



Leonard "Lennie" F. O'Brien

March 5, 1953 - November 27, 2020

Leonard F. "Lennie" O'Brien of Northport died unexpectedly on Friday, November 27, 2020 at Munson Medical Center. He was born March 5, 1953, the second son to his parents Marvin and Arlene (Overby) O'Brien.

Lennie, along with his five brothers and one sister, were raised in Traverse City's Central Neighborhood where there was always a ballgame to be played or some "pickle" in the backyard. Lennie was an accomplished athlete at St. Francis High School and later honed his skills in the city's fast pitch softball leagues at the old Walt Warren Field.

He began his professional career at PepsiCo and was employed for several years in the beverage industry, working his way up from a route driver to a district manager for the company. Always the consummate salesman, at the time of his death was employed as a sales advisor for Serra Toyota in Traverse City. There he forged loyal relationships with scores of customers who appreciated his knowledge and expertise, and was a valued friend and mentor to many of his associates.

Lennie was blessed with a quick wit and big smile. He was a man of his word and everyone knew where they stood with him. He enjoyed working in his bountiful gardens and then canning his produce. He was proud of his culinary skills and well known for his homemade salsa, and always made enough chili to share with family and friends. On September 1, 2007 he married Margo Lori - his true soulmate. They loved their fishing vacations in the Upper Peninsula and riding their Harleys together. Lennie truly loved his family; they meant the world to him.

In addition to his wife Margo, he is survived by his three sons and their families. Lennie always took special pride in the academic, athletic and professional accomplishments of his boys and their families, including son Chris and his wife Jen, Tim and his wife Natalie, and Kyle and his wife Kathy. He was also beloved by his four grandchildren Michael, Olivia, Sophia and Carter. He's also survived by his mother Arlene O'Brien, brothers Bob, Gus, Dale and Bill, and his sister Jean Livingston. He also leaves behind several special

nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by the mother of his children, Jane (Benson) O'Brien, his father Marvin, brother Alan, infant brother Gregory and brother-in-law Don Livingston.

Friends are welcome to visit with Lennie's family from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St. Traverse City, Michigan 49684. A Public Virtual Funeral Service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at www.rjfh.tv.

Memorials may be directed to Munson Medical Center's Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center, 1105 Sixth Street, Traverse City Michigan, 49684.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Lennie's family at his tribute page at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

DEC **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

1

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

DEC **Public Virtual Funeral Webcasting** 11:00AM

2

www.rjfh.tv
MI, US

Comments



“ Colleen Davidson Benedict lit a candle in memory of Leonard "Lennie" F. O'Brien



Colleen Davidson Benedict - December 10, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ Lennie was cool in ways that went beyond just being cool. I was twelve years old when I first met Lennie - he was my brother Bob's good friend. He could've been a putz to a younger kid (it was a right in our neighborhood!) but, instead, Lennie would find some words to make you smile. Might be encouragement, might be a joke, might just be something silly. He let you know the world was okay and you were, too. I loved running into him around town as adults - he was still that cool, great guy. Say hi to my brother for me, Lennie. You were the kind of guy this world needs more of.

Jack Lane - December 10, 2020 at 11:45 PM



“ Chris, Tim and Kyle- so sorry about your Dad. Any time I was having my oil changed, your Dad would call me over and visit while I waited for my car. He kept me up with what you were doing and I could tell how proud he was of each of you. Then we'd talk SF sports. I bought a car from him in May. He made sure I got the best deal and patiently answered all of my father's questions. He took such care the whole way. He wanted everyone to know what I did at SF and why they needed to give me a good deal. I will miss my visits with him. My prayers and sympathies to you...

Lynne Lombard - December 03, 2020 at 10:30 PM



“ From all of us at Superior Times Resort, "Presque Isle" will always be Lennie's cabin. He could always be caught sitting by the fire, reading a book. September just won't be the same without him. He was part of our extended family and will forever be missed. Love, Tom, Heather, Marcia and Roger.

Heather Holmstrom - December 03, 2020 at 12:43 PM



“ Margo, so sorry for your loss. Lennie was surely one of the good guys. May he rest in piece. Uncle Sonny

Germaine L. Overby - December 03, 2020 at 11:05 AM



“ To the O'Brien family. So sorry to here of Lennie"s Passing. remembering all the good times on the Ball field at Empire. Their was only one Lennie. Our prayers are with all the
O'Brien Family

Heavy & Jean Breithaupt

John Breithaupt - December 02, 2020 at 08:39 PM



“ To the Obrien family, Very nice service, watched on line, I new Lennie when he was a route salesman for Pepsi , We would get to Meijer's real early in the morning, I was a route salesman for cains potato chips, He was always a nice guy and funny . Very Very hard worker, that man worked!!!!,The man working the back door at Meijer's was giving Lennie a bad time one morning and Lennie, he didn't any crap from anybody, and told the guy, you can just get your Pepsi from somebody else, and started walking to his truck, the guy was in hot pursuit to say he was sorry, They got along pretty good after that, i knew Marv O'Brian from cone drive, Gus from dockside market, and a Obrien that worked for coxs and son , Never met an Obrien , that i didn't like. From the looks of his wonderful family, He did a good job, Rest in peace Lennie! , I am proud of you, Randy Learmonth

Randall Learmonth - December 02, 2020 at 05:55 PM



“ Lennie was my classmate from first through twelfth grade. I will miss his smile, sense of humor... and ALL that he was!!! I know he had a relationship with Jesus. When his sons played ball... I saw the proud dad. In more recent years, I saw the happy husband and grandpa. I saw a man at peace with his life... I saw the joy he felt for all he had. I watched the service... his brave sons and their tributes were beautiful. To Lennie's mom... his wife, sons... family... I want you to know, I am sorry for your loss. I grieve that he is gone. I will miss him...so much.

