



## Leon Edwin Criss

April 12, 1937 - March 25, 2024

Leon Edwin Criss, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend, departed from this world on March 25, 2024, at the age of 86, leaving behind a legacy of love, service, and compassion. He was born on April 12, 1937, to proud parents Paul and Lois Criss, who instilled in him values of dedication, integrity, and kindness.

Leon was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Sally Anne Criss; his beloved daughter, Ellen Leever; and his dear grandson Brandon Clowser. He is survived by his loving children Margaret (Maggie) Milhorn and Sarah Clowser. His memory will forever be cherished by his grandchildren Brian Clowser Jr., Christopher Milhorn, Jordan Milhorn, and Logan Milhorn, as well as his great-grandchildren Kamdyn Milhorn and Kynslee Milhorn. In addition, Leon is survived by his sister, Jan Averitt, and his niece, Kim Drury, who will forever hold him dear in their hearts.

Throughout his life, Leon exemplified unwavering commitment and service. He served his country with honor and distinction, dedicating eight years of his life to the U.S. Air Force. Following his military service, Leon devoted over three decades to his work at the National Security Agency, where his diligence and expertise made a lasting impact.

Leon's faith was a cornerstone of his life, and he was an active member of St. Bernard's Catholic Church. He found purpose and camaraderie in his involvement with the Knights of Columbus, where he lived out his commitment to community and service.

A pillar of his community, Leon poured his heart into coaching for the Catholic Youth Organization for two decades, shaping the lives of countless young athletes and instilling in them the values of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Above all, Leon will be remembered for his boundless generosity and his willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. His genuine kindness touched the lives of all who knew him, and his legacy of compassion will continue to inspire those he leaves behind.

As we mourn the loss of Leon Edwin Criss, we take solace in the memories he leaves behind and the profound impact he made on the lives of those around him. His spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in eternal peace.

# Tribute Wall

GW

“ Lee was a great bridge player and we had good times playing. Sorry for your loss

gladys wilson - April 02, 2024 at 10:13 PM

VG

“ Our deepest regrets from BBO, Lee's bridge playing community. I knew something happened the night while he was playing online and then stopped. I had sent an IM to Sarah Clowser trying to check on him. We will miss him along with you. We're very sad for his passing. - Vickie Geer

Vickie Geer - March 31, 2024 at 10:02 AM



We spent many hours playing bridge on BBO. My deepest condolences to all his family and friends. I will miss him. RIP my friend.

Betty Maxworth - April 03, 2024 at 01:38 AM

ME

Lee was the first person to be kind to me on BBO, that was in 2016, when I first joined. He taught me so much and was so patient and kind. I am a nite owl and so was he, we played almost every night together. He was playing right to the very end and was totally cognizant. We have all lost a very wonderful kind gentleman. I never realized how good looking he was, he never did post a photo of himself. I and the BBO community will very much miss him. The memories are all good. May your family draw strength from that.

MZ GRIZZ, my bbo name, also Ellen - April 03, 2024 at 03:18 AM

F5

I got to know Lee playing bridge on BBO late at night. He was so kind and such a gentleman. We don't know much about our BBO friends in their daily lives, but certain people stand out and that was Lee. He sounds like a wonderful man and human. I thank him for his years of service . I feel blessed to know him. Condolences to his family.

Lynnnns BBO name

Fannie 52 - April 03, 2024 at 03:41 PM

BO

Lee and I were classmates at Los Alamos High School, New Mexico. We then enrolled together at Colorado A&M (now Colorado State University). Lee, who his classmates nicknamed "Ace," was a superb athlete. He was a true friend who provided special support for me when I was struck by the polio virus, ending my own athletic attempts. I salute him for the friendship he provided to me, for his service to the nation, and for the strong family and community values he personified.

Bob B.

Bob - May 11, 2024 at 02:50 PM