



Leonard Anthony Bear

June 3, 1936 - November 20, 2021

Leonard Anthony Bear, 85, a long-time Hornbrook resident, passed away suddenly due to complications from a stroke on November 20, 2021, at Mercy Medical Center Mt. Shasta surrounded by his loving wife, Phyllis Bear; son, Ron Bear; and daughter, Kelly Bear.

Leonard was born in Long Prairie, Minnesota on June 3, 1936, to Francis and Frank Bear. He moved out west with his parents at an early age. He grew up and attended school in the Seattle and Woodburn area with his ten siblings. After graduating high school in Seattle in 1955, he moved to Hornbrook, CA, where his father owned a ranch. He worked on the family ranch and attended two years at Southern Oregon College in Ashland, studying pre-engineering before being drafted into the army.

After getting out of the army in 1961, he purchased the family ranch and worked at the sawmill in Hornbrook. In 1962 he met the love of his life, Phyllis Epley, in Hornbrook, and they were married July 26, 1964, in San Jose. They worked hand-in-hand on the ranch for the last 57 years.

During the first few years of marriage, he worked for Spearin Brothers Logging, worked on his ranch raising hogs, and purchased the Hornbrook Water Company. Together they welcomed two children, Ron in 1966 and Kelly in 1968.

Leonard continued to work several jobs at a time to provide for his family all while continuing to farm and raise cattle. Over the years he worked: at Hornbrook Elementary School as a bus driver and custodian for 20 years; built many homes and did backhoe work in the area; owned a water well drilling company for several years; was president of Cottonwood Irrigation and Mining Co.; was on the Hornbrook Volunteer Fire Department for years; and Hornbrook Elementary school board.

Starting in 1985, he worked side-by-side with his son, Ron, building homes in Siskiyou County. He continued to do this up until his last days. It was quite an accomplishment to see four generations together on job sites the last few years.

He never truly retired. He was always out working the land, helping on the job site, and helping his fellow community members. In 2018 a wildfire swept across Hornbrook and his ranch. Many neighbors evacuated but Leonard stayed to make fire breaks around their homes and saved many of them. The love and dedication he had for Hornbrook was shown with endless hours donated to bettering the community for no other reason than it was his home.

Leonard was a devoted father and loving husband. He loved his family, ranch, and pets beyond compare. He had a kind and gentle heart. He especially loved his dogs, taking them for several walks every day. Leonard was an avid conversationalist. Boy did he love to talk. He would bend your ear for quite some time.

Leonard is survived by his wife of 57 years, Phyllis Bear; son, Ron Bear; and daughter, Kelly Bear all of Hornbrook; three grandchildren: Colton, Brenten, and Evan Bear; and numerous great-grandchildren. He also has many nieces, nephews and extended family members who will miss him very much.

Our family would like to express our great appreciation to Mercy Medical Center Mt. Shasta and to all of their staff for providing excellent care in his final days.

There will be a graveside service at 1 pm Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Hornbrook Cemetery. A celebration of life will follow at the Hornbrook Community Bible Church. You are welcome to bring a pot-luck style dish or your favorite dessert to share along with your memories of Leonard to celebrate his life.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 04:02 PM

MC

“ @It was a Honor knowing you leonard, Thanks for the advice you shared with me every Sunday at the cemetery. I'll try it pretty soon. Thanks for being a good friend.

Michael Cross - November 28, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Leonard was the best neighbor ever. He was always ready to help. We enjoyed his visits, his knowledge, his stories and looking out the window and seeing him walking his dogs or going back and forth on a tractor as he tended to his field. When a Polaris ATV was delivered to Jesse on a flatbed truck with no ramps (all the way from Michigan), Leonard showed up with his backhoe and saved the day. He came out to help, not even knowing that we needed (though Leonard probably saw that there were no ramps). We're still trying to upload the video of Leonard and the backhoe. We will get it to family. When Leonard visited, he always declined offers of food because Phyllis had something wonderful waiting for him. Leonard was a special man! He loved to help. He did more for Hornbrook than can be remembered. He cared about friends, family, and community. Leonard's spirit will always be here in Hornbrook. We are grateful that we got to know Leonard and his family. -Jesse Fowler and Janet Fowler

J Fowler - December 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ Phyllis, Ron and Kelly, My heart is deeply grieving for all of you. I didn't know until late yesterday that Leonard had passed away. I have the most special memories of many, many conversations we had throughout my years teaching at Hornbrook Elementary. He loved giving me a hard time (for fun) and I always loved returning "the favor" although he was much better at it than I. Oh and the many field trips my students and I took with Leonard as bus driver. I always appreciated his expectations of children behaving on the bus and as he'd get after them if they did otherwise. The kids couldn't get away with anything when he was driving and they knew it. I remember his smile, his sense of humor and his endless love for each of you as well as for his grandchildren. Leonard was a very special man who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. I'm grateful for the many memories that I have of our years together. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend his Celebration of Life service tomorrow as I'm a care giver now for my husband who is in late stage Alzheimer's. Please know that I my prayers are with each one of you grieve and that Leonard will always have a very special place in my heart. Pamela O'Neill

Pamela O'Neill - December 03, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Leonard helped so many, may his memory live on as vivid as his life. May the fond memories get the family through this difficult time.