Jan Cleland - December 02, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ Lennie was a strong and generous person. I am glad my sister met and married him. Margo always had dogs in their family and they gravitated to him, crawling up on his lap and nuzzling him. He did not bat an eye when I arrived to visit them with my two dogs, making the animal count to six dogs and two cats. I am honored to have met Lennie and wish Margo and the O'Brien family peace and love.

Beth

Beth Lori - December 02, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ We had the privilege of meeting Lennie and celebrated our children's wedding together. I remember standing next to him during the celebration and him telling me how proud he was of Tim. His wonderful spirit will live on in his children and grandchildren. Our prayers are with Margo, Gigi, and all of his family and friends during this difficult time. Love, the Brokaw Family

Renee Brokaw - December 02, 2020 at 10:45 AM



“ To Leonard's family and Aunt Arlene and Family.... we are very sad to hear of Leonard's passing. Sending all of you much love and prayers. With much love, Gayle and Dan Gasior

Gayle Gasior - December 02, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ Never ever have I had more fun buying a car than when I bought my Audi from Lennie. He was funny and obviously well liked. Most notably he was regarded as a good and honorable man. Margo, you are very much on my mind. My heart, prayers and thoughts go out to you and the family. This is a very sad day but somehow I know I'll smile every time I think of my charming and delightful pal Lennie.
Judy Frederick

Judy Frederick - December 01, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Lenny's passing. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time.

Paul and Maryanna

Paul J Hathaway - December 01, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ Rest peacefully Lennie... your family will always be in our hearts. Kyle - the many friendships and fun you boys all had for many years will never be forgotten. These friendships led to us parents bonding closely within our GTACS family. We will always treasure those times!

Scott Page - December 01, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ Margo so sorry to hear... May he rest in peace and may his memories find peace in you.

Mary - December 01, 2020 at 01:37 PM



“ From all of us at MFD Classic Motors we are so saddened by Linnie's passing. He was such a gentleman with the BIGGEST smile a person could radiate!
We not only enjoyed his auto enthusiasm but he was a true friend!
Our prayers and heart felt condolences go out to his family and many friends.
He will be missed but hardly forgotten!!
Mike & Daw Fisher

Mike Fisher - December 01, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ To the O'Brien family - Lenny was a joy to be around and always made us laugh. We spent many wonderful times with him and the kids. And he will be missed by all. Chris, Tim and Kyle your parents will always be your heart as they loved you and were so proud of your successes. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

With deepest sympathy
Loretta and Joan

Joan - December 01, 2020 at 09:56 AM



“ May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face...

Rest easy Lennie, we knew each other for only a short while, but I learned a great deal from you.

"LB" - December 01, 2020 at 08:33 AM



“ What a shock to hear of Leonard's passing. We in the neighborhood called him OB. Our parents always knew where we were, because we were always at Central grade school.. playing football(on the front lawn) or basketball on the outside court...or on saturday's on the inside court.What fun to grow up in that neighborhood. Arlene, Bob, Gus, Dale, Bill, and Jean your family will always be in my heart. I'm so sorry for your loss. Cal Sheehy.

cal sheehy - November 30, 2020 at 10:45 PM



“ Though I only met him at the Wedding of Tim and Natalie, I remember his wit and charm. He loved his children and will forever live on in their hearts! RIP
Lisa and Sydney Toole

Lisa Toole - November 30, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ Lennie, It was simply a pleasure to know you and work with you in our profession of assisting others with their transportation needs .Trust your knowledge and true professionalism carried over to the younger staff and they respected you personally for that example on a daily basis, I Did. Thank you for the opportunity of working with you God' Speed

martin - November 30, 2020 at 07:52 PM



“ Sending hugs and prayers to his three wonderful sons, and his mom, Arlene. An extra hug to Kyle. Kyle, we love you very much! You and your dad have always had a very special place in our hearts! May you feel the presence of both your mom and dad in your hearts as they look down on you from heaven.

Chuck and Nancy Hathaway - November 30, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ Oh my goodness, what a character and how Lennie could make me laugh! I met him when purchasing a vehicle and then purchased another with him. Lennie, you will be missed by this customer and my thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Diana Mack - November 30, 2020 at 09:27 AM



“ Jean- our hearts are breaking with you! Thinking of you and your family at this difficult time! All our love the Benkens

Cindy Benken - November 29, 2020 at 09:31 PM



“ My dear Leonard - we helped each other in difficult times. I will miss him so much. God speed dear brother, until we meet again.
Love, Sis

Jean Livingston - November 29, 2020 at 06:09 PM



“ Margo, to you and your family my sincere sympathy. I met Lennie, 7 years ago when my husband died and I was trying to decide what car I should choose. Lennie, a true gentleman, had the patience of Job with me. His humor, guidance, and kindness is unforgettable and I am now in my third “Lennie O'Brien car”. Over the years I would have conversations when my cars were being serviced or trading in for a new one. He always spoke with such pride and love for you and the family. I feel blessed to have met Lennie and pray that the love and memories you all have will bring you peace.

Mary Bales - December 01, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ Lennie was an incredible person. I had the true privilege to be one of his doctors for a while, and I never met anyone with as much resilience and inner strength. He was also one of nicest guys I will ever know. You have my most sincere sympathy.

Bob Hall

Bob Hall - December 02, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ Dear Margo, sorry to see Lennie passed away. He was a great guy and a special father and husband. Bless you and may he Rest In Peace

John Handloser

JohnHandloser - December 02, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ To my friends the O'Brien brothers; This really saddens me. I hope you're all coping.

Rick Shimel

Rick Shimel - December 03, 2020 at 04:31 PM