



Leo John Sendek

NOV 22, 1953 - OCT 27, 2020



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Leo John Sendek

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Leo was the perfect combination of a grumpy old man and child-like mischief. His greatest joy came with his grandchildren's giggles and often times found himself getting grounded or in time out. His instigations and jokes were almost always met with an exasperated sigh of his name, which he just loved.

As an avid outdoorsman he found pleasure in not only teaching, but continuing his own learning of nature, especially in hunting. He found his solace walking through the woods and stopping to nap.

Most often seen was the hard exterior of a hairy woodsman, but some got the special glimpse of his softer, even romantic, side. His walks didn't end in the woods. From the very first dates to his very last anniversary vacation he never stopped holding his wife's hand, in every adventure and every mundane day. He often took pictures of flowers at the grocery store or even picked the real thing from the neighborhood to leave along with his pictographic love notes, because he was such a bad speller.

As he aged, Leo also got in touch with his artistic side. If ever there was a party with a theme, he'd flourish. His natural contribution was to make sculptures with fruits and vegetables. He'd always go that extra mile for his grandkid's smiles.

Leo was a man of few words, but multiple layers.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Kathleen; daughters, Kristy (Richard Brown) and Kelly (Jeff) Gerdemann; beloved grandchildren, Alicja and Kalynn Stockwell, and Nathan Gerdemann.

Visitation will be Friday, October 30th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Young Funeral Home, China Twp. With a prayer being said at 5:00 p.m. to conclude the evening. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Hunters for the Hungry or Leader dogs for the blind. To leave a message of comfort visit www.youngcolonial.com



Events

Leo John Sendek

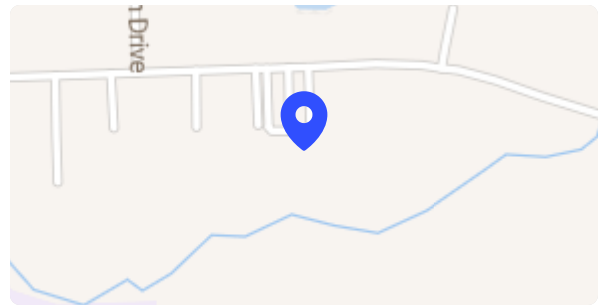
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Visitation

 **Friday, October 30, 2020**


 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET

 **Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home**
4061 Saint Clair Hwy, East China MI

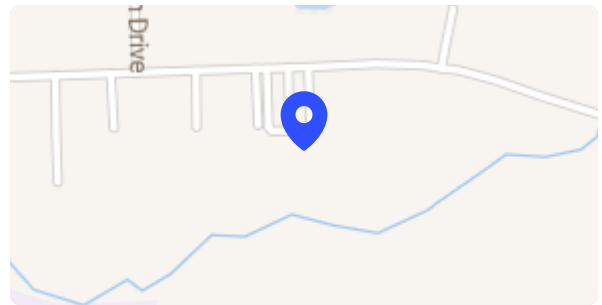


Prayers

 **Friday, October 30, 2020**

 5:00 PM ET

 **Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home**
4061 Saint Clair Hwy, East China MI





Tribute Wall

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MP

Marilynn J Pavlov posted:

I just saw this obituary on the internet and wanted to respond to the family. I met you, Mrs. Sendak, when our daughters played volleyball together at Marysville High School. When I first met your husband, I was afraid of him because of all the hair. I soon learned that not only did he have a beautiful wife but that he was a lot of fun to be around. I remember that Kristi was a good volleyball player. I remember when Kristi lost her husband, George, a former student of mine. It broke my heart for all of you. And now all of you have lost your husband/ father. My heart goes out to each of you. I will remember you in my prayers.

November 15 at 12:24 PM

AR

Alice Ross Romano posted:

Sorry for your loss! I'm Jay' sister Alice Ross Romano. I remember the day that they faked that Leo was thrown in the Clinton River. I saw his Mom grieving! Not funny boys! May God help you through this very sad time. Alice

October 31 at 10:29 AM

JR

Jay Ross posted:

No one will ever believe the crazy things me and Leo did as teens back then. We were chased by a guy in a car, who literally tried to run us over, because one of us hit his car with a tossed shingle (by accident). That episode lasted the whole evening, as that driver would not give up, he was doing doughnuts in the school yard try to hit Leo, but Leo was a fast runner, and was able to out run him on the slippery school lawn. Another time, we gave the neighborhood a major scare, when we faked that we were thrown into the Clinton river by some bullies, bad idea. We played lots of baseball in the local school yard, and when it started to rain, we found an open door for shelter at the school, that just happened to be the food storage room. We helped ourselves to a huge can of chips, as we walked back home. (Douglas Write, if you read this, I know you will remember it all, and we all hung out together). We eventually went our own ways, but I'm sure we both left our marks on each other, with those unforgettable antics. The last time I probably saw Leo, was around 1975, as I left Michigan some time after. My heart goes out to his family and loved ones, Jay Ross.

