



Leo V Ganci

July 18, 1950 - April 9, 2025

Leo V. Ganci, age 74, passed away peacefully April 9, 2025, surrounded by family. Born July 18, 1950, Leo lived a life marked by dedication, quiet strength, and a deep appreciation for commitment, family, and life's simple joys.

Leo's career was as diverse and hardworking as he was. He began as a skilled meat-cutter, eventually owning and operating Ganci's Country Market, where he served his community with dedication and pride. Later, Leo worked at ComEd Braidwood and he finished his time as a school bus driver for the Herscher School District.

One of Leo's greatest joys was flying. He was a proud pilot and loved sharing this passion with others. Leo donated numerous flights to local organizations, using his talents to give back in meaningful ways. Leo also loved cooking and held a recent focus on baking sourdough bread. He cherished his time on Table Rock Lake, especially if it involved hurling his kids and grandkids off inner tubes at high speeds (with love, of course). Gardening and planting flowers brought Leo joy and peace.

He had a deep appreciation for cars, collecting and caring for many exciting vehicles throughout his life. His first car, a metallic purple Ford Fairlane, sparked a lifelong interest in vehicles and car shows. Though he hesitated to hand over the keys, Leo eventually allowed his children to share in his enthusiasm—with plenty of reminders to “take it easy.”

A skilled and competitive Euchre player, Leo enjoyed “friendly” games with his

family, always bringing a quiet determination to the table. A master Euchre player, Leo could bluff better than most politicians and kept his skills sharp by regularly beating his children and grandchildren—graciously, of course.

Mostly. Trivial Pursuit, however, was a different story.

Above all, Leo was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. Leo and Mar married July 15, 1972 at Maternity BMV Church and enjoyed 53 years of marriage. His family meant everything to him, and he showed his love through his actions, always ready to lend a hand, solve a problem, or offer steady (and definitely firm) support. There was little Leo couldn't figure out, and his expertise and dedication will be deeply missed.

Leo is survived by his wife, Marlene (White) Ganci; his children Carrie Clodi, Darin (Ursula) Ganci, and Eric (Jen) Ganci; his beloved grandchildren Jocelyn, Dalton, Kirsten, August, and Ethan; his brother Alan (Sondra) Ganci; his sister Annette (Tom) Kunz; his sister-in-law Jolene (Jim) Maass; brothers-in-law Linden (Karen) White and Craig Long; and an extended family of cousins, nieces, and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Leo V. Ganci Sr. and Ruth Ganci (Wolford), and his sister-in-law Christine Long.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 3rd, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Arbor Grove Clubhouse (709 Arbor Parkway, Bourbonnais, IL 60914).

Please come ready to share stories, laughter, and maybe even a spirited Euchre match or two in Leo's honor. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Uplifted Care and/or Maternity BVM Food Pantry.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 3. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Arbor Grove Clubhouse
709 Arbor Parkway
Bourbonnais
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
cgfh@clancygernon.com

Tribute Wall

CG

“ We were so saddened to hear about Leo’s passing Even though I didn’t know him well he always generated kindness to people he ran into whether in the store or on the street
We need more Leo Ganci’s in this world
He will be truly missed
Camille & Dan Grosso

Camille Grosso - May 05, 2025 at 08:54 AM

GT

“ Marlene, Carrie, Darin, Eric and Families, I am so sorry to hear of Leo's passing. He was a great guy and I know he will be so sorely missed. I enjoyed working not only for Marlene & Leo at Ganci's Country Market, but WITH Marlene and Leo. Leo taught me a lot about the grocery business and about working in the meat department but working beside him was even more than than just being an employee. I felt appreciated, and we all know how important that is as an employee, anywhere. Many times it was just the two of us, unloading trucks, stocking shelves, working the produce department, tending to customers and so much more. Oh my gosh, all the chickens we would cut up for the Fire Department and the clean up after! When I first started working at Ganci's, it took me a minute or two to figure him out but when I did, we worked like a well oiled machine. At least I think we did, lol. He was quiet, most of the time, but he did have a sense of humor. I enjoyed playing a couple innocent pranks on him and I did get him good a couple of times. I felt truly appreciated by both him and Marlene and I treasure the times we spent together working, the summer pool parties and the holiday fun they always planned. Please know that he was loved, appreciated and treasured by so many. May you find comfort in your faith and the love shared by all who knew him.
Gina/Larry Tapp

