



## Dennis Ray Leonard

September 30, 1951 - June 8, 2023

Dennis R. Leonard of Sahuarita, AZ, formally of Willcox AZ. Passed away June 8, 2023, at the age of 71. Dennis suffered from Pulmonary fibrosis and heart failure.

Dennis was born in Hugoton, Kansas September 30, 1951, the youngest of seven to Harry Leonard and Lorraine Leonard. Dennis grew up in Copeland, Kansas and upon High School Graduation he went on to Dodge City Community College on a football scholarship and later transferred to Northwestern Okla. State University and played two more years of football. Dennis married his High School sweetheart, Kathy Collett, July 31, 1971. Dennis earned a bachelor's degree in social studies and athletic training. He also earned a Masters of Elementary education at NWOSU. His thirst for knowledge allowed Dennis to have a Masters plus 45.

Upon college graduation, Dennis and Kathy moved to Arizona. He taught school for 37 years, first at Springerville, AZ. Wellton, AZ. He spent his last 32 years at Willcox middle school.

Dennis is survived by wife Kathy, brother Deryl Leonard and Sharon Leonard, stepsister Ginger Mostrom and stepbrother Johnny Pfifer, and a host of nieces, nephews, and a best all what he called his kids if they were his students at WMS.

Dennis and Kathy loved to travel and after retirement they really hit the road to see as much of the USA as possible. They also enjoyed the Yucatan of Mexico, all the Hawaiian island and any cruise they could snag.

Dennis enjoyed teaching, coaching and just being around kids. His favorite years were at the middle school. Through the years he coached football, boys, girls' basketball, track, and baseball. His teams brought home one basketball state championship and a state runner up. Numerous conference titles in football and basketball.

Dennis was a stern but caring teacher. His goal was to make each and every student a better person and guide them into adulthood,

A celebration of life to honor Dennis will be 10:30 am on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at the Willcox Middle School gym. Arrangements entrusted to Westlawn Chapel, Mortuary and Crematory of Willcox, Arizona.

Kathy asks that donations be made in his honor to the Sahuarita Food Bank, 17750 S. LaCanada Dr. Sahuarita, Az. 85629 It broke his heart to see any child go hungry.

In honor of Coach please wear Red which was his favorite color. Thank You.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82399712401?pwd=MGJwUHZhWHoxNGhYQjZ0R1hNTVt09>

Meeting ID: 823 9971 2401

Passcode: 403637

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP **23**. 10:30 AM (MT)

Willcox Middle School Gym  
360 N. Bisbee Ave  
Willcox, AZ 85643

*In honor of Coach please wear Red which was his favorite color. Thank You*

# Tribute Wall

FK

“ *Frances Kreger lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard*



Frances Kreger - September 24, 2023 at 01:23 PM

CS

“ *Crystal Scheu lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard*



Crystal Scheu - September 19, 2023 at 02:51 PM

CS

“ *Coach Leonard was wonderful. He coached and mentored our children, showing them love and teaching them respect. You coached my kids in basketball, track and wrestling. I will always remember your teasing about the faces I made when my son was being twisted up like a pretzel while wrestling! Thank you Dennis and God Bless you for all you did for our kids.*

Crystal Scheu - September 19, 2023 at 02:32 PM

CP

“ *A good man who will be missed.*

Cynthia R. Peterson - September 18, 2023 at 09:21 PM

CR

“ *Cyn Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard*



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**Cyn Reynolds** - July 13, 2023 at 12:38 PM

CB

“ *Our sincere condolences to Kathy and family.*

*Marty & Cheryl Bowlby*

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**Cheryl Bowlby** - June 29, 2023 at 01:52 AM

CV

“ *Dennis was my father's first cousin, I met Dennis a couple of times in my life but he always told me the story about him babysitting me at his Grandma Alma's funeral. I was only about a month old and pretty fussy, but he decided he could keep me calm. He said he picked me up and I grabbed a hold of his finger and starred at him. When he moved his hand I would cry, he said his finger was my comfort around strange people. He said I had the largest eyes for a one month old and I would go far. He knew that by looking into my eyes. He really didn't know me, but was very positive about me and made sure to let me know the few times we met.*

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**Christy Leonard VanZant** - June 26, 2023 at 07:33 AM



“ Gerri Roberts lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



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**Gerri Roberts** - June 14, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis Ray Leonard.

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June 14, 2023 at 02:14 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis Ray Leonard.

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June 14, 2023 at 02:10 AM



“ Coach Leonard was an amazing human being. He made a difference in so many kids lives in Willcox. He was tough but really cared about the students he taught. My brother thought the world of him and I know the feeling was mutual. He made me a highlight reel of Gib playing football for him after my brother passed. That dvd means the world to me and my family. Thanks coach for being there for all of us; your kids/students. You meant the world to so many and will be sorely missed.

