



Leonard A. Anson

November 29, 1934 - May 31, 2018

Leonard A. Anson, inventor of the “blue jay whacker” (a humane deterrent device), passed away at home Thursday, May 31 at the age of 83, surrounded by his loving family.

Len was born in his family’s farmhouse at 12 Mile Road and Campbell, the eldest son of Albert and Anna “Jenny” Anson. After graduating from Madison High School in 1953, he enlisted in the Air Force for the Korean War. The armistice was signed while he was in basic training in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and he served the remainder of his enlistment stationed in Tripoli, Libya.

After returning home, he attended classes at Highland Park Community College and married his high school sweetheart, Carol, in 1960. In 1963, Len got his CDL and went to work as a route salesman for the Feigenson brothers at Faygo Beverages on Gratiot Avenue. His home never lacked for Red Pop again. He was a scrupulously honest man and the storekeepers who were his customers trusted him without reservation. He retired from the company in 1994 after 31 years of service.

Len enjoyed fishing and hunting, although none of us can remember that he actually shot anything. He loved sitting in the woods so quietly that he could observe the wildlife at close range. We’re sure that part of the allure of hunting

season was the homemade apple pies and stuffed cabbage that Mom would make for Len and his friends to take with them to Baldwin.

Len also would go anywhere for a cup of coffee. It was not unusual for him to jump in his truck at some odd hour with a friend or family member and head up to West Branch or another faraway town to have coffee and donuts.

In retirement, Len was an avid vegetable gardener and was famous for his enormous beefsteak tomatoes. He built several “bird condos” for the sparrows in the backyard, and in return they kept his garden bug-free without the use of pesticides. Len was also known to rescue sparrow babies that had fallen out of their nest, raising them inside the house (they were all named “Woodstock”) until they were able to fly and take up residence in one of the condos.

Len treasured his family and friends. He was always there for us if there was ever a time of need. He was a great father and life coach, and the most loyal friend one could ever have. Len was a true humanitarian who believed in equality and in helping those less fortunate.

Len is deeply missed by his beloved wife of nearly 58 years, Carol; and his daughters, Jan (Brian), Sandy, Laurie (Bob) Brusco and Debbie (Art) Ward; his sister, Isabelle (Ernest) King; and his brothers, Joe (Joyce, deceased) and Dave (Roxanne); as well as his much-loved caregivers, Audrey, Mike and Sarah; his best friend, Jerry Collins; the gang at “the restaurant” and his walking companions at the mall. His passing leaves a tremendous void in all of our lives.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Len’s name to the charities he supported: Wounded Warrior Project, St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital and Smile Train.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall

LA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laurie - November 29, 2024 at 10:24 PM

FA

One of my favorite photos of you guys because I think it captures your essence, both of you. Successfully Loving Life. You've matured throughout the years and you have earned your happiness. Not that you needed to "earn it"...but you really did. If nirvana is a real thing, you must be there now Dad. We sure miss you around here.

Family - May 30, 2025 at 06:27 PM

FA

Well we made it through another year. We miss you, and I think about you all the time. I remember things that you taught me. Lots of things about character and trying to just be a good person, and using the time we have in a worthwhile manner. And enjoying life all the while. The world was a better place because you lived in it. ❤️

Family - December 28, 2025 at 02:54 PM

LA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Laurie - November 29, 2024 at 10:23 PM

LA

“Dad, the Master Gardener. It's been 6 years since we lost you. I think about the example that you set for us, about how to live a good life, a lot. I'm grateful for every day that we had together. ❤️



Laurie - November 29, 2024 at 08:08 PM

DW

“Deb Ward lit a candle in memory of Leonard A. Anson



Deb Ward - November 29, 2024 at 09:54 AM



“Leonard A. Anson

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM

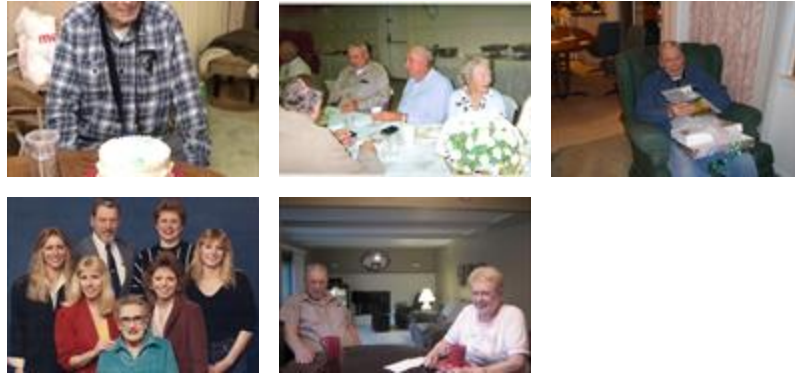


“Leonard A. Anson

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM

LB

“ 44 files added to the album *New Album Name*



laura brusco - October 07, 2020 at 09:47 AM

DE

“ *Miss you every day!*



Deb - May 31, 2020 at 11:06 AM

JA

“ *Miss you so much, Dad.*

Jan - May 31, 2019 at 10:54 PM

JR

“ *Joe and Mike and the crew from Romana purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Leonard A. Anson.*



