white water rafting in 1999 and there too many people so you and I were in the "dingy" together (essentially an inflatable kayak.) I think I enjoyed that ride more because of the adventure we had fighting the rapids together in that little boat (and, nope, i haven't tried it since.)  
And, had it not been for the alphabetization assigned seating of your advanced biology class, I may not be married to my husband and have two wonderful children today. I'm so lucky to have passed through your path on this crazy journey we call life. Thank you for all the treasures you gave during your lifetime.

July 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ We know that Len is in a better place, and at peace! He was a wonderful, husband, dad, grandfather and teacher. We always enjoyed visiting with him at the fitness center all these years. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all!

July 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Len and I visited often sharing stories about our sons hunting, fishing etc. The fitness center was a great place to swap stories! I will miss Len greatly! He was a wonderful friend! ?Bill Hoffman

July 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Mr. Anderson was my homeroom teacher during my freshman year at CHS ('97-98). I'll remember him as a source of real encouragement and support for his students, and a good man. I'm sorry to hear about his passing and I hope his family knows the impact he had on all of us.

July 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Lens passing. He was my IPS teacher in Jr. High..... I have many fond memories that he still remembered when we would visit at Park Ave. He shared with me that he was tired of the fight with cancer, we shared a hug and I went home and said a prayer for him. My thoughts are with you Bethal and your family. God bless.

July 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM