



Dr. Leo F. O'Connor

February 7, 1924 - April 7, 2014

Dr. Leo F. O'Connor of Kankakee died Monday April 7, 2014 at Riverside Medical Center.

Visitation will be from 2-6 pm Sunday at Clancy-Gernon Funeral home in Bourbonnais.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 am Monday at St. Patrick's Church, Kankakee where he was a member, by Rev. Jon Peters and Rev. Kyrin Caggiano.

Burial will be at All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais. Memorials may be made to the Dr. Leo and Mary Ellen O'Connor Memorial Scholarship Fund for students at Bishop McNamara Catholic High School.

He was born February 7, 1924 in Irwin, the son of Leo J. O'Connor and Cecilia Berns.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Kevin and Gloria O'Connor of Riverside and Dr. Kelly and Linda O'Connor of Bourbonnais; five daughters and sons-in-law, Jeannie and Thomas Tisbo of Barrington Hills, Frances and Robert Marko of Hopkinsville, KY, Shawn and Kelvin Noe of Cary, Angie and Thomas Holmes of Bourbonnais, and Erin and Todd Dressel of River Forest;

thirteen grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Patrick and Marge O'Connor of Bradley, and 3 sisters-in-law, Shirley O'Connor of Kankakee, Eleanor O'Connor of Reddick, and Bonnie O'Connor of Kankakee; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Deceased are his parents, five brothers, Ambrose, Kenneth, Laverne, Norbert and Joseph; and two sisters, Theresa Kennedy and Dorothy Niessen.

His first wife, the former Verna G. Raymond, whom he married on September 11, 1948, preceded him in death on May 16, 1962.

His second wife, the former Mary Ellen Welby, whom he married on February 14, 1963, preceded him in death on January 30, 1998.

He was a graduate of Chebanse High School and Loyola University and earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1951.

After serving for two years in WWII with the 66th Army Air Force Base unit of the Army of the United States, he then embarked on a 54-year career as a general dentist in the Kankakee area. He began his career in the old Arcade Building in downtown Kankakee. He later moved to the States Savings Building in Meadowview before relocating to Bourbonnais in the practice now known as O'Connor Dental Care.

He championed a number of causes along the way. He was a 50-year member of the American Dental Association, the Illinois State Dental Association and was a past president of the Kankakee District Dental Society. He was a local proponent of fluoride in the drinking water and volunteered to perform fluoride treatments in grade schools throughout the area. He was a staff member at both hospitals, worked for a number of years as a dental consultant for Connecticut General, and acted as the dental adviser to the

Kankakee County Coroner.

In 2011 he was inducted into the Bishop McNamara Hammes Hall of Honor. His involvement at Mac included a term as president of the school board and the Huddle Club where he initiated the Pig Roast and ran the Spring Dance. He was named the Honorary Chairman for Mac Auction in 2005 and was a long time member of the Foundation Board. A devout Catholic, he was committed to Catholic education.

His interest and talents led him in a number of different directions. He was a founding member of the Kankakee County Health Board and served a couple of terms as president on the County Board. He was also president of the Jaycee's Little League and was a member of the 4th Degree Knight's of Columbus. He enjoyed horticulture, especially roses, and was a recognized grower for the American Rose Society. He also was an accomplished cook and baker, spending much time at Pasta Plus filling in where need be. Most of all he was a man committed to his religion, his profession and his family

Memorials may be made to Dr. Leo and Mary Ellen O'Connor Scholarship Fund for students attending Bishop McNamara Catholic High School.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-2342

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

APR 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
428 S. Indiana
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-6716

Tribute Wall



“ *Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Leo F. O'Connor*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - April 14, 2014 at 10:07 AM

SP

Rest in peace Dr. OConner

Steve Papadopoulos - March 16, 2023 at 10:27 PM

SP

An outstanding professor

Steve Papadopoulos - March 16, 2023 at 10:28 PM

HI

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the O'Connor family. Dr. O'Connor will be missed.*
Hinkleman family

Hinkleman's - April 18, 2014 at 05:17 PM

DE

“ *My deepest sympathy to the entire O'Connor family. It was a joy to "hang out" at the O'Connors when I was in high school and friends with Angie. Dr O'Connor was so nice to me and made me feel special. God bless you all at this time. Donna Hertzberg Elmore*

Donna Elmore - April 12, 2014 at 04:03 PM

MA

“ *Having Dr. Leo as a dentist growing up was a big deal. To have 6 teeth extracted and no pain, wow! The usual dread of going to the dentist as a kid was nonexistent, his touch was so light, you didn't feel a thing. He was top shelf as a dentist. Having Uncle Leo as an uncle was also a big deal. He was very kind to widows, and my Mom was one of those widows. His kindness to her meant a lot. So I will always remember him with double honor, as both Dr. Leo and Uncle Leo.*

