



## Leon and Warda Lewis

September 6, 2021

Leon and Warda Lewis passed from this world together, to continue their eternal journey, on the morning of September 6, 2021, as the result of a car accident.

F. Leon Lewis was born on January 9, 1935, in Marion, Utah, to Emery Lambert Lewis and Emma Hoyt Lewis. He was the third of their six children. He grew up in Marion, where he developed a great love for animals and farm work, in the family dairy business.

He met his wife while she was attending Utah State College in Logan, Utah. He proposed on their second date, but she taught school for a year in Las Vegas before they were married. They married on September 18, 1959, in the St. George Temple.

Warda Ann Hirschi was born on August 12, 1936, in Rockville, Utah, to Daniel Alma Hirschi and Myrtle Ann Dalton Hirschi. She was fourth of their five children. She grew up in Rockville, and soon after their marriage she returned with Leon to make their home there. She taught school in Hurricane for several years, and later worked for Zions Bank for 15 years in Springdale.

Leon taught grads 4-6 while serving as principal of Springdale Elementary for 31 years. He had a close connection to his students and was thrilled when he

received calls and visits from them over the years. He spent many summers as a Naturalist in Zion, he enjoyed giving the evening programs at the campgrounds and introducing visitors to the park. Leon always had a cow to milk, a few cattle, horses, chickens, and often pigs on his ranch.

No animal ever came to the LL Ranch without a name and a mention in his record book. The ranch was a source of much fun for their 15 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren and a good education on the value of work for their four children: Vicki Ann (Ken Green), Vauna Vee (Richard Wolff), Rocky (Sheri), and VaNeta (Mike Shannon). They left a legacy of faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ and were blessed to serve in many ways in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

They are preceded in death by everyone who died before them and survived by those still living. They were loved by many and are grateful to many kind friends and relatives who made this life a joy to them.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at the La Verkin LDS Stake Center, 481 N. Main Street La Verkin, UT 84745. A viewing will be held at the same location prior to services from 12:00-1:45 p.m. Burial will take place at the Rockville Cemetery.

To watch the funeral services follow the Zoom link below and enter meeting ID#

<https://zoom.us/j/98404951339>

Meeting ID: VDNGN0xFTzJYdy93SnZiaUNUL0tDZz09

# Previous Events

## Viewing

SEP 11. 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM (MT)

LaVerkin Stake Center  
481 N. Main Street  
LaVerkin, UT 84745

## Funeral Service

SEP 11. 2:00 PM (MT)

LaVerkin Stake Center  
481 N. Main Street  
LaVerkin, UT 84745

## Burial

SEP 11 (MT)

Rockville  
Rockville, UT

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ To the extended Lewis family please know we share in your grief and loss of a father & mother brother/sister, grandfather/grandmother. As a teacher Mr Lewis was the one whom i remember the best. He taught me that I would learn to spell the word "beautiful" when it was important and when I needed it. Mr. Lewis you had a beautiful and gentle soul. Ever kind. Ever patient. You are missed.

---

**Stephen Peterson** - December 12, 2021 at 06:33 PM

SS

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Leon and Warda. He was my teacher for 4th through 6th grades and a wonderful influence on my life. I have so many memories of sitting in the classroom listening to "Mr. Lewis" read aloud from the Little Britches series of books and of taking the Friday times table tests. I also have memories of having to sit for a week on the "one legged milking stool" after tipping over my chair too many times, a lesson I quickly learned to avoid. Mr. Lewis was a positive presence in my life and my memories.

I am saddened for all of the family and wish you many happy memories to share with each other as you celebrate the Christmas season this year. My prayers are with you all! Sonja (Peterson) Shields

---

**Sonja Shields** - December 12, 2021 at 06:09 PM



“ It's been quite some time since I have been down that way but the memories will stay the same. Very grateful for all their kindness and hospitality while we were there.

---

**Kristin Lewis** - September 11, 2021 at 08:50 PM

LL

“ To the Leon, Warda family,

*The funeral was a very nice tribute and honoring of such great people. Good things and treasures you all shared about them such as Uncle Leon's favorite poem, about stories from his mother. Vicky mentioning doing a job right as I can hear my dad say that and put it in an old feed sack as well.*

*We loved going to visit Uncle Leon and Aunt Warda in the summers. We always had the red carpet treatment. I always remember going to Grafton, I think it is, and there were rattlesnakes in one of the buildings. But being around Uncle Leon and Aunt Warda was always an adventure with surprises so even snakes were not so scary. We so appreciated all of the fun adventures that we shared with them. Many adventures at Zions too.*

*I bless each of you who are a part of their legacy to carry on in their memory. To feel the little bit of them inside of you that is part of what they were and the things about how they taught us all about how to live. To remember those things and the joy they both brought to this earth. These things will make you laugh and smile and think of them.*

*Really, it made me smile as I can see my dad in Leon and Warda and family. Their nuances that are the same and their little sayings and the way we grew up as kids. Much of it is not that different really. Uncle Leon and Aunt Warda had some of the very same ethics. I loved the bucket guitar. Priceless really!*

*Love and light to all of you,*

*Lori Lewis*

---

**L Lynne Lewis** - September 11, 2021 at 06:43 PM

FW

“ *My love to the family of Leon and Warda. Fae Winsor*

---

**Fae Winsor** - September 11, 2021 at 05:16 PM

PB

“ *1 file added to the album Leon the video star!*



---

**Phillip Bimstein** - September 11, 2021 at 02:56 PM

“ I am so sad for all of us -- I know we all will deeply miss this dear, dear couple.

*When I visited the class that Leon was teaching at Springdale Elementary some 30 years ago and heard him recite from memory his favorite poem (pasted below), I was so touched by his love and sincerity, as well as his devotion to his students.*

*So when I composed my "Zion Canyon Song Cycle" many years later, I just knew I had to include Leon's story and record him reading that poem.*

*Every single time Leon took the stage to tell his story in Red Rock Rondo's song ("When the Rooster Crows, Company's Coming"), he brought the house down. Everyone just loved him. He was a natural because he was pure teacher -- he had the gift of love and life and knew how to share that with his students (and an audience).*

*All of us in Red Rock Rondo were so honored to know him and thrilled to share the stage with him, along with the hundreds of delighted smiles he generated.*

*I bet heaven's roosters are having a field day right now, crowing brightly because they'll have the company of Leon and Warda forever. As Leon says in the song, "When the rooster crows, they say company's coming; And I guess that's true, 'cause company's here."*

*And here's Leon's favorite poem:*

*"You may have tangible wealth untold  
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold  
Richer than I you can never be --  
I had a mother who read to me."*

— Strickland Gillian

*If you'd like to see Leon speak/singing his song, here's a link to the video:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9PtIV9r9Mc>*

*May we celebrate and remember Leon and Warda Lewis. They were gracious, generous, loving, gentle and kind.*

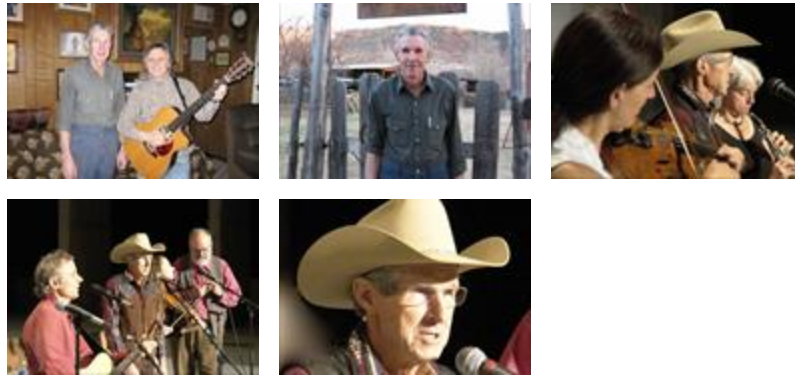
*Phillip Bimstein*

---

**Phillip Bimstein** - September 11, 2021 at 02:37 PM

PB

“ 8 files added to the album Leon the poet and performer



---

**Phillip Bimstein** - September 11, 2021 at 02:27 PM

RC

“ Dear Vicki, Ken, Vauna, Richard, Rocky, Sheri, Vaneta, Mike,

*Our hearts hurt for your loss, but rejoice in the choices Leon and Warda made in this life which enriched us all.*

*Sweet will be the resurrection when we will be reunited with our loved ones.*

*Hikes at Zions National Park, listening to cowboy poetry around the fire , saddling up horses, riding in the horse buggy playing with the farm animals, cousins laughing are all cherished memories.*

*Love,*

*Russ & Colette Condie and family.*

---