Terry & Shannon Salvestro - December 03, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ He will be in my special prayers. Growing up, he was the best Uncle anyone could have had. Uncle Leonard was so much fun. He always took time for his nieces & nephews when we were around him. Uncle Leonard & his loving family are in my happy thoughts & prayers. He leaves a legacy of love of family. Sincerely, Maureen (LeBrun) Sterling

Maureen (LeBrun) Sterling - December 01, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ We will miss Leonard terribly. We plant this tree as a remembrance to Leonard and to our friendship which has flourished over the years. Our Love.

John Swanson and Dawn Van Pelt - November 27, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Our condolences to the family. A good man.

DaveSuzanne Liddick - November 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ My condolences to his family and friends. Rest in peace!

Sharon Hall - November 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ We will miss Leonard! He was a strong and smart patriarch for his family and country. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Rebecca Willis - November 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ So sorry for your liss

Joanne Henson - November 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ So sorry for your loss sending prayers

Joanne Henson - November 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Prayers and hugs Phyllis to you and family

Mary Blackwell - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Sad loss. Condolences to Phyllis and family. ❤️


Charlene Broce - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ What a guy and what a worker! Truly was one of my favorites back in my lumber yard days. My sincere condolences to the family. Glad I was able to meet such a good hard working and interesting man.

Billy Saul - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ What an amazing obituary. He lived a fantastic and interesting life


Matt Milan - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ May this tree grow tall and strong just like you did Leonard Bear. RIP. , with love from Charlie & Jennifer Picklesimer

Charlie & Jennifer Picklesimer - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ *My heart is broken over the loss of this great man. He has been a loyal and true friend to the Fowler family and we will really miss his warm smile.*

Adrienne Fowler Rogers - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *So sad to hear this. Prayers for the family.*

Denise Lucas - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *So sorry for the loss of your Friend, my thoughts are with you*

Linda Forman - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Condolences to the family*

Rose Cardoza - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Condolences to you guys
Remember when I put in my septic Leonard did the work
When a new inspector challenged his work he really took her to
task. Lol
He was right of course
A good man*

Rich McCurdy - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Our condolences to the family*

Jeri Smith - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ I am so sad to hear about Leonard. Sending prayers to family Ron Bear Evan Bear and Colton Bear

Earlene Gibson - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Leonard's passing. 😞 He was such an amazing beautiful person! It was such an honor to know this man. He had such a beautiful spirit about him and he always touched my heart whenever I saw and spoke with him. He shared so many beautiful stories about his life, his family, and his community, all while working and beautifying my property! He will be terribly missed by so many people, I know this because I already miss the idea of not being able to hear him share his beautiful stories and wisdom with me. May he Rest In Peace. ❤️

Linda C Mejia - November 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Im so sad to hear the loss of Leonard. One of the kindest man Ive known. I remember he coming to my house when Ron was installing a door. Leonard carried my little Doxie that had had back surgery around making sure she wouldnt get hurt with work going on. When it was time to go I wasnt sure he was going to give her back. Rest in paradise Leonard you were one of a kind!

Tish McCollom - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ May your hearts find some comfort in the memories you share. Our many condolences 🙏
Chris and Catey

Catherine Olivolo - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Condolences to the Bear family ❤️

Sherri Walters - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Rest In Peace 🙏🙏



Marsha Farley - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Uncle Leonard was such a special man. A devoted husband, father, uncle and friend. He had a wonderful sense of humor and gentleness about him. He was known for asking his nephews... "my goodness, how tall are you?" Of course these young nephews would proudly respond with their height; at which time Uncle Leonard would promptly reply, "I didn't know they could stack crap (he used sh*t LOL) that high!" We'd all laugh. It was all in fun. He was the last living child of Frances and Frank Bear. It's difficult to lose the last of your Aunts/Uncles. You will be missed Uncle Leonard. My thoughts, love and prayers to Phyllis, Ron, Kelly and family.



Joyce Bowman - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for Leonard Anthony Bear - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Prayers and condolences to the family 🙏🙏

Jeanne Lewis McKown - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ My condolences to the family. Rest In Peace Leonard 🙏

Marsha Farley - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Oh so sorry to hear this. Sincere condolences to the family.

Tracy Louie - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ What an great man he will be missed rip

Suzanne Hott - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ In loving memory of the best uncle Leonard Bear. From Leonard and Velanne Mendenhall

Leonard Mendenhall - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Sending. Move a d condenses to the Bear Family , so sorry for your loss.

Robin Mathus - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ RIP. So very sorry for your loss. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Kristen Naylor - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Roger and I are so sorry for your loss.

Janet Gamache - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Sorry to hear this. RIP. Condolences to Ron and family.





Deana Bailey Farrington - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Was a Great Man. He was Loved and will be missed.

Debbie Rush - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ We are so sorry for your loss  sending prayers for the whole family   

Janine Ling Kimball - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM