



Max Joseph Leininger

February 14, 1925 - October 18, 2020

Sutton, NE resident Max "Fuzz" Joseph Leininger, 95, returned home to his loving Father on Sunday, October 18, 2020, at Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings, NE.

A Rosary will be prayed at 7:00 p.m., Monday, October 26, 2020, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sutton, NE. Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sutton, NE with Father Michael Zimmer officiating. Services will be live-streamed from www.stmaryssutton.org. Masks will be required at the services. Interment will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Sutton, NE. Visitation will be Monday, from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., at Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton, NE.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family to be designated later.

Max was born on February 14, 1925, to Fred and Etta (Lohmeier) Leininger at the family farm southwest of Sutton where he lived until 1936. Max and his ten siblings were raised to be hard-working farm kids. Hard work was their play. Horses were an integral part of farm life, but Max never rode in a saddle until he came to Sutton for High School. In 1944 at the age of 19, even though he had a deferment, Max enlisted in the Merchant Marines to see the world. Dad had great stories about his adventures. One he loved to tell was being in the port in San Francisco watching 15,000 troops march three abreast for 24

hours onto a luxury liner that had been commissioned by the military. Max sailed three times as a Merchant Marine with his last deployment keeping him on the water for a year. It took him to Hawaii, around the northern tip of Australia around Indonesia and Malaysia up to Japan and home by way of Portland. Dad said he was never homesick or seasick. He loved to sleep on the deck where the waves rocked him to sleep.

Max returned to Nebraska to "batch" with his brothers, Gene and Kenny from 1947-1950. In 1950 Max was drafted into the Army and served in Germany during the Korean Conflict as a truck driver.

In 1951 Max and Regina Sheridan were married with six attendants at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sutton. They settled on a farm southwest of Sutton where dad continued his lifelong love of farming. Max and Regina loved to "trip the light fantastic" and spent many Saturdays twirling around the dance floor. In the 1970's Max and Regina formed a duo that traveled the countryside playing for dances. Max sang and Regina played the organ. One of his favorite songs was "Tiny Bubbles".

Max was known for his toughness and his love of hard work. Coupled with this was his deep Catholic faith. He was a faithful Mass attendee and frequently "hit the box" beforehand. He was unwavering in his love of St. Mary's where he received all six sacraments. He had a special love of the Blessed Mother and the rosary. Every night at 9:25 he would sing out, Rosary Time, and whoever was there would gather for the Rosary.

In his "retirement" art became his passion. No one knew those farmer's hands would create such beauty from osage orange wood and "treasures" from the farmyard. His artwork was his love language.

Max is survived by his wife of 69 years, Regina and his six children, Terry

Leininger of Sutton, Cathy (Gary) Mohnike of Sutton, Cindy (Bruce) Mau of Grand Junction, CO, Rita (Dave) Nelson of Queen Creek, AZ, Cecilia (Jim) Van Kirk of Sutton, and Tom (DiAna) Leininger of Aurora. Sisters, Alyce Leininger of Sutton, Joan (Duane) Rasby of Sutherland, NE, Steve (Marcia) Leininger of Sutton, sisters-in-law, Delores (Leo) Leininger of Sutton, and Ann (Kenny) Leininger of Cheyenne, WY. He is also survived by 24 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Mary Clare, parents, Fred and Etta Leininger, brothers, Kenny, Leo, Gene and infant brother, Anthony and sisters, Marguerite, Jacqueline and Lynn. In-laws, Ott Rodgers, Dona Leininger and Richard Ochsner.

Eternal rest grant unto him O, Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon him.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Our hearts are hurting.*

Mike and Anne Moody - October 28, 2020 at 10:51 AM

TS

“ *I am still shocked that my talented, funny, tough, hard working, Spiritual, creative, loyal, DEAREST Uncle has left us. God the Father wanted him home so that he could even more greatly worship in the Heavenly Kingdom. His devotion to our Mother Mary and her son Jesus was exemplary. I only hope that I can run the race as fully and completely as he did. I am certain he is resting in peace in the arms of our Beloved Jesus!*

Trish and Paul Simmering - October 27, 2020 at 06:47 PM

GB

“ *Max was one in a million. We loved his sense of humor and he truly was a man of heart. We are sending our deepest sympathies to the family along with healing prayers and comforting hugs to you all.*

Georgia and Robbie Burns - October 27, 2020 at 05:21 PM

CP

“ *My condolences to the family. The Leiningers and my parents(Dutch and Betty Plettner) shared many memorable times as friends in their years of life. Prayers for comfort and peace.*

Connie Plettner - October 27, 2020 at 10:36 AM

SF

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I only met him once at Heidi's wedding, but he had a smile and a humor about him that was special. So hard to loose a someone who has been such a loving father/grandfather/husband. Love and hugs to you all during this difficult time.*

Shannon Fellenz - October 27, 2020 at 08:31 AM

PK

“ *We will play "tiny bubbles" and light a candle for THE FUZZ! We will always remember the laughs, his boisterous voice And his immeasurable love for God.*

We are so sorry for your loss. It is fitting his funeral is on The Feast day of Saint Jude and Saint Simon. Max was a Saint on earth. Live, the Kassebombs

Patrick and April Kassebaum - October 27, 2020 at 04:54 AM

BT

“ Condolences from my whole family to my Aunt Regina & to my cousins Terry, Cathy, Cindy, Rita, Cecilia, & Tom. We will all miss uncle Max. I've told my family so many stories of my time on your farm and my memories of being in awe of Uncle Max, afraid of uncle Max and charmed by uncle Max. He taught me to work to the point of exhaustion, then wake up and do it again the next morning (even if after a great Aunt Regina dinner I beat Cousin Tom in a pickle eating contest and was sick on top of being exhausted). He taught me to be responsible, even as a young child by demanding that we did our farm work right, with no careless mistakes. As he got older, I learned that one can have 2nd acts in life (from farmer to performer) and even third acts (from farmer & performer to artist), and that it's possible to become more nuanced and subtle with age.

*I'll miss Uncle Max, but he will always be a small part of me and will always be a part of the stories my family tells. With condolences,
Bernie*

Bernie Tershy - October 26, 2020 at 10:27 PM

EL

“ So sorry for your loss Leiningers! So many memories from weekly Sutton Summer visits, often spent at Max and Regina's farm. If u didn't know what hard work was, u would b4 the week was done! But the comradary and fun were an integral part of the weeks as well; swimming, picnics and rodeos where Max would ride the wildest of horses and kids followed in suit with their horses. My best memory was when Max told me to get up into and behind the wheel of a tractor and I'd never even been behind the wheel of a car! Scared to death I followed every command he gave. The job got done and no one was injured. A man of few words, when he spoke people listened and did as told or laughed as his humor was so enjoyable.. We will so miss you at family events Max! Our love and thoughts to the Leininger clan.

Elizabeth O'Connell Leiffert - October 25, 2020 at 10:25 AM

RL

“Generations loved this man. He was a cohort trouble maker with my Dad. I loved hearing their adventures. He was a soft hearted slave driver when I spent a week with Rita. Waking us before the stars had set, sending us into the field to walk the beans or set pipe, releasing us for a full afternoon of riding or swimming and regaling us with stories around the dinner table. How his eyes would twinkle! Years later he was a patient host to my kids and gave them combine rides and farm lore. We are blessed to have know him. May your precious memories ease your loss.

Rita Livengood - October 24, 2020 at 02:22 PM

JM

“I think you know what a blessing you and your family have been recipients of all these years-to have had such a faith filled, loving father-allowed to grace this earth for 95 years!! I know he will be missed by all of you but I also feel very secure in saying that he is at peace and smiling down as we mourn his passing. 😊 He is in a better place! May your hearts find that same peace and contentment as he lives life eternal.

Joyce Schramm Moss - October 22, 2020 at 05:35 PM

CK

“Sending hugs and prayers for the family. Max will be greatly missed. Rip Max.

Carol krause - October 22, 2020 at 03:43 PM

J"

“So so sorry for loss Miss Rita. Sending Love & Hugs to you & your family.

Julie Maynard "Moose" - October 22, 2020 at 02:50 PM

GB

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family. Max was always a joy to be around and he will be missed. Blessings to all of you.

Glenn & Sheila Bauer - October 22, 2020 at 02:19 PM

LS

“ We are so sorry for your loss of beloved Max. What a life he lived and what a legacy and inspiration he was, a truly magnificent man. Holding you all close during this difficult time. Much love to the entire family.

Lori & Marc Stavropoulos - October 22, 2020 at 12:57 PM

JM

“ I think you know what a blessing you and your family have been recipients of all these years-to have had such a faith filled, loving father-allowed to grace this earth for 95 years!! I know he will be missed by all of you but I also feel very secure in saying that he is at peace and smiling down as we mourn his passing. 😊 He is in a better place! May your hearts find that same peace and contentment as he lives life eternal.

Joyce Schramm Moss - October 22, 2020 at 10:33 AM

RV

“ So sorry for your loss. Max was an awesome man and I always enjoyed him coming into my store. He will be missed. Prayers for all of you.

Randy Veleba - October 22, 2020 at 10:02 AM

DS

“ So sorry for your loss.

Deb Steele - October 22, 2020 at 08:44 AM

KM

“ So many sympathies to you and your family. May God hold you all as you celebrate his life!

Kara McNeese - October 22, 2020 at 08:41 AM

SH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to all of you. It is hard to lose a dear one at anytime, but during this time it is really hard. My thoughts are with you during this time. Lost my mother in March, so I understand how hard it is.

Sharon Heater - October 22, 2020 at 06:01 AM

MC

“ My heart cries for all of you. A life well lived and now at rest in the Lord's arm. At peace at last.

Marilyn Campbell - October 22, 2020 at 04:11 AM

KJ

“ Condolences and Prayers to a family that brought cross generational friendships to many of us. May your memories ease you through this difficult time.

Kathy Johnson - October 21, 2020 at 10:11 PM

TG

“ Our deepest sympathy to Regina and the Leininger family. We know you are blessed with many wonderful memories of Max.

Ted & Shirley Griess - October 21, 2020 at 07:32 PM

MS

“ Praying for you all during this time. While I never knew Max personally, it is apparent that he lived life to the fullest, and with that full of love. God bless you all.

Michaela Sasse - October 21, 2020 at 07:23 PM

CK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Max was a great man and was loved so much by his family.

Cindy Krous - October 21, 2020 at 04:38 PM

KP

“ Love and Sympathy to the whole family. May Max rest in the peace of Christ.

Kathleen Hoarty Potrzeba - October 21, 2020 at 02:40 PM

SB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Max was a great man. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Sandra Alberts Beahm - October 21, 2020 at 02:29 PM

KG

“ Cathy, I am so very sorry for your loss. I am thinking about you and your family.

Kris Gottula - October 21, 2020 at 01:43 PM

JM

“ I love you Gramps. Your a good man.

Jesse Mohnike - October 21, 2020 at 08:58 AM

AH

“ Cathy, My condolences to your family during this difficult time. Your father sounds like an amazing man who lived a full and faithful life. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Anne Hubbell - October 21, 2020 at 08:50 AM

NL

“ My deepest sympathies for your loss. My thoughts are with you. I'll pray for your comfort and peace.

Nicole Leafy - October 21, 2020 at 07:43 AM

IO

“ Cathy, my deepest condolences for you and your family. Words cannot express the loss of a parent. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Iris Owens - October 21, 2020 at 07:09 AM

MH

“ Our deepest sympathy to you and all of your families. May your heart be filled with loving memories of your dad. Eternal rest grant onto him, Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Much love to you!

Mike and Barb Hartzog - October 21, 2020 at 06:47 AM

MS

“ Cathy - my deepest sympathy to you and your family in the loss of your father, he sounds like a wonderful person. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you.

Merci Suarez - October 21, 2020 at 06:40 AM

AO

“ *Cathy, keeping you and your family in my prayers. Your dad's obituary is a loving tribute to a life well-lived. May you find comfort in your wonderful memories.*

Allyson Olson - October 21, 2020 at 06:33 AM

SD

“ *Thank you for sharing the beautiful story of your father's life those memories will bring you comfort. Deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

Sharon Davis - October 21, 2020 at 06:28 AM

KS

“ *Peace to your hearts at this time. His obituary was a beautiful tribute to what sounds like an amazing man!*

Kim Snyder - October 21, 2020 at 06:17 AM

SV

“ *My deepest condolences to you and your family. May you find some comfort and peace in the memories and love shared between you and your dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Shirley Vargas - October 21, 2020 at 06:07 AM

JS

“ *On behalf of the entire NDE staff, our deepest sympathy goes to you Cathy and your extended family.*

Joel Scherling - October 21, 2020 at 05:54 AM

BO

“ *Many prayers are being offered for your family Tom. What an amazing life your dad lead.*

Take care,

Barb Olsufka - October 21, 2020 at 05:28 AM

GM

“ *Max, may you rest In peace. My condolences to Regina and all the Leininger family. I know that you have many wonderful memories of life with Max. Take care of yourselves. Love to you all.*

Ginny McGuire - October 20, 2020 at 08:33 PM

PF

“ *May your dad Rest In Peace, Cathy. And God hold him in the palm of His Hand, blessings to your family; prayers and love being sent. Such wonderful memories you all have.*

Pat Frost - October 20, 2020 at 07:30 PM

DS

“ *Love the memories of being at the farm when I came to Nebraska with Rita. Also enjoyed the balloology Max was when Regina would do the clown shows. He was a shining light everywhere he went. Rest in peace now.*

Deb Starita - October 20, 2020 at 06:11 PM

CG

“ Uncle Max was always so much fun to be around. When I was little we followed the singing duo around the county and "Tiny Bubbles" was my favorite as well Max and Regina are an iconic couple! God rest his soul. John and I send our love to all of your family.
Clare

Clare Sheridan Geiger - October 20, 2020 at 04:55 PM

ML

“ We were so sorry to hear the news of Max's passing. He was a great fella and will be missed. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Mike and Sharon Lanham - October 20, 2020 at 01:17 PM

KW

“ My condolences to the Leininger family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Ken Wells - October 20, 2020 at 12:36 PM