

Leo Frank Bittner, 89, of Devils Lake, ND, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Thursday, September 12th, 2024, at CHI St. Alexius Health in Devils Lake.

Leo was born November 16, 1934, in Grey Township to John and Mary (Gartner) Bittner. He attended school in Grey Township Consolidated School until 1948. His parents moved to Clyde, ND, in the fall of 1948 and he graduated from Clyde High School in 1952. He attended Wahpeton College for Diesel/Gas Mechanics and Welding. He was drafted into the Army in April 1957 and was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where he worked as an aircraft mechanic. He was discharged in 1959, and returned to farm with his brother Ken.

In 1960, he met the love of his life, Lillian Messner and they were married on November 10, 1960, at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Langdon, ND. In the winters, he and his brother Ken ran the Polaris Shop in Clyde, which provided endless hours of snowmobiling fun for his kids. Leo loved to be involved in the community. He was a Hunter Safety Educator, Assistant Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 99, and served on the Munich School Board as president for 13 of the 19 years he was elected. They moved to Devils Lake in 1995 but he continued to help on the farm, and especially enjoyed running a combine in the fall. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus for nearly 60 years, serving as both Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator. Leo was an avid gunsmith and skilled woodworker, and he created many works of art through the years. These hobbies fostered many friendships as he greatly enjoyed visiting and getting to know his clients.

Leo was a faith-filled man of high integrity and cherished his family. He was a devoted husband, Dad, grandpa, and great grandpa. He loved playing cards and taught many games to his grandkids. His little smirk and endless sense of humor will be missed by all.

He is survived by his loving wife, Lillian, his children: Larry (Tracy) Bittner of Chesapeake, VA.; Dean (Heidi) Bittner, Devils Lake, ND.; Michele (Don) Schommer, Munich, ND.; Diann (Tim) Egeland, Grand Forks, ND.; Michael (Jennifer) Bittner, Thompson, ND. Grandchildren: Brian (Kaylah), Megan (Collin), Jessica (Grant), Nicholas (Rachel), Natalie (Nick), Eric (Kathy), Jared (Kirsten), Trevor (Emily), Kelsie (Kelly), Brittany (Ethan), Mandi (Keenan), Ashley (Owen), Kaden, Declan and Beckett and 25 Great Grandchildren. Many nieces, nephews and their families also survive.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents, siblings: Alvin (Catherine), Elmer (DeLoris), Helen (Nick Schottenbauer), Ken (Josie).

Remembering With Love



Leo Bittner

Close The Gate

For this one farmer the worries are over,
lie down and rest your head,
Your time has been and struggles enough,
put the tractor in the shed.

Years were not easy, many downright hard,
but your faith in God transcended,
Put away your tools and sleep in peace.
The fences have all been mended.

You raised a fine family,
worked the land well and always followed the Son,
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn;
your work here on earth is done.

A faith few possess led your journey through life,
often a jagged and stony way,
The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded,
and here now is the end of your day.

Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin;
the stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your work boots
in the puddle left by blessed rain one final time.

You always believed that the good Lord would provide
and He always had somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down,
no more sweat and worry for you now.

Your labor is done, your home now is heaven;
no more must you wait,
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land,
and we will close the gate.

*Our Beloved Husband, Dad, Grandfather,
Great Grandfather, Uncle, Friend and Child of God*

Leo Frank Bittner

November 16, 1934 ~ September 12, 2024

ROSARY, SCRIPTURE SERVICE AND TIME OF SHARING

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Devils Lake, North Dakota

Friday, September 20, 2024 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Led by Reverend Mr. Jeffrey Vaagen, Deacon

4th Degree Knights of Columbus Honor Guard

Rosary led by the Knight of Columbus

Music by the Ternes Family

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Saturday, September 21, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church.

CELEBRANT

Reverend Bernard Pfau

MUSIC

Lynne Webster, Vocalist

Patty Cote, Vocalist and Organist

LECTORS

Mike Bittner and Diann Egeland

GIFT BEARERS

Grandchildren

Megan Meador, Jessica Ruehle, Natalie Crawford, Kelsie Bosch,

Brittany Plemel, Mandi Hayes, Ashley Egeland, Beckett Bittner

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Larry Bittner, Dean Bittner, Michele Schommer

CASKET BEARERS

Brian Bittner ~ Eric Schommer ~ Trevor Schommer

Nick Bittner ~ Kaden Bittner ~ Declan Bittner

HONORARY BEARERS

Jared Schommer ~ Kendal Mautz ~ Beckett Bittner ~ John Bittner

Roger Bittner ~ Doug Bittner ~ Jerry Bittner

EARTHLY PLACE OF REST

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery

Devils Lake, North Dakota

MILITARY HONORS

Accorded by the Neathery-Simensen Post #756

Devils Lake Veterans of Foreign Wars

North Dakota Military Funeral Honors Team-Army