October 30 at 8:02 PM



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BC

Barbara Stiles, Cousin lit a candle in honor of Leo.

Kathleen and family. Our deepest sympathies to each of you. My memories of Leo take me back over 40+ years...He was our handsome, blonde "surfer dude" type cousin. Imagine when I next saw him in 1998 at my dad's funeral. Long white hair and beard.. As he gave me a hug and said in his gentle voice "It's Leo....your cousin"! He brought me such a smile at a time when I really needed one. May your memories and time with him be in your heart forever. God Bless you all. Your cousin Barb from Florida.

October 30 at 2:04 PM



PP

Pam Penkala lit a candle in honor of Leo.

My Deepest CondolencesYour husband was a great man who has left a wonderful legacy behind.He was larger than life and he lived it to the fullest. Now that he has gone, may all the beautiful memories be a blessing to you and you family.Please accept my sympathoes for losing your husband.I hold you and your family clost in my thoughts and prayers.

October 30 at 3:51 AM



Anonymous sent a Cherished Memories to the Sendek family.

October 30 at 3:33 AM





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DW

Douglas Wright posted:

To his grandchildren, he is "Grandpa", to his children "Dad", to his wife, "Husband" and mate. To his siblings, "Brother". In each instance they have known him in an intimate and familial way. But when he associates with or stands among other males and eventually men, he is known and judged in a different manner. He is judged by his character: by the value of his given word, by his openness, trustworthiness, steadfastness, forthrightness, honor and reliability; not to mention a measure of courage, generosity, and largeness of spirit. To the family, one side; to friends and associates another. No man has to tolerate or remain friends with another for long. It is done by choice and only persists in recognition of the kinds of more public strengths and virtues which he lives daily, and is capable of manifesting to those outside his family circle. Leo had that. I first met Leo when at age eleven or twelve he coasted up to the front porch on his bicycle, knocked on the door, introduced himself and the pal he had from across his street, and said, "Want to go riding?" It proved typical of him to be the spark plug, the initiator, the one who precociously sought out new adventures or hunting grounds while I was still wondering who we needed to ask permission of first. I will omit mentioning here our youthful trips beyond the reach of Michigan law to Toledo in order to, so we imagined, try and stock up on exciting fireworks (yes, we got some) and firearms (no, we didn't). That initial bike ride and others following - and they were almost always "explorations" - evolved into the longest lasting friendship I have ever had, and one pretty remarkable given how widely separated out life paths became at times. But the same qualities of character he showed when we were virtual schoolkids (and among the youngest in our grade) he retained all his life; and these personal qualities of his eventually led my family, whether I was around or not, to consider him as having a place among them: implicitly trusted, and always, and without reservation, welcome. The way he in later years shouldered some of the farther flung property responsibilities which I was unable to attend to during my folks' decline, and which he casually shrugged off as hunting when it was as much care taking and restoring as chasing game, eased their minds to a degree Leo himself could probably never adequately appreciate. It was my privilege to call him friend across literal decades, and to be able to truly mean it. I can say that the entire Wright family shares in, and feels, this loss. Douglas Wright

October 28 at 5:46 PM

TS

Theresa Blondell. (Sister) posted:

My brother and friend. I'll never forget our mashed potatoes fights across the kitchen. Watching you bring a crow with a sling shot over dad's hammock while he napped. When we went up north in a tent, and heard that little bear outside. And you with a machete. When you held me up when Jim passed. Literally. You and Kathy helped not only me, but Jon too. Gone too soon brother. But forever in my heart. Until we meet again, love you

October 29 at 3:57 PM



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KV

Karen Vandeputte lit a candle in honor of Leo.

October 29 at 3:07 PM



MF

Michelle Reichle & Family lit a candle in honor of Leo.

October 29 at 9:51 AM



KG

Kathy Grewe posted:

Little Leo....a nick name when you were a little guy because of your name sake...Great Uncle Leo. Many fond memories of the fun times fishing with my brothers and dad.. Dad coaching your baseball team so we got to go watch your games. Memories are treasures now. I love you, little brother, and will keep you in a special place in my heart. .

October 29 at 9:43 AM

MO

Michele Oldham posted:

I will miss him dearly!

October 29 at 7:37 AM

JB

Judi Borkowski lit a candle in honor of Leo.

Kathleen, sincere condolences to you and your family. Hoping Leo's heaven is full of sunshine and blue skies.

October 29 at 7:30 AM



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Sendek family.

October 29 at 6:14 AM





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Anonymous sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Sendek family.

October 28 at 7:11 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Sendek family.

October 28 at 5:46 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Leo by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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