



R. Leo Ratchford

June 8, 1942 - March 20, 2023

Leo Ratchford passed away peacefully, with his family by his side, on March 20, 2023. Leo made a difference in countless lives, not only as a father and grandfather but as an active and loving member of his church and community. He was a wonderful husband to Sandy for 43 years, father to Lauri and Dan, Crislyn and Rich, Rob and Angela, James, and Tom and Jessica. He was Grandpa to Jennifer, Andrew and Lauren, Allison, Jason, Justin, Jonathon, Joshua, Sara, Emily and Cam, Robert, Christopher, Evelyn, Conrad (plus a baby on the way), and newly titled Great Grandpa to Jonah. He was a loving brother and the Fun Uncle. He was “The Old Guy with the Hat”, and friend to all he met.

So many have been blessed by Leo’s warm heart, either through a handcrafted gift, a friendly voice calling to say hi, a serenaded Happy Birthday, or by his generosity. He found joy in making others smile, and was always ready with a joke. He was the giver of \$2 bills and \$1 gold coins. He loved old cars and took great care restoring what he could. He collected clocks and loved trains. A jukebox or two were always playing in his home, and whatever was loaded in it was his favorite music.

Leo carried his bible with him, filled with notes and highlights, and he proudly shared his faith. Only God knows how many he pointed to the Cross. We know Jesus welcomed him with open arms and tears of Joy.

The Ratchford family looks forward to celebrating Leo's life with family and friends at the Funeral Service Friday Evening 8:00 P.M.

<https://youtube.com/live/yP-qhtXsUI4?feature=share>

Cemetery Details

Melville Cemetery

490 Sweet Hollow Road
Melville, NY 11747

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **23**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church
28 Foxhurst Road
Dix Hills , NY 11746

Visitation

MAR **24**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church
28 Foxhurst Road
Dix Hills , NY 11746

Visitation

MAR **24**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church
28 Foxhurst Road
Dix Hills , NY 11746

Funeral Service

MAR 24. 8:00 PM (ET)

Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church
28 Foxhurst Road
Dix Hills , NY 11746

Closing Prayer

MAR 25. 10:00 AM (ET)

Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church
28 Foxhurst Road
Dix Hills , NY 11746

Burial

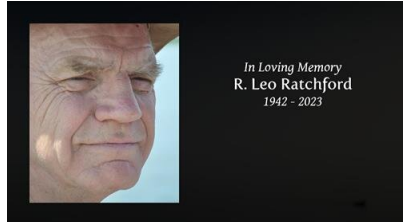
MAR 25 (ET)

Melville Cemetery
490 Sweet Hollow Road
Melville, NY 11747

Tribute Wall



“ *A.L. Jacobsen Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of R. Leo Ratchford*



A.L. Jacobsen Funeral Home, Inc. - March 24, 2023 at 10:55 AM

CH

We are so glad to have had the privilege to have had "Bobby" in our family and in our lives. (He used his father's name, Leo, some time ago but we all called him Bobby.) He and his twin brothers and parents were always at the family gatherings, in New York/Long Island, Scranton, Taylor, Naugh Aug Park, or Montrose. It just wasn't the same if they weren't there. Bobby spent many summers in Montrose as he grew up and everyone looked forward to his being there. I'm sure most of us would have been to the services, but we are so scattered, and at an age where you don't go off without weeks of planning! Our thoughts and prayers have been with him and his family since we first heard he was in the hospital and since his passing. We will always remember him and look forward to seeing him and Sandy in the future. We all will miss you and we love you. It has been an honor.

*Many Blessings and much love,
All the Cousins*

Carolyn Herne - March 24, 2023 at 07:33 PM

NI

“ I have been so blessed to have known Leo these last few years. He was always ready help whenever needed. I am a widow and living alone and I knew he was always there for me. I hope I was a good friend for him also. He was the kindest, most gentle man I have ever known, and I hope I shined a light into his life, as he did for me.

