



Arnold F. Leestma

July 11, 1931 - December 13, 2025

Arnold F. Leestma, 94 of Fond du Lac, was called to his heavenly home on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Arnold was the son of Martha and Peter Leestma, and he was born in Grand Rapids, MI on July 11, 1931.

On June 22, 1953, he married Mona Lou Gillette also from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Arnold attended Michigan State University earning a master's degree in Dairy Science in 1957. Arnold enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas until 1959. After his service they adopted their three beloved children, Donna being the first then Thomas and Bruce. Arnold loved to share boating and camping with his family, taking them on some memorable adventures.

Arnold worked for several different Dairy Manufacturing companies in the Midwest and East Coast, causing he and the family to move every 2 to 3 years. Arnold was at Dunkirk Ice Cream and accepted a position at Galloway West located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin in 1983. His wife Mona became a 3-grade school teacher in Fond du Lac where they resided.

On April 25th, 1991 his beloved wife of 38 years, Mona Leestma, was called to her heavenly home.

On October 17th 1992, Arnold married Ann Horner of Fond du Lac. Together they enjoyed retirement. They loved to travel, garden and be at the grape vineyard that Ann's late husband started. They loved spending time with family and friends, volunteering, and showing joy and love to everyone. Arnold loved spending time at the grape vineyard, as it had brought back many

memories of his small hobby farm that he had while in New York.

Arnold was also preceded in death by his son, Thomas Leestma on November 5, 2014.

After 26 years of marriage Ann Horner - Leestma went to her heavenly home on December 2nd 2018

Arnold is survived by his two children Donna Arimura (Brian) and Bruce Leestma

Arnold was a grandfather to 12 Grandchildren and 12 Great Grandchildren.

VISITATION: The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church, 1225 Fourth Street, Fond du Lac. Memorial services will follow at 11:00 AM, with Pastor Dr. Craig Alwin officiating.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
1225 Fourth Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Service

JAN 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
1225 Fourth Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Tribute Wall

GR

“ Arnold Leestma was the best boss anyone could ever ask for. I cannot count how many batches of caramel we made during the time we worked together. I was able to travel with both Ann and Arnold to various food industry events and it was always such a joy to see the love they shared going for walks and always coming back with a bouquet of fresh flowers they picked along their journey. Ice cream was one of their favorite treats, but it had to be scooped from an ice cream bucket, nothing soft served. I remember going to the gym to work out during my lunch hour (back in the day-that was possible) and there was Ann and Arnold in a swimming exercise program. I have fond memories of both of them. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Leestma Family during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

Gina Rosedahl - December 30, 2025 at 08:19 AM

BE

“ Bonita English lit a candle in memory of Arnold Leestma



Bonita English - December 21, 2025 at 01:22 AM

BE

“ *Ann Horner Leestma was my aunt Claire’s sister. How happy we were to hear often of Arnold and Ann’s own years of happiness and grace beginning when they were married and in the many years thereafter.*

–Mainly we knew Arnold vicariously; but we are deeply grateful for the goodness they helped generate within their own family and for others around them! May Arnold now rest in peace!

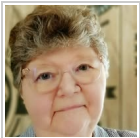
We also pray God’s blessings for his whole family! —(John and Bonita English, Red Cloud, Nebraska

Bonita English - December 21, 2025 at 01:18 AM

DC

“ *Bruce so sorry for your father’s loss. Thinking of you and Crystal and your family. Crystal had shared stories about him over the last year or so. She enjoyed time with him visiting, and shared her cookies to. Thinking of you all. WaWa aka Doreen*

doreen conger - December 20, 2025 at 11:01 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Arnold always greeted me with a smile.*

Kris Bartelt - December 20, 2025 at 03:21 PM