



## Leslie J. Bergquist, Sr.

August 12, 1934 - April 14, 2025

Leslie J. Bergquist, Sr., age 90, of Lake Tomahawk, passed away on April 14, 2025 at Milestone Senior Living in Rhinelander. The youngest of five children, Leslie was born August 12, 1934 to Carl and Nellie Bergquist in Duluth, Minnesota.

Leslie graduated from Clover Valley High School in 1952 with a graduating class of 5. He soon after went to work for the railroad storage house in Two Harbors, Minnesota. He met the love of his life Jean, and they were married August 29, 1953; they were married for 71 years. Leslie and Jean moved to Illinois, where Leslie started his life long career as a heavy equipment operator. He was a member of the Local 150 Operating Engineers. After retirement, Leslie built their dream home on Two Sisters lake, near Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Thru the years he enjoyed the local cross country ski and bike trails. His passion for running found him completing numerous half and full marathons with each of his children. Leslie and Jean enjoyed traveling, from the southern United States in the winter to Alaska in the summers to Lilliehamar, Norway to race in the Birkebeiner and to visit family in Australia.

“Pops” was very proud of his three sons, grandsons as they have followed in his work boots and have worked in the construction business in some capacity. He will always be remembered for his hard work and dedication to

his family and friends and sharing stories of growing up on the northshore of Lake Superior.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Earl, Wayne and Paul. Leslie is survived by his wife, Jean. His sons, Les Jr. (Debra) Bergquist, Lawrence (Darlene) Bergquist, Lloyd (Traci) Bergquist and daughter Judy (Richard) Besler. Sister, Marie (Paul) Glaesemann. 6 grand children, 8 great grandchildren, nephews and nieces. His English Springer Spaniel "Zachary".

Visitation will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM at Bolger Funeral Home-Woodruff. Burial will take place at a later date in Duluth, Minnesota. The family wishes to thank, Nurse Lynn of Senior Hearts Home Care Rhinelander, the memory care staff at Milestone Senior Living Rhinelander and Compassus Hospice care.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **26**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Woodruff Chapel

1212 First Avenue

(mailing address P.O. Box 40, Woodruff WI 54568)

Woodruff, WI 54568

(715) 356-6006

[bolgerfuneral@gmail.com](mailto:bolgerfuneral@gmail.com)

<https://www.bolgerfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall

“Always, always watch for trains when crossing the tracks”, “Get closer to your work”, “Respect the lake”, “Run your lure thru the waves, especially when the lake is stirred up, that is where the brown trout will be hitting”, “Take it slow, check your mirrors”, these are a small example of my dad's words.

Growing up my dad was my everything, he showed patience when teaching me how to drive, especially stick shift. ( A 5 speed manual VW diesel Rabbit, mind you). I couldn't back out of the driveway without killing the engine for nothing, so one time I just ended up driving around the house. I knew he wasn't happy with me but, there he stood just smiling, without saying a word. I eventually did get the hang of backing up and shifting and I'm sure that brought him peace of mind.

I am not sure how it all started but when Rich and I were first dating Rich would bring a bag of M & Ms for me. Well, dad would wait for me to open the bag and with extended hands and a big grin on his face would tell Rich “ O.K. You can date my daughter for another week!” So thru 40 odd years since, the wording may have changed but the tradition of the M&M's continued.

My dad had a great passion for long distance running. When I turned forty, I had a hare brained idea to run my first marathon and I wanted to run it with my dad. At the time even though dad was 70 years old he had a few marathons under his belt and was still running. So I picked up the phone and with a bit of hesitation I asked my dad if he would run Grandmas Marathon with me. His answer was “yes”. The combination of finishing my first marathon along with my dad is priceless and a memory that will last my lifetime. That fall he also joined me on the south shore to run the WhistleStop half marathon in Ashland WI. And as the years passed, I could always count on him to be waiting for me at the finish line, just like when I ran in Jr. high school and High school cross country meets, there he would be, cheering me on after a day of his work. I don't think he ever missed a meet.

There are so many stories to be told, those are just a few.....

Rest in peace now dad, you taught me well. Even when Alzheimer's was taking pieces of you from us, your love was ALWAYS there.

*You gave me the strength to do the things I never imagined I could do and continue to do.*

*No regrets.*

*When I'm casting out on Two Sister's Lake, the north shore and south shore of Lake Superior or when I'm running a trail, or visiting your grand and great grand children, I know you will be there, you are not gone, you are all around us. And I will always hear your kind and loving voice saying "Love you honey"*

*I miss you dad.....Love you always.....❤️*

*Your daughter,*

*Jude*

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**Jude Besler** - April 27, 2025 at 08:09 PM

LB

“ Grandpa,

*You had the best laugh and smile after telling your jokes. I will always remember busting you breaking into the cookie jar! I loved fishing on the pontoon with you, and crying when I was scared of the biggest bass I've ever caught as a kid. I'm thankful for the family you've blessed me with-the Bergquist's. I hope you're playing with the dogs and catching fish in heaven! Love you always Grandpa ❤️*

*Your granddaughter, Laura*



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**Laura Bergquist** - April 21, 2025 at 08:07 PM

LL

“ had many fun times with Les when watching our kids run a X-C race or we were competing together in a road race or X-C skiing together. I remember our days at Fox Trails, where I was on ski Patrol  
Les I will miss you.

LARRY LANE - April 21, 2025 at 03:30 PM

RT

“ Renee Edinger and Tim purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Leslie J. Bergquist, Sr..



Renee Edinger and Tim - April 18, 2025 at 12:07 PM

AB

“ Judy we remember your dad fondly from the Besler get togethers that included your mom and dad. Mostly I remember his warm smile and listening ear. Peaceful rest on a sunny lake for him!

Anne Besler - April 17, 2025 at 07:27 PM

FB

“ A big memory was when a certain group of friends decided to take a HUGE FOR SALE SIGN on West school. It seems Les Sr. drove by there on his way to work. Well, he came home the next day and that group of friends happened to be at the house. He said in his straight and easy way, "I certainly hope that sign is back where it belongs tomorrow". Needless to say we were very busy that evening. You got to love him.  
Frank B.

Frank Beasley - April 17, 2025 at 02:31 PM