Joe and Mike and the crew from Romana - June 06, 2018 at 02:39 PM



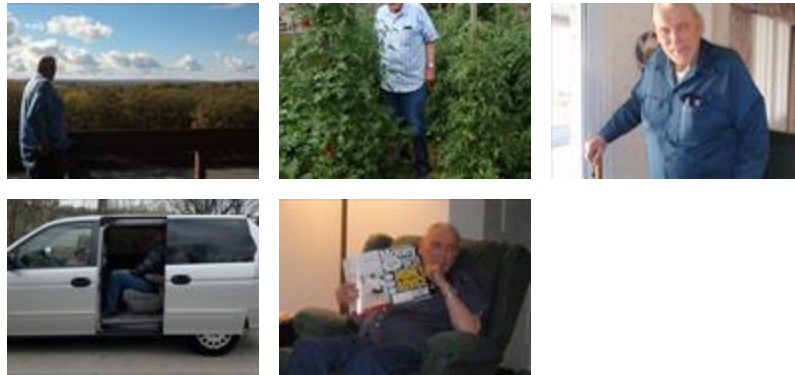
“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Leonard A. Anson.*



June 06, 2018 at 01:17 PM



“ *14 files added to the album New Album Name*



Family of Leonard Anson - June 05, 2018 at 06:36 PM



“ *A generous gift has been made to St. Jude's Children's Research hospital by Eugene Brusco on behalf of Leonard Anson.*

Thank You!

Family of Eugene Brusco - June 05, 2018 at 06:23 PM

JS

“ A generous gift has been made to Wounded Warrior Project ® (WWP) on behalf of Leonard A. Anson. This donation helps make it possible for WWP to fulfill our mission to honor and empower Wounded Warriors. For the past decade, WWP has provided comfort, care, and assistance to injured servicemen and women. This gift will ensure these warriors, their families, and caregivers are never forgotten.

Family of Harold F. Tellefsen

Joanna Schneider - June 05, 2018 at 05:19 PM

JS

“ I remember all the good times we had. We spent a lot of time together. Skipping school to go hunting up north with Len driving his green Pontiac. We always had a good time in school, except he was always smarter than I was. Or at least he thought he was.

Harold F. Tellefsen

Joanna Schneider - June 05, 2018 at 03:43 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Leonard A. Anson.



June 05, 2018 at 02:40 PM

LB

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



lb - June 05, 2018 at 12:13 AM

JS

“ I'm sending this for my dad, Harold Tellefsen. We moved north in 1973 and the years seemed to get away from everyone. My dad isn't very good at keeping in contact on a phone, but he loved Mr. Anson and talked fondly of him all the time. When my brother, Harold, told him that Leonard passed, my dad said, "Leonard's as healthy as an ox." and didn't really believe it maybe. When home for the summer, my goal was to drive my dad down to visit, and it's unfortunate that can't happen.

I remember card night at our house in Warren with the adults playing cards and having cocktails.

I remember Mr. Anson with his safari hat at Aloha State Park on summer vacation.

I remember Mr. Anson driving up to Cheboygan to pick up Lori. :)

I remember him as having a calming, relaxing voice.

I, unfortunately, can't get to Michigan fast enough to make it to the service, but I send my love to you all and wish you peace. I know it is something that we never "get over" but that we learn to live with.

Joanna Schneider - June 04, 2018 at 10:30 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Leonard A. Anson.



June 04, 2018 at 12:07 PM

YF

“ Your Polly Products Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Leonard A. Anson.



Your Polly Products Family - June 04, 2018 at 08:31 AM

DA

“ What I always think of . is when we were kids on the farm at 12 & Campbell. Len had his first car a pontiac coupe & he pulled me down the dusty lane with me tied behind on my homemade go-cart. I was dust & dirt, same color of the lane. Will never forget that!

David Anson - June 03, 2018 at 11:12 AM

TB

Beautiful memory dad!

Tracy Anson Brackney - June 03, 2018 at 03:07 PM

JJ

That is a beautiful memory Dad ❤️

Jill - June 03, 2018 at 08:32 PM

DB

“ In 1967, at age 17, I started working at Faygo Beverages as a settlement clerk, checking in Len and the other route salesmen. After retiring from the company 47 years later, I still remember Len as an honest, friendly, and good man to work with. My sympathies to his family,

Dave Bisdorf

Dave Bisdorf - June 03, 2018 at 08:39 AM



“ Dear Len, we did not visit often especially after we moved up north. You were a kind and loving sort of guy. Never heard a critical remark from you or about you. Loved it when you went for one of your rides and just dropped in to see us in Beaverton. I remember waiting at a surprise party for you, to see if you were going to show up. You did not disappoint your family. You were there. Now we will be there at your final party.

May God's peace and love be with you.

Roxanne and Dave

Roxanne Anson - June 03, 2018 at 07:18 AM

SS

“ Will miss Leonard , he was one of the good guys. We had something in common, we talked about the time he flew in to Lajes AFB, in the Azores and they had to do repair work on the engine, so he was stuck there for a few days. Never realized how big the island was, 12 miles by 18 miles . I was stationed there for over 3 yrs, so I told Leonard about all the things they had there.

Steve Schang - June 02, 2018 at 12:08 PM

SA

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Sandra Anson - June 02, 2018 at 09:57 AM

TB

“ So sorry for losing such a wonderful man and Uncle. I didn't see you often these last few years but remember always happy to see Uncle Leonard and Aunt Carol at family functions. They always came if they could. I am praying we can find peace in knowing he is not suffering and will be honored in Heaven for the wonderful man he was..... See you all Thursday.

Tracy Anson Brackney - June 02, 2018 at 09:18 AM