



Leon Kent Rathbun

March 23, 1942 - November 14, 2017

Leon K. Rathbun, age 75, of Terry, Montana, passed away on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at the Prairie Community Hospital in Terry. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, November 25, 2017 at the Presbyterian Community Church in Terry with retired Reverend Neva Rathbun officiating. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Born on March 23, 1942, Leon Kent Rathbun, son of Loyal Vane and Pauline (Schoshke) Rathbun, of Beverly, Kansas, passed on into his greater gain with the Lord on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at the age of 75 years, 7 months, 22 days.

Raised in a rural community, he attended grade school and graduated from Beverly High School, Beverly, Kansas, in 1960. During his high school years, he met a farm girl, Neva Jean Donley, from Lincoln, Kansas. He courted her for four years. Before his senior year at Kansas State University (K-State), Manhattan,

Kansas, they were married on August 10, 1963, in the First Presbyterian Church, Salina, Kansas.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Agriculture in 1964 from K- State. Over a span of 15 years, he taught students in Delphos, Kansas, in Morland, Kansas, and 11 years in Oakley, Kansas. During this period of time their marriage was blessed with a son, Aaron Anthony, and two daughters, Amy Lenore and Aariss Arnelle. In addition, while in Delphos, he

was baptized into Christ and became a member of First Presbyterian Church. From Oakley, following the death of his grandfather, he and his family moved back to the Beverly, Kansas, farm in 1979. Four years later, after experiencing sheep and lamb losses, and wheat losses from Spring freezes, they moved to Leoti, Kansas.

Life anew became a reality on their twentieth wedding anniversary. Leon worked at Kan-Sun Beef feedlot, owned in part by Gene Newman, a former resident of Garfield County Montana. Leon tested his own skills and discovered that what he had taught his students did indeed work. While there, he along with Neva, led Bible studies and provided pulpit supply to Presbyterian churches in that area. Nearing his eleven years with Kan-Sun Beef, he and Neva were sensing a call into ministry that would mean another move.

In the Fall of 1994, they moved to Austin, Texas, where they began their studies at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. They graduated earning their Master of Divinity degrees in 1998. Soon after, Leon was called to serve Community Presbyterian

Church in Terry, Montana, and Hope Lutheran Church, in Fallon, Montana. Leon was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament on September 20, 1998, at First Presbyterian Church, Tribune, Kansas.

Leon served the Presbytery of Yellowstone on the Committee on Ministry and on the Council, as well as, Moderator of the Presbytery for two years. On June 1, 2013, Leon retired from his ministry call. He thoroughly enjoyed the ministry of both congregations here in Montana. He continued participating in the Eastern Clergy Cluster and attending the Saturday Morning Men's breakfasts at the Terry church.

Prior to his death, he was serving as President of the Prairie County Council on Aging and as Board President of the Dawson County Domestic Violence Program.

Leon enjoyed hunting antelope, deer and turkeys, and reloading shells. He

appreciated the Solle's for his hunting opportunities. He enjoyed playing Yahtzee with Neva in the eventides. Texting and talking with our children and grandchildren was great joy, especially, when he could no longer make the trips to their homes. He was pleased and proud of all of them.

Preceding him in death were his parents. Surviving are his Beloved wife, Neva, of the home; son, Aaron (JoAnn) and their children, Ryan James and Macee Helene Rathbun, Post, Texas; daughter, Amy and son, Garrett Leon Rathbun, Pueblo, Colorado; daughter, Aariss (Thomas) Curren and their children, Christian Thomas and Kyle Davis Curren, and a stepdaughter Leah (Lance)

Curren Kilmer, Midwest City, Oklahoma; Aunt-in-law Gwendolyn Schoshke, Glendale, Kansas, and a host of cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to: Leon Rathbun Memorial Fund, % Neva Rathbun, P.O. Box 500, Terry, MT, 59349.

A Memorial Service will also be held at the Hall Mortuary, Lincoln, Kansas, on Saturday, December 16, 2017, at 10:30 A.M. Interment will be in the Hammer Cemetery, Lincoln, Kansas. Hall Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **25**. 10:30 AM (MT)

Presbyterian Community Church
317 Logan Avenue
Terry, MT 59349

Tribute Wall



“ *Leon Kent Rathbun*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Darlene L Strobel lit a candle in memory of Leon Kent Rathbun*



Darlene L Strobel - November 26, 2017 at 01:59 PM



“ *Arlene Morast lit a candle in memory of Leon Kent Rathbun*



Arlene Morast - November 24, 2017 at 06:45 PM



“ *Troy And JoDee Hess lit a candle in memory of Leon Kent Rathbun*



Troy And JoDee Hess - November 24, 2017 at 05:36 PM

LB

“ *My heart goes out to you. My heartfelt prayers are with you.*

Linda Bruski - November 24, 2017 at 12:55 PM

AC

“ *Scott and I offer our deep condolences to Neva and the family. We are saddened to hear of Leon's passing and hold so many good humored and happy memories of his daily life and work,*

Peace to you, Neva. You have held so many in safe keeping over the years in addition to Leon. We wish you rest and comfort.

Aliceann and Scott Carlton

Aliceann Carlton - November 18, 2017 at 11:49 PM

RB

“ *Ruby Bearley lit a candle in memory of Leon Kent Rathbun*



Ruby bearley - November 18, 2017 at 07:58 AM

AA

“ *I served in the Southeast Montana cluster of the ELCA in Glendive the same time Leon served in Terry/Fallon. Those were times of close fellowship and a real sense of the importance of the rural church. When Leon hosted us, his sense of the presence of God among us was real. God bless his memory. May he rest in peace. Thoughts and prayers go out to you, Neva, and your family at this deep loss. Avis R Anderson*

Avis Anderson - November 16, 2017 at 02:39 PM

DS

My sympathies. May God give you the extra strength, guidance and courage needed in the months ahead.
Darlene L Strobel

Darlene L Strobel - November 17, 2017 at 01:23 PM

IK

We are so sorry to hear this..Leon was a good friend of Harold's. . He could talk to him about fishing, hunting, school project, cars and pick ups, keeping him going to the youth program, and just understood Harold the way he was!! Was a great neighbor when they lived next door..Neva, you are in our Thoughts and Prayer..

Iva Kirkpatrick - November 18, 2017 at 10:54 AM

CH

Sincere sympathy Neva. Will keep you in my prayers.

Chele Cole Harrington - November 19, 2017 at 11:37 AM

AM

So sorry to hear about Leon's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God strengthen you during this sad time.
Arlene Morast

Arlene Morast - November 24, 2017 at 06:45 PM

AM

Love you Dad!
Merry Christmas!

Amy - December 19, 2018 at 07:30 PM