Marcia Boie

marcia - April 12, 2014 at 02:40 PM

JU

“ My love & prayers for the O'connor family -- Your Dad, Your Fatherinlaw, Your Grandpa will always be in our hearts,& our memorys .. Dr Leo was my dentist from '63 until he retired .. I LOVED him .. Some how we always had conversations as he worked on my mouthful of problems, right ? When Dr Kelly joined his Dad, I stayed with Dr Leo, :) Shawn was who cleaned my teeth way back then .. I always teased that I put Dr Kelly thru Dental College .. My family, and then my son's married and they all continued to go to the BEST DENTIST ever .. Dr Kelly you are amazing in the footsteps of your wonderful Dad .. I know he is so proud of you and your siblings, the whole family .. He always touched my heart .. I just saw him about 2 months ago at Westwood Oaks, in the dining room .. I went to him right away and hugged him and said how GREAT it was to see him .. I walked away to eat with our Aunt who also lives there, and I heard him say to his table mates, "I have no idea who that was" -- he finished his meal, and was leaving and came to our table and said, "Judi, I know who you are, how are you, and how is your Mother ? We talked a little bit, I told him again how wonderful he looked and to take care I thank God for that brief visit .. Your Dad, Fatherinlaw, Grandpa, meant ALOT to me .. He ALWAYS was so kind, friendly, and a GRAND Dentist .. I always miss him when ever I go for Dr Kelly to keep these teeth that Dr. Leo, put so much work into .. I love you all, Sheri, Susanne, Maggie, and Barb we have been together for ever !!! The O'connor family is a wonderful family - We will never forget Dr Leo .. God be with each one as I know how hard it is to have our very loved one's begin their journey now in heaven .. ((hugs)) and deep sympathy .. for each one .. Love, Judi & the Schneider family

Judi - April 12, 2014 at 11:07 AM

RP

“ Our deepest sympathy to Kelly, Linda and family on the loss of your father. He was a dear friend and a great man. We are sure he will be deeply missed. Your in our thoughts and prayers.
Love, Gary and Rose Marie Piatt



Rose Marie Piatt - April 11, 2014 at 06:55 PM

JF

“ Our deepest condolences to the O'Connor family on the loss of your father and grandfather Dr. Leo. He was always a wonderful kind person with a warm smile. Fond memories growing up at all the ball games with Kelly and my brother Ed and Dr. Leo rooting them on at every sport they played! Our prayers and love are with all of you.
Love, Louis and Jolynne Fahey



Jolynne Fahey - April 11, 2014 at 06:44 PM

BN

“ Bernard Niesen sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Leo F. O'Connor



bernard niesen - April 11, 2014 at 03:14 PM

BN

“ And yet another angel has been added to heaven, as we say good bye to my Uncle Leo. I was told by my Aunt Shirley, that he was my mother's guardian, during their youth and beyond. Rest In Peace Uncle Leo, until we meet again.

bernard niesen - April 11, 2014 at 03:12 PM

LM

“ Our Dads were brothers so Leo and I were first cousins and also lifelong good friends. He was such a great guy and we were all so proud of him and all his many accomplishments. My sincere sympathies to all of his wonderful children and his great brother Pat. Love to all from Arizona!!!! Leta O'Connor McCormick

Leta O'Connor McCormick - April 11, 2014 at 01:29 PM

MD

“ I really liked your DAd He was my dentist for many years. Please accept my sympat
Morry Decker

Maurice Decker - April 10, 2014 at 02:12 PM

RC

“ *Dr. and Mrs. O'Connor, Mallory, Alex, and Derek~*

Wishing you all peace and comfort during this time. What a wonderful life he led...such a true testament to the gifts he passed on to each of you which are evident in your accomplishments and personalities. The lessons he taught will live with you forever. May God bless you all.

*Love and prayers,
Miss Czernik
St. Joseph School*

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

Rebecca Czernik - April 09, 2014 at 08:40 PM

MH

“ *I want to express my deepest sympathy to the O'connor family on the loss of your father and brother.i have been going to the office for over 40 years and liked and respected Dr Leo very much.....Mike Hatch*

mike hatch - April 09, 2014 at 06:45 PM

RB

“ *My prayers and sympathy go out to the O'Connor family he was the best dentist I went to him when I was young and then had the privilege to be his chair side assist . He could fix any problem you had with your teeth. Kelly you had a hard act to follow and you are just as good as your dad he was proud of you. Him and Mary Ellen were great people. Hope his memory will comfort all of you.
Roger and Jeanne Benjamin*

Roger and Jeanne Benjamin - April 09, 2014 at 11:28 AM

MN

“ *Michael Niesen lit a candle in memory of Dr. Leo F. O'Connor*



Michael Niesen - April 08, 2014 at 09:52 AM

MN

“ *I pray our Lord Comfort my Uncle Leo's family during this difficult Time*

Michael Niesen - April 07, 2014 at 10:40 PM

MN

“ *Will always remember uncle Leo's kindness to Bernie and I when my mom died. Also enjoyed Mary and his hospitality wHeneverI visited Pasta Plus.*

Michael Niesen - April 07, 2014 at 10:38 PM

JL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Dr Leo was one of a kind. My sincerest condolences.*



Julie Leary - April 07, 2014 at 09:22 PM

BS

“ *My condolences to the O'Connor Family. Dr. O'Connor was my dentist, growing up; Jeanne my friend in High School. My prayers are with you at this time.*

Bob Schneider - April 07, 2014 at 09:08 PM

SB

Dr. Leo was the best godfather ever. I still have the jade necklace he gave me for Christmas many years ago. My prayers are with all of you at this sad time. Sheila M. Brown

Sheila M. Brown - April 13, 2014 at 08:10 PM

JP

You all have my deepest sympathy my prayers are with you. May he rest in peace!

joanne pontious - April 14, 2014 at 05:58 PM