



## Leonard Ray Kastner

December 30, 1940 - October 18, 2024

Funeral services for Leonard Ray Kastner, 83 of Lexington, Texas, are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at Christ Lutheran Church in Loebau, Texas with Rev. David Mumm officiating. Burial will follow in the McDade Cemetery. A luncheon and reception will follow the committal service at New Hope Lutheran Church in McDade. Visitation will be held on Friday, October 25, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The Kastner family will be present for visitation Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Leonard Ray Kastner was born December 30, 1940, near Paige to Leonard and Lydia (Laake) Kastner. He was baptized by Pastor Herman Engling on February 9, 1941, at his Grandma and Grandpa Laake's home. At less than 2 months of age he was diagnosed with pneumonia and as a last effort was one of the first ever to receive penicillin. He thankfully recovered and grew up to have a strong belief in medicine. He was confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th, 1956, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church by Pastor Engling. A verse he regularly lived by was "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians Ch 5 vs 16-18.

Leonard worked when he was just a child learning to do things the cowboy

way. Later he participated with his dad performing amazing floodwater rescues with cattle on horseback. He was hired to work cattle by local ranchers because of his reputation in the community to remove unruly cattle with the help of his horse Poncho and cow dog Buster. He traveled to the livestock shows with a lot of love for his first dairy scramble heifer and participated in 4-H and FFA. After graduating from Elgin High School Leonard roped professionally on his horse Cowgirl and broke horses. He instilled a little to a whole lot of country into every one of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was so country he often used references of his cattle to family. He used a typical, "load up" to get himself and whoever was riding with him to head to the next destination. He also knew how to live off the land and help get his herd through the droughts by burning cactus stickers or cutting down trees to feed them.

He married the love of his life, Alice Kay (Goerlitz) Kastner on June 30, 1961. They met in McDade, Texas but their love started blooming at the State Fair in Dallas. Leonard built a small house on top of a high hill where he and Alice started their lives together in McDade. He often traveled the rodeo circuit roping. But as their dreams changed and the babies arrived Leonard began working at Alcoa. The family moved to Lexington, which is where he lived when he retired. Even though Leonard was not in the rodeo circuit anymore he brought up his children riding horses. He taught them the values of hard work, harder play, and good animals. He also started his own ranch, The Kastner Kids Brahman Ranch. He and his family grew and showed champions he selected. Whatever his kids needed, he provided. He worked many hours to pay for dance and music lessons as well as travel expenses for rodeos and livestock shows. Leonard was also a big Lexington Eagles fan especially while watching his sons play Eagle Football and his daughter play in the Eagle Band. Along with all these traits he was also a Jack of all Trades and knew, in his words, "just enough to sometimes be dangerous." Between him and Alice they knew how to pinch pennies to help their children do better than them.

There were plenty of times he patched things with what he had on hand. Farm equipment was usually started on a prayer and always followed with a, "thank the Good Lord!" Credit was never taken, and all the Glory was always given to God.

After retirement Leonard and Alice spent their years together enjoying their grandchildren and great-grandchildren making many memories. They worked daily in their yard making it a tropical reprieve for all who visited. He enjoyed a good BBQ meal from Southside where he and his family had many celebrations followed by the good old Blue Bell ice cream. Leonard never wanted anyone to go hungry and made sure there was plenty for everyone, person or animal. He enjoyed many hobbies including hunting, fishing, noodle making, sausage making, antique engines and tractors, and McDade pottery. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge and history of all these things with others. He participated in the Log Cabin and Lexington Garden Club activities which allowed him to do one of the things he loved the most, visit with people. He was a man who enjoyed the slower times of getting to know others. He also regularly enjoyed his high school class reunions and attended as often as he could.

Leonard passed away the morning of Friday, October 18, 2024 at his home in Lexington.

Leonard is survived by his wife of 63 years, Alice Kastner of Lexington; his children, Margaret and Steven Rackel of McDade, Randy and Stacy Kastner of Belton, Donney and Sarah Kastner of Auburn, Kansas; his eight grandchildren, Amanda Church of McDade, Tyler Kastner, Travis Kastner, Tanner and Raenah Kastner all of Lubbock, Lauren Kastner of Manhattan, Kansas and Gabe Kastner of College Station; his three great grandchildren, Kayden, Hunter and Ray Lynn Church of McDade; two sisters-in-laws, Marina

Kastner of Lexington and Janice and Roger Payne of McDade and brother-in-law, Erhard Goerlitz of Austin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Lydia (Laake) Kastner; in-laws, Erhard and Louise Goerlitz; brother, Darrell Kastner, and grandson, Brandon Church.

