



Leon "Bud" Ledson

June 27, 1924 - November 18, 2019

Leon "Bud" Ledson, 95 years old

Born: June 27, 1924 – Lenore, WV

Died: November 18, 2019 - Tallahassee, FL

Bud left Lenore in 1942 at the age of 17 to join the Marines and serve in WWII. While in the Marines, he served in St. Thomas, USVI, was a tail gunner in a Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber for the VMS3 Squadron Devil Birds, and fought on Iwo Jima and Okinawa, Japan where he earned a purple heart. He met Alice Jean Livingston at a Coke machine on a Navy base in Norman, Oklahoma and were married two weeks later just before he left for overseas duty. They were married for 57 years until her death in 2001. Bud and Alice Jean had two sons, Leon "Sonny", who passed away in 2000 and Richard. He was an ordained minister and deacon at Orchard Farm Baptist Church in St. Charles, Missouri and a chaplain in the Sheriff's Department there. Bud kept a daily diary beginning when he was 12 years old with a wealth of information and historical documentation. He loved to paint and gave many of his paintings away to friends and family. He was a member of Community Baptist Church, the Marine Corp League, the Historical Society and the Tallahassee Clock Makers.

Bud was preceded in death by his parents, Marion and Florence Ledson, four sisters; Sinda Floyd, Bertha Smith, Mable Hall and Dora "Sis" Mayberry, and

step-brother Gus Thompson.

Bud is survived by his brother, Marion Clay Ledson Jr, of Lenore, WV and his son Richard Lee Ledson, daughter-in-law, Benna, of Tallahassee, FL two grandchildren, Richard Lee Ledson II. of New York, NY and Tiffany Ledson Wendland of Street, MD, four great-grandchildren, Richard "Tres" Ledson of Dyess Air Force Base, TX, Mackenzie Ledson-Ellwein of Albuquerque, NM, and Sierra and Colton Wendland of Street, MD .

Services will be held with a full Military Honor Guard at Bethany Old Regular Baptist Church in Lenore, WV at 5:00 pm on Friday, Nov. 22. He will be laid to rest at the Ledson Family Cemetery on Saturday, November 23 at 11:00 am.

Bud will be missed by his family and many friends who loved him, his singing, and his stories.

Previous Events

Service

NOV **22**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Bethney Old Regular Baptist
Lenore, WV

Graveside Service

NOV **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ledson Family Cemetery
Lenore, WV

Tribute Wall

DW

“ My wife and I were neighbors of Mr. Bud in Tallahassee. We adored him. He was like our neighborhood grandfather. We moved to Atlanta in 2018 and are so sorry to just recently learn of his passing. He was always a happy man, full of faith and amazing stories. He blessed us with copies of his books and a painting of JFK when we got married. His rich wisdom and love lives on in us. We miss you so much Mr. Bud, your courage and strength, but we know we'll see you again. Dwight&Soyini

Dwight and Soyini Webbe - December 31, 2020 at 08:18 PM

RG

“ I am honored to have known Bud, whom I met through the World War II Historical Society of Tallahassee. I was on several occasions a guest in his home, where he showed me his paintings and sculptures, antique rifle, scrapbook, diaries, and scars. More importantly, Bud's stories from his upbringing during the Great Depression, combat as a Marine in the Pacific theatre, and post-war civilian life never ceased to entertain and amaze. What a privilege it is to have met this gentleman, artist, and hero. God rest his soul.

Ron Georgalis - April 26, 2020 at 10:11 PM