Gina Tapp - May 02, 2025 at 03:27 PM

NR

“ *Marlene
Ed and I are so sorry for your loss. May God
bless you and your family through these
difficult days. Hugs and prayers 🙏
Ed and Nancy Rodgers*



Nancy Rodgers - April 14, 2025 at 04:31 PM



“ *Such a wonderful man. So sorry for your loss.
Wishing you all comfort.*



Gina Weir Collins - April 14, 2025 at 09:07 AM

DO

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Leo's passing. I want
to extend my most sincere sympathies to
Marlene, the children and grandchildren. Leo
was a great guy and he and Marlene and their
children were wonderful neighbors to our
family.*



Doris OConnor - April 13, 2025 at 04:45 PM



“ *Marlene sending my deepest sympathies to you and your family.
Reading all the memories shared about your Leo lends a small
glimpse into all the happiness you both shared through life with
family and friends. What a good and blessed life.*

Julia Denault Parker - April 12, 2025 at 12:14 PM

DG

“ Leo and I were close friends in high school. Several years later we had the opportunity to reunite and meet his wife Marlene, when they visited Phoenix.

Leo was always quiet and unassuming but beneath that exterior was a thoughtful man of determination. I wish we had known one another better in our later life. I always have fond memories of our time together in youth. He was the “voice of reason” and I’m certain he is greatly missed. Our sympathies to Marlene and Leo’s family.

Denny Gienger - April 12, 2025 at 09:32 AM

BJ

“ Rod and I always had fun with Leo and Marlene. We always laughed. Rod and Leo would share stories of their grocery stores! Then from boating to flying to with them to Lamont Illinois for dinner for the evening in Leo’s airplane. Leo and Rod are boating and flying planes right now in heaven!

Brenda Jensen - April 11, 2025 at 05:29 AM

MZ

“ Marlene and Family,
Sorry for your loss,keeping you and your family, in our thoughts and prayers. The John Mazzuchi Family,
Sandy Mazzuchi,Christina Mazzuchi,Angela (Mazzuchi)Fry,Madonna (Mazzuchi)Zasada,Daniella Mazzuchi - Harris,and Tina Mazzuchi



MaDonna (Mazzuchi) Zasada - April 10, 2025 at 11:24 PM

SP

“ My deepest sympathy to Marlene and the family.

Sharon Perkins - April 10, 2025 at 09:21 PM

SL

“ I am very saddened to hear of his passing. He was a wonderful man. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends.



Steven Lemner - April 10, 2025 at 09:00 PM

CO

“ Mar and family,
So very sorry for the loss of Leo. May God be with you through this journey ahead. Keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers.
Rick & Marla



Coy's - April 10, 2025 at 08:09 PM

KK

“ It was wonderful to meet Leo during Eric's 40th birthday celebration! What fun we had at the beach that weekend. And again later when the Ganci family joined with my parents for the symphony to see Smokey Robinson. While he'll be missed here on earth may he watch over you from above with love & protection. Much love from San Diego.

Karen Koziel - April 10, 2025 at 06:30 PM

SP

“ Oh my, I am so sorry to see this. Leo was a wonderful person. Prayers lifted up for Marlene and the rest of the family and all who loved him 🙏🙏🙏

Sherry Parks - April 10, 2025 at 06:07 PM

FM

So sorry for your loss

Frank monferdini - April 10, 2025 at 06:15 PM

VG

“ *So very sorry to Marlene and family on the loss of Leo. One of the few brave men who came to our exercise classes at the park district, a quiet presence but always said good morning and had a smile. He'll be missed. Gods peace to his family. Dan and Val Guenette*

Valerie and Dan Guenette - April 10, 2025 at 05:53 PM

CR

“ *So sorry to hear about your loss, Marlene. You have our deepest sympathy.
Bill and Colleen Regnier*

Colleen Regnier - April 10, 2025 at 04:56 PM

LG

“ *Sending hugs and prayers to Marlene, Carrie, and the entire Ganci family. I always loved seeing Marlene and Leo riding their bikes around Arbor Grove while visiting my parents. Loved had the always stopped to say hello, share a smile, and chat about life and other things. Visiting them in Missouri was fun too.*

Lindsey Grish - April 10, 2025 at 03:27 PM

EW

“ *Sending Marlene and the rest of the family our love and prayers. Chris will never forget the time spent with Leo in the garage at the Table Rock Lake house drooling over the truck, the tools and of course, all the toys.*

Erin Willis - April 10, 2025 at 03:00 PM