Leonard lived life to the fullest and was treasured by his family who surrounded him in love, his last moments on earth. He prayed. He lived. He laughed. He loved. He had a good time.

Memorials may be made to Christ Lutheran Church in Loebau, Hospice Brazos Valley or to the charity of one's choice.

# Cemetery Details

## McDade Cemetery

1876 East U.S. Highway 290  
McDade, TX 78650

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **25**. 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street  
Giddings, TX 78942

## Family Present for Visitation

OCT **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street  
Giddings, TX 78942

## Visitation

OCT **26**. 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM (CT)

Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street  
Giddings, TX 78942

## Funeral Service

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OCT **26**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Christ Lutheran Church of Loebau  
4654 County Road 114  
Lincoln, TX 78948-9726

# Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Leonard Ray Kastner*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - October 21, 2024 at 05:39 PM

TF

“ *The Glenn and Barbara Wenzel family purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Leonard Ray Kastner.*



The Glenn and Barbara Wenzel family - October 24, 2024 at 05:58 PM

TF

“ *The Glenn and Barbara Wenzel family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Ray Kastner.*

The Glenn and Barbara Wenzel family - October 24, 2024 at 05:58 PM

CL

“ *Our deepest sympathies, Betty Goerlitz, Cathy Lien, Debbie & Brian Fell. He lived a full and exciting life. God bless.*

Cathy Lien - October 24, 2024 at 03:34 PM

CT

“ *My sincere condolences to the Kastner family.*

*Chris and Jessica Tollefson.*

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**Chris Tollefson** - October 24, 2024 at 10:43 AM

WC

“ *West Temple Pediatric Clinic purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Leonard Ray Kastner.*



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**West Temple Pediatric Clinic** - October 24, 2024 at 07:48 AM

SO

“ *St Clair Orthodontics purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Leonard Ray Kastner.*



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**St Clair Orthodontics** - October 23, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leonard Ray Kastner.*



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October 23, 2024 at 01:57 PM

KF

“ Kelly. Laake and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Leonard Ray Kastner.



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**Kelly. Laake and family** - October 22, 2024 at 05:57 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard Ray Kastner.



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October 22, 2024 at 01:42 PM

DB

“ Prayers for all of the family.

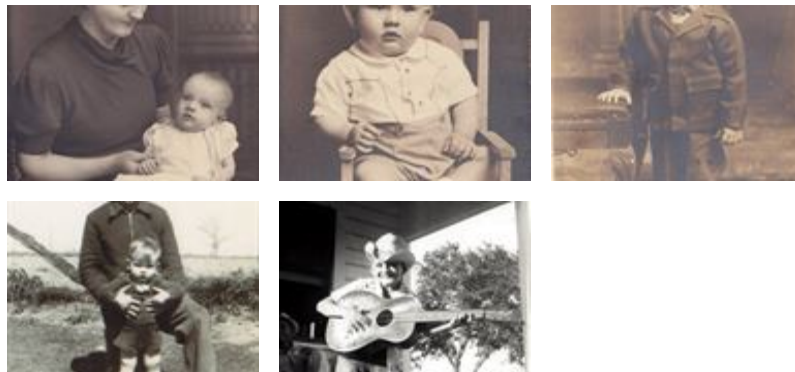


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**David, Joanne Tally, and Samuel Bergsten** - October 22, 2024 at 08:08 AM



“ 87 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - October 21, 2024 at 01:05 PM

JT

“ *Condolences to the families.*  
*--Jeff Turner*

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**JEFF Turner** - October 21, 2024 at 09:31 AM

CW

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Praying God will wrap you in his arms and comfort you today and in the days ahead.* *Connie Ward*

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**Connie Ward** - October 20, 2024 at 12:47 PM

GJ

“ *Our deepest sympathies to the family. May God comfort you.*

*Gina & Ewaldt Knobloch Jr*



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**Gina & Ewaldt Knobloch Jr** - October 19, 2024 at 05:23 PM

DB

“ Prayers for the family.



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**David, Joanne Tally, Samuel Bergsten** - October 19, 2024 at 03:41 PM

SB

“ LR was a friendly and kind person. He always knew you and would take time to say a few words. We have know him for a long time. His friendly and kind face will be missed. RIP LR  
Ricky and Shelia (Nall) Billig

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**Shelia Billig** - October 19, 2024 at 03:08 PM