



Forest G. Lemon

January 6, 1925 - September 13, 2010

In the presence of his loving family, Forest Lemon gently departed on Monday, September 13. He was a tremendous husband, father, brother, uncle and friend to so many throughout his hometown of Bloomington. The son of Gilbert and Maudeleen (Kale) Lemon, Forest was born January 6, 1925 and married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life for 66 years, LaDonna (Newton) Lemon at Mystic, Connecticut, while serving his country in the US Navy. He was commissioned as a Yeoman First Class while working submarine duty in World War II and the Korean War. Son David Lemon, of Lafayette (Margaret) and daughter Debbie Lemon, Bloomington, have been fortunate to enjoy such a long and wonderful life with their father.

Forest graduated from Bloomington High School in 1942 and attended classes at Indiana University. He worked in various occupations and was an entrepreneur at heart. Forest joined with his cousin Tom Lemon in operating the Cantol Wax Products Company, partnered in the development of a hardware store, worked for the US Postal Service and founded Burkhart Floor Covering in 1959 along with his brother-in-law. This successful family owned business included his wife, sister-in-law, son and daughter. In 1980, he and LaDonna retired and traveled throughout the country in their recreational vehicles. Many times they were joined by their grandchildren Laura Thorn, Phoenix (Chad), and Andrew Lemon (Karie Shepherd), Bermuda. Many special memories were created on these trips.

He was a member and ardent volunteer for many organizations in Monroe

County. As a member of Fairview United Methodist Church for 61 years, Forest served as Chair of the Board of Trustees, Treasurer, Lay Leader, Head Usher and served in Methodist Mission trips. He held a membership in the Mason Monroe Lodge, the Stone Belt Shrine Club and was proud to be a clown in the Shriner's clown unit. He was a member of Kiwanis, the American Legion and volunteered for the Monroe County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

One of his greatest pleasures was riding his BMW motorcycle until he was 79 years old. A special memory, at age 65, was riding with his good friends to Alaska and witnessing the beautiful scenery and wildlife. He and his children rode motorcycles together in places like the Great Smokey Mountains, Blue Ridge Parkway, and cities in the Midwest.

Forest was a very resourceful man. He, along with several friends and family members, built his and LaDonna's first home—a log house on the northwest side of Bloomington. He utilized true horse power to bring the logs he had cut and hewn to the building site.

Forest is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren and one sister, Sue (Arthur) Trowbridge, Washington, IN, two brothers, Herbert (Pauline), Bloomington, Jack, Baltimore, MD, his special niece Marlyn Naylor, and several nephews and a niece. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Mary Alice Naylor, and grandchild, Richard Lemon.

A private family service will take place at Valhalla Memory Gardens. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date at Fairview United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are welcome in his name for Fairview United Methodist Church (600 W. 6th Street, 47408), Bloomington Hospital Foundation (PO Box 1149, 47402), or the Canvas campus ministry in honor of his caregivers (<http://www.globalservicenet.org/giving/giff-reed>).

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org. The family thanks everyone who has supported Forest and his family through his journey.

Tribute Wall

CU

“ dear ladonna, david and debbie,

memories came flooding back into my mind as i read of forest's passing, today. (it's october 5th). i was a little kid neighbor when you folks lived on ladd avenue and remember you all fondly. your dad introduced me to the quietest motorcycle i've ever known and, living in harley country (milwaukee suburb), i miss that quality! interestingly, i always think of your dad whenever i see the old bmw sedans that are sort of yellow-orange! isn't it odd what we carry into our adult lives?!

my condolences to you all. you were lucky to have borrowed him for 85 years....

curt pruit - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM

DO

“ *Deb--I'm here if you want to squawk in someone's ear, hear any off-color jokes, or be momentarily distracted by a post-menopausal woman's non sequiturs and random ramblings. Really, though, you know how much I adore you and your family. And yes, I know I'm making jokes to hide my sorrow. Give LaDonna a huge hug from me. I love you like a sister...more! And next time you come to Chicago, we'll go get an apple pancake in Forest's memory. You know, I think your dad would actually get a big kick out of us doing that :-)*

Donna Shryer - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM

MF

“ Uncle Forest was a wonderful example of how the strength of true Christian convictions and values are lived. He always said our family prayer for Thanksgiving, always had a huge smile for friends he would see around town, always felt compassion for those less fortunate, and always served as a courageous leader and loyal friend. We miss him deeply. I am thankful that Uncle Forest is my godfather and for being such a strong and loving inspiration throughout my life.

Matt & Fatima Newton - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM

BW

“ Lemon family, We were very sad to learn of the passing of Forest. We got to talk to him when he was at Bell Trace for a few days, dad is there and he told us Forest was there, so we had a nice visit. We have great memories of camping trips and card games with everyone. Forest was a great guy and will really be missed. We look forward to seeing you all in the future

Bill Wilson - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM

SA

“ LaDonna and family:

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sarah Crandall

Sarah Crandall - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM

DO

“ Debbie,

Alan and I send our sincere condolences to you during this difficult time- A life well lived should be celebrated; I hope you will find peace and as you move forward and continue to make your Dad proud as I know he must have been.

*God Bless you and your family
Alan and Donna Spears*

Donnaq Spears - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM

JU

“ Debbie,

My deepest sympathy to you and your family - especially your Mother. What a wonderful life they had together. I am sorry that I didn't know your Dad, his story is that of a wonderful man with the right values.

Judy

Judy Lawrence - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM

CL

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy on the death of Forest. Cletis has pleasant memories of working at Burkharts, watching parades that included the 'clowns', and several casual meetings at MCL.

Cletis and Lois

Cletis and Lois Sparks - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM

BJ

“ *David and Debbie,*

My prayers go out to you, and your precious mother. Your Dad was such a wonderful and kind man. Always have a lovely smile for everyone.

BJ McElroy - March 22, 2013 at 08:20 AM