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**Wendy Cohorn** - June 14, 2023 at 01:56 AM

EG

“ *What a guy! Influenced and blessed so many lives via his very presence at Willcox schools. Was, indeed, a blessing and major support to me as a newbie/rookie/scared teacher in his first classroom back in 2000. "Love'em, Earl, but don't take any guff!" God bless you, sweet Kathy. Coach is certainly missed, but remembered forever.*

*Earl & Wanda Goolsby, Yukon, Oklahoma*

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**Earl Goolsby** - June 13, 2023 at 12:42 PM

DA

“ *What a wonderful man! What a wonderful life! Such a blessing to spend your time on this Earth with the love of your life, doing what you love! Coach was greatly loved & will be missed by many! Peace & comfort to you, Kathy.*

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**Debbie Atwood** - June 13, 2023 at 11:46 AM

FG

“ *Our deepest condolences to the family.*



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**Frank Susie Gonzales** - June 12, 2023 at 04:33 PM

Jl

“ *All of our deepest heart felt sympathies in your loss*

*Jim and Kathy Cook*

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**James B Cook II** - June 12, 2023 at 09:51 AM

GM

“ Gus Rita Morales sent a virtual gift in memory of Dennis Leonard



Gus & Rita Morales - June 12, 2023 at 09:39 AM

JB

“ Johnny Donna Brown lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



Johnny and Donna Brown - June 11, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ Betsy Ajeman lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



Betsy Ajeman - June 11, 2023 at 06:57 AM

AT

“ Anselmo Bertha Torres sent a virtual gift in memory of Dennis Leonard



Anselmo & Bertha Torres - June 10, 2023 at 08:41 PM

BB

“ I so enjoyed the times we worked together and the laughs we shared

Bonnie Barton - June 10, 2023 at 05:27 PM

CD

“ Dickson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



Carol Dickson - June 10, 2023 at 02:51 PM

JA

“ John Susan Arbuthnot lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



John and Susan Arbuthnot - June 10, 2023 at 01:11 PM

LB

“ We lost a good man who touched the lives of children for many, many years with tough love, caring and coaching! Heaven gained a wonderful man, a precious friend and mentor whom we will never forget!

LaDonna Burgess - June 10, 2023 at 12:07 PM

CD

“ *Carol Dunlap lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard*



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**Carol Dunlap** - June 10, 2023 at 12:44 AM

DR

“ *Denise Gary Runyon lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard*



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**Denise & Gary Runyon** - June 09, 2023 at 09:26 PM

BT

“ *Dennis was a great teacher and a man of great integrity.*

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**Ben J Travis** - June 09, 2023 at 04:42 PM

CC

“ *What an awesome man, he will be missed by many. Kathy your in our thought and prayers.*



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**Carol Case** - June 09, 2023 at 03:30 PM

NC

“ *Nivk Lynn Cleckler lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard*



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**Nivk & Lynn Cleckler** - June 09, 2023 at 03:08 PM

JW

“ *He was such a great guy. He was my coach in Middle school. He will be deeply missed.*

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**Juliana Wilkinson** - June 09, 2023 at 02:08 PM

KT

“ *Kathy Thatcher lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard*



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**Kathy Thatcher** - June 09, 2023 at 01:21 PM

JR

“ *Janna Riggs lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard*



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**Janna Riggs** - June 09, 2023 at 01:12 PM

SL

“ RIP Coach Leonard !



Sheena Logan - June 09, 2023 at 01:00 PM

PA

“ Pat lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



Pat - June 09, 2023 at 11:27 AM

ST

“ Coach Leonard was a fantastic educator and one of the kindest people I ever encountered throughout my academic career . He was an ever encouraging presence and cared about each of his students . Thanks for the memories rest easy .



Shawnda Tobias - June 09, 2023 at 10:54 AM

PT

“ Paige Travis lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



Paige Travis - June 09, 2023 at 10:54 AM

TF

“ When my two boys were in Middle School, Lee was on the basketball teams, and since we lived so far away in Dragoon, Coach let Skylar be the "manager" and help with the practices and home games. Then, when the games were to the west of town, he would make arrangements to drop the boys of to me at the "Thing" so we wouldn't have to drive so far. He will be greatly missed by the Stoddard family

The Stoddard Family - June 09, 2023 at 10:45 AM

FR

“ Coach Leonard was a inspiration and mentor, he will be missed.



Freddie Romero - June 09, 2023 at 10:17 AM

ES

“ Eva Smith lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



Eva Smith - June 09, 2023 at 09:03 AM



“ Betsy Ajeman lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



Betsy Ajeman - June 09, 2023 at 07:19 AM

SK

“ Coach impacted so many lives and always made you feel like you mattered and he cared about each of his students. You will be missed, but know your impact on all of us will continue to live in all of us. RIP Coach!



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**Samantha Kimzey** - June 09, 2023 at 12:27 AM

WH

“ So sorry to hear about Dennis. You two were so happy together.

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**William Holloway** - June 08, 2023 at 11:50 PM

GA

“ Gussie Sharon Arzberger lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard



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**Gussie and Sharon Arzberger** - June 08, 2023 at 11:06 PM