Niela - March 28, 2023 at 11:50 AM

KS

“ We are so very sorry for the loss of your beloved. We met Mr. Ratchford only once just recently, at the promotion ceremony for his daughter Crislyn. It was so obvious that he was such a proud father. In the short time spent together, we could see his humor and his love for his family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Love, Robert Dunn and Kristy Stevens

Kristy Stevens - March 24, 2023 at 10:52 AM

LM

“ Knowing your daughter's Lauri and Crislyn and their children, you must be an amazing father and grandfather to have been blessed with them and your legacy that lives on through them! God is pleased at this dear man's faithfulness to God until his passing to hear the word, "Well done, though good and faithful servant." May God give you His gift of comfort and peace KNOWING he is with JESUS!

Laurel & John McMahon - March 23, 2023 at 09:24 PM

MA

“ Love our neighbor Leo!
He will be greatly missed.
Leo was a One-of-Kind man, who would do ANYTHING for Anyone!
He often drove friends to the Airport, offers friends/neighbors his help with carpentry, electrical or plumbing!
He loved his Juke box playing for me, his neighbor yo hear his 50's-80's fabulous music 🎵
He was thoughtful on Holidays to always text or call and presenting a singing message!
Leo was caring to the postal carrier, sanitation workers! He even left Hot chocolate with marshmallows in his mailbox for our postal carrier! Who does that? Absolutely no one, But Our Dear Sweet Leo!
We would call each other to borrow each others tools or garden branch clippers, whatever tool Leo didn't have he was so thankful to borrow!
He often spoke about his Dear Wife Sandy, who he cherished and missed dearly for 14 years. He also cherished his children, their spouses and his wonderful grandchildren.
Leo was Blessed to have such a beautiful large family!
I will miss the “Old guy next door with the cowboy hat” 🤠 like he told me on the phone while in the facility last Friday!
I said “ Leo you are not old, stop saying that!”
I'm happy in my heart I went yo see him that afternoon!
I will miss Leo dearly... my buddy, my neighbor, my friend!
Prayers to his family & many friends!
Sending Love!
Mary❤️



Mary - March 22, 2023 at 05:12 PM

FR

My Dear Friend, Leo. The world needs more Leo's, but there is only one. The kindest man, most thoughtful and uplifting. He always had a joke or a scripture to share. His calls brought me happiness. He missed the love of his life, his beloved wife. Today I'm happy for him to finally get to see her face again smiling at Leo with open arms. God Bless y Leo. It was an honor to know you. Francyn

Francyn - March 23, 2023 at 07:23 PM

DG

“ I know Leo will be missed by everyone & I myself are looking forward to seeing him in heaven. The little that I knew Leo I always loved his humor I also remember sharing with him during the men's bible studies. He was always a very helpful man if i needed a ride to church. I wish I could pay my respects & come to his final celebration but I now live in South Carolina & retired. I know that that Leo & Walter Lesawhich are probably having loads of conversations with our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. I over my sincerest condolences to his family. God Bless Donald Gibson

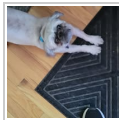


Donald Gibson - March 21, 2023 at 04:42 PM

DD

*I'm so sorry for this great loss to Leo's family and friends. I wish I could be there to pay my respects but I'm in Florida. I will sorely miss my frequent calls from Leo, always positive and ending with me smiling. God Bless you Leo and I'm sure your loving wife has been waiting with open arms. I'll never forget you.
Donna*

Donna DeVecchio - March 21, 2023 at 07:08 PM



*You will be missed from all here at the station deli we had a great time laughing at your jokes and you always had a kind word for everyone
RIP our friend 🙏*

Maureen Kennedy - March 23, 2023 at 01:45 PM

JA

“ I met Leo 21 days ago at the Probation/Awards Graduation. He mentioned how proud he was of Crislyn on her promotion and he was delighted to be there, it was obvious he was very proud of all his family.

I feel honored that I got to meet this wonderful devout man!

Take comfort in knowing he is always by your side!

Janet Horan

Janet - March 21, 2023 at 03:01 PM

MS

“ *Melissa Saunders lit a candle in memory of R. Leo Ratchford*



Melissa Saunders - March 21, 2023 at 11:27 AM

TR

“ *Leo, we will all miss our ice cream parties at the LAKE house. Trish, Rich, John, Denise, Wendy, and Peter*

trish - March 20, 2023 at 08:46 PM