

NO PHOTO Larson, A. LeRoy

Rapid City, SD

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A. LeRoy Larson, 79, Rapid City, SD, passed away Wednesday, April 23, 2003, at the Belle Fourche Health Care.

A. LeRoy Larson was born February 7, 1924, at Mobridge, SD to Martin and Martha (Rygh) Larson.

He attended school in Mobridge and helped in the family businesses while he was growing up.

He entered into the military service in February 1944 during World War II. He served in the South Pacific at Leyte, Okinawa and Mindoro with the 381st infantry, 96th Division Deadeyes, E Company. LeRoy was wounded twice in action and received a Purple Heart and a combat medal. He was honorably discharged from the service in February 1946. He stayed in contact with his infantry buddies and attended the yearly reunions for as long as he was able.

Upon his return from the service, he went into business with his father and brother in Larson's Home Furnishing and Larson Funeral Home in Mobridge, SD.

LeRoy married Berniece Wientjes, June 20, 1948, at Mobridge. They worked and raised their sons, Tom and Jim and Marty, in Mobridge.

LeRoy was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose, VFW, American Legion, a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans and Trinity Lutheran Church. In 1972 LeRoy and his brother split the businesses, with LeRoy taking over the furniture store, although he did continue to help his brother at the funeral home.

LeRoy and Berniece sold their business and moved to the Black Hills near Rapid City in 1985, where they resided at the time of his passing.

LeRoy was a firm believer in family and attended family reunions wherever and whenever he could. His three sons were very special to him, and when they married and had children he couldn't have been happier. His family was his greatest joy.

LeRoy will be remembered as a gentleman who was always willing to lend a helping hand when needed and was truly grateful for any kindness done for him. His usual expression of appreciation always contained the words "Thank you, thank you."

LeRoy is survived by his wife Berniece; sons Tom and Kathy Larson of Belle Fourche, SD, Jim and Vicki Larson of Sheridan, WY, Marty and Deb Larson of Rapid City, SD; grandchildren, James and Ivy Larson of Sheridan, WY, Teresa and Todd Keller of Belle Fourche, SD, Brian and Nancy Larson of Rapid City, SD, Scott and Lori Larson of Madison, MN, Nick Larson and special friend Jennifer of Rapid City, SD, and Daniel Larson of Rapid City, SD; great-grandchildren, Taya and Thomas Keller and Skyler and Cael Larson; and his brother, Martin Larson of Mobridge, SD.

LeRoy was preceded in death by his mother and father, Martha and Martin Larson, and one grandson, Christopher Larson, son of Jim and Vicki Larson.

Visitation will be Sunday, April 27, 2003, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be Monday, April 28, 2003, at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 402 Kansas City St., Rapid City, SD.

Burial will follow at Mountain View Cemetery.

Memorials will be donated for Multiple Sclerosis Research and may be sent to Berniece Larson, 2340 Carter Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702.

Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home is in care of arrangements.