



Leo A. Clerkin

July 19, 1935 - April 21, 2026

Barneveld – Leo Clerkin, age 90, of Barneveld went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. He was born on the 19th of July, 1935 to Peter and Mary Clerkin in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Leo always said he had a good life. He grew up during the great depression and loved to talk about the ways he and his family made life work with what they had. He grew up on a dairy farm and attended a one room school house until he was in 7th grade when he and his family moved to a farm in the Barneveld School District. He attended Barneveld Public School and enjoyed playing football, basketball and baseball. He graduated from Barneveld Public School in 1953.

During high school Leo hauled cans of milk for a local cheese factory, after high school he worked for Bill Thousand, Barneveld Gas and Electric installing televisions, which had just been invented. In March of 1955 he joined the army and served during the Korean war. When he was home on his first leave, from the army, he married his wife of 71 years, Norene (Reuter), whom he started dating in high school. They lived their first two years of married life in San Antonio, Texas, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Fort Riley in Kansas and finally Fort Eustice in Virginia where he served in the surgical unit.

After the service Leo became a dairy farmer, something he always wanted to do. After 3 years of renting, he and his wife purchase the Shelby Raisebeck farm north of Barneveld. They farmed until 1983 when Leo's issues with his

back caused him to sell the farm and build a home near the farm. He found a career taking care of the Summit Apartments property in Barneveld. He enjoyed getting to know the residents over the years, even after he no longer took care of the property, many were his friends. He also began driving bus for the Mt. Horeb School District and the Barneveld Public School District. He did serve as the bus coordinator for the Barneveld School District and was proud he was able to stop the purchase of the bus service to a private company while serving as coordinator. In 2018, the year he retired from bus driving and received a certificate of appreciation for his 30 years of service to the state of Wisconsin as a bus driver.

Leo had passion for sports, he enjoyed professional, college and high school sports. His children were active in sports in high school and he enjoyed watching them play, but his greatest enjoyment was watching his grandchildren play basketball and baseball. He was proud to watch his granddaughters play in the Wisconsin State Basketball tournament and become state champs. His grandchildren played for Barneveld and Pecatonica schools which kept him finding balance between the two rival schools.

Golf was a passion Leo discovered in his forties. He spent many hours playing golf at Deer Valley Golf Course in Barneveld. Then he started taking trips to Florida, in January, with his brothers to play golf, this tradition lasted for 20 years.

Leo was a devout catholic and served as a lector for 50 years, was on the building committee after the Barneveld tornado and served on church council. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Community was important to Leo, he was a member of the American Legion, member of the Barneveld Advancement Association and drove ambulance for

10 years for the Barneveld Rescue Squad. He received honors as well, Outstanding Young Farmer, Iowa County, Wisconsin, Parade Marshall for the Barneveld Fair parade, inductee into the Barneveld Athletic Hall of Fame, Knight of Columbus Council #10905 Family of the Year and his most cherished honor was the dedication in the Barneveld School yearbook.

He is survived by his wife Norene, his children, Greg (Heidi), Mike (Mary Jo), Diane Beckmann (Don Hipwood), Pat (Sue), Carol Nortman (Paul), Frank, Linda Hendrickson (Steve), Helen Ramdsen (Rob), 29 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. He is further survived by his brothers Tom, Bob (Julie) and sister Donna. Sister-in-laws Pat Bowen, Connie (Roger) Evers and Cindy Reuter. Sister-in-law Veronica Reuter, Bob (Diane) Reuter, Richard (Linda) Reuter and many nieces and nephew. In addition lifelong friends Doug and Judy Johnson.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Peter J and Mary Clerkin, grandparents, Louis and Amelia Trainor and Peter Sr and Dortha Clerkin, uncles; Allen Clerkin, Leo, Frank, John, Jerome, Peter and Bill Trainor, aunts; Adella and Cecila Clerkin, Eileen, Barb, Catherine Trainor, Regina Burns. Siblings; two stillborn brothers, William and Dorothy. Brother-in laws John Bowen and Richard (Cy) Smith, sisters-in-law Mary Clerkin and Kathleen Clerkin.

Thank you to Jess and Sheri from Agrace Hospice for the care and compassion and Michele Gruenenfelder, PA-C for all of your care through the years

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH in Barneveld. Burial will be held in St. Bridget's Cemetery with Military Graveside

Honors accorded by the Barneveld American Legion Post No. 433. Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. on Saturday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Leo Clerkin family which will be shared with local charities.

Cemetery Details

St. Bridget's Cemetery

Cemetery Road
Ridgeway, WI 53582

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 25. 9:00 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
100 Church Street
Barneveld, WI 53507

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 25. 11:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
100 Church Street
Barneveld, WI 53507

Military Graveside Rites

APR 25 (CT)

St. Bridget's Cemetery
Cemetery Road
Ridgeway, WI 53582

Tribute Wall

RA

“ *To Leo Clerkin Family. Just learned of the passing of Leo. Soo sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers to the family. I have known the Clerkin Family for years. Church, sports, or just hanging out with Greg and his Shenanigans. Leo was a pillar of the of The Town of Barneveld, the Church or any thing he did. Drove my children's school bus. He Will Be Missed!! Rick Ayers and Family.*

Richard Ayers - April 30 at 12:00 PM

HR

Thank your for the kind words and condolences ♡♡ Helen

Helen Clerkin Ramsden - May 06 at 09:11 PM

KC

“ *Hi Norene,
I am so sorry to read of Leo's death. I wish I had known her had passed away, because I definitely would have come.
I know he is in heaven and reaping all his rewards. I wish you all Gentle Peace at this difficult time.
God bless. Rest on Peace Leo
Kristen Larson Clary*

Kristen Clary - April 29 at 05:54 PM

JD

“ *Mrs. Clerkin I am so sorry for your loss. I know you guys had a lot good times to remember. To the rest of the Leo Clerkins family I want to tell you all how sorry I was to read this on your dad. Your dad was a very special person to many! I sure you have a lot of fun memories of him. You all just keep the memories close to your heart!*

Julie Pepper DeBoer

Julie Pepper. DeBoer - April 23 at 11:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leo A. Clerkin.*



April 22 at 09:18 AM