



Leon Swartzentruber

September 11, 1941 - April 1, 2024

Leon J. Swartzentruber, age 82 of Ubly, passed away on Monday, April 1, 2024.

He was born on September 11, 1941 in Tavistock, Ontario, Canada, to the late Vernon and Elizabeth (Christner) Swartzentruber. He married Susan Frederick on April 2, 1966.

Leon loved to help people and was a consummate storyteller. He thoroughly enjoyed hard work outdoors and had many projects and dreams of future projects throughout his life.

Leon had a wide variety of life experiences and adventures. His family immigrated to Sebawaing, Michigan, from Canada when he was 7, where he grew up on a family farm. He graduated from Eastern Mennonite High School in Virginia, and then from Goshen College, Indiana, with a degree in History and Psychology. He met his wife, Sue, while serving as a conscientious objector at Lankenau hospital, Pennsylvania, as research subject for the space program. He was very proud of the contributions of work they did there. He sold encyclopedias door-to-door as a national sales trainer, was an insurance executive for Principal Life in Cleveland, Ohio, was a dairy farmer and then a beef farmer in Michigan, served on the Huron County DHIA (Dairy Herd Improvement) board, worked for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and finished out his work life as an Operating Engineer mainly on large civil projects.

Leon and his wife found friendship with a Japanese couple soon after marriage that lasted a lifetime. They had two Japanese exchange students that became like daughters to them. They enjoyed several trips to Japan visiting their friends. They traveled to Europe and researched the Swartzentruber family heritage in Switzerland. After retirement, Leon was active in Master Gardeners and was a Friend of the Octagon Barn.

Leon found peace at the end of his life, and he will be greatly missed by friends and family.

Leon is survived by: His wife Susan Swartzentruber of Ubly, Michigan. Children Sharon Morgan, John Swartzentruber, and James Swartzentruber. Grandchildren Grace Martin, Zachary Morgan, Hanna Martin, Caban Swartzentruber, Logan Swartzentruber, Evan Swartzentruber, Brody Swartzentruber, Violetta Swartzentruber, and 8 great-grandchildren. Siblings Elva Mast, Melva Barstow, and Harold Swartzentruber.

He was preceded in death by his father Vernon Swartzentruber, mother Elizabeth Swartzentruber, sister Joyce Marmion, and grandson Dylan Swartzentruber.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 11 am at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe. Burial will be in Valley Cemetery in Ubly, vehicle procession will be for family. Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 2 - 7 pm or Monday from 10 am until the service time at 11 am at Kaufman Funeral Home. Luncheon will be held at the Franklin Inn, Bad Axe, after the funeral service on Monday, April 8. Luncheon gathering at Franklin Inn begins at 12 pm, lunch to be served starting at 1 pm.

Donations or volunteer help for the Octagon Barn would continue Leon's

legacy: <https://www.thumboctagonbarn.org/what-we-do/join-us/>.

Cemetery Details

Valley Cemetery

Ubly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

APR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Service

APR 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

AR

“ *Susan, we are so sorry for your loss. Leon helped the Rathbun family in so many ways over decades.*

We will miss his smiling face, humor, and many stories.

Al Rathbun and family

allan rathbun - April 11, 2024 at 08:22 PM

TT

“ *Our deepest sympathies Sue and family. Sending prayers and love to all!*



Tim and Renee Terwillegar - April 09, 2024 at 12:12 PM

SC

“ *Sue and Family
Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family during this time. He is at peace now.
Sue and Len Czewski*



Susan Czewski - April 08, 2024 at 08:45 PM

BP

“ Dear Susan and Family,
When I came to Sebewaing to teach Vocational Agriculture in 1957, one of my first farm visits was to meet Leon who was enrolled in the program. The first experience left me with the beginnings of a friendship that has remained alive to this day. I was sorry to have him leave Sebewaing High School for school in the east as he showed great leadership qualities and set a good example for the other students. My family was one of his encyclopedia customers when he was engaged in that phase of his life. Within the past year, we had a good phone conversation and caught up on things. At a time like this, my prayer is that all of you will feel the presence of our Lord Jesus as you navigate life without Leon. May the message of this Easter season give you comfort, peace and hope in the days ahead.
Bob Pangman
Okemos, MI

Bob Pangman - April 05, 2024 at 01:46 PM

ML

“ Morgan and Barbret families with love planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leon Swartzentruber.

Morgan and Barbret families with love - April 04, 2024 at 02:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leon Swartzentruber.



April 04, 2024 at 02:21 PM

TH

“ So sorry for your loss. Leon will be greatly missed at The Thumb Octagon Barn.

Tammi and Tootall Ron Hensley - April 04, 2024 at 06:15 AM

FT

“ From Yoshiko, Oto, Akira, & Toru purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Leon Swartzentruber.



From Yoshiko, Oto, Akira, & Toru - April 04, 2024 at 05:38 AM

KB

“ Kurt Barstow sent a virtual gift in memory of Leon Swartzentruber



Kurt Barstow - April 04, 2024 at 01:07 AM

KB

“ Kurt Barstow lit a candle in memory of Leon Swartzentruber



Kurt Barstow - April 04, 2024 at 12:58 AM