



Leo John Reding

June 6, 1924 - October 12, 2015

Leo John Reding (age 91) died Monday, October 12, 2015 following a brief illness. Leo was born June 6, 1924 to John and Mathilda Reding on the home place south of Austin. Leo attended school in Rose Creek and graduated with academic and athletic honors. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota where he also excelled at both track and football for the Tommies. Following college, Leo moved to Austin having accepted a teaching position at St. Augustine High School. It was then that he met, fell in love with and married Marian Thommes, his wife of more than 6 decades.

They spent those 60-plus years living in Austin where they raised five children and an adorable little dachshund. Leo worked 30 years for the Hormel Company, and was also actively involved in the political arena. He helped organize the original Mower County Young DFL Party, served as city councilman and mayor of Austin, and for 18 years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He somehow found the time to enjoy the out-of-doors with his children—fishing, hunting, trapping and gardening on his small hobby farm. Leo was a staunch conservationist, working tirelessly to improve the lot of nature and its inhabitants. He and Marian taught their children to respect life and to “be nice.”

Leo and Marian’s last years were spent at Primrose Retirement Center and after Marian’s death 3 years ago, he stayed on there. He has always loved family and friends and so Primrose became part of that extended family.

Leo was preceded in death by his wife, Marian Reding and all of his siblings. He leaves behind his five children: Colleen Reding (Mark Matthiesen), Maureen Hallett, Terry Reding (Mary Covington), Laurie Reding, and Tom Reding (Amy), five grandchildren: Alex Darke (Matt), Amy Hankinson (Matt Burns), Andrea O’Byrne (Ben), Lindsey Reding, Elizabeth McCanna (Mike), and one great-grandchild: Lincoln O’Byrne, as well as his sister in law Lenore Thommes and many nieces and nephews and their families.

In his last days, Leo was at peace with the world---grateful for all.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Augustine Catholic Church or to the University of St. Thomas.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, October 16, 2015 at St. Augustine Catholic Church with Fr. Jim Steffes officiating. Visitation will be on Thursday, October 15,

2015 from 4-7 pm at Mayer Funeral Home with a prayer service at 6:45 pm. There will also be a visitation an hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery.

Online Condolences-www.mayerfh.com

Cemetery

Events

Calvary Cemetery

4th Drive SW

Austin, MN, 55912

OCT **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

15

Mayer Funeral Home

600 2nd Street NW P.O. Box 27, Austin, MN, US, 55912

OCT **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

16

St. Augustine Catholic Church

405 4th Street NW, Austin, MN, US, 55912

OCT **Service** 11:00AM

16

St. Augustine Catholic Church

405 4th Street NW, Austin, MN, US, 55912

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Mayer Funeral Home - October 15, 2015 at 04:00 PM



“ I want to extend my condolences to Leo's family. My Dad actually knew Leo from their school days, and then I was privileged to know him back when I swam with Maureen and Terry. May God comfort you all as you grieve the loss of this admirable servant of his family and of all of the far-reaching communities he was a part of. Joe Gosha

Joe Gosha - October 15, 2015 at 04:05 PM



“ Leo lived a full life and leaves an amazing legacy for his friends and family to remember him by.

Bill Landherr

Bill Landherr - October 15, 2015 at 03:46 PM



“ I was Representative Reding's Vice Chair my first term in the House in 1987-88. We shared a Legislative Assistant and Representative Reding was a great role model of public service. His thoughtful approach to every issue is still etched in my memory. His legacy lives on every day I serve in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Representative Gene Pelowski



Gene Pelowski - October 14, 2015 at 10:06 PM



“ Leo and Marian were friends and colleagues. We campaigned together and worked side by side at the legislature. He was a true public servant. He always stood up for what he believed was right for his community and those he served. And without a doubt, he was always the best dressed gentleman in the state legislature. We always credited Marian for his wardrobe.

We will miss the funeral service as we are visiting our children in New Mexico, but our hearts and prayers are with the family and we know that Leo and Marian are once again together.

Love,

Tom and Margaret Nelson
Woodbury, MN

tom nelson - October 14, 2015 at 04:43 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leo John Reding.



October 14, 2015 at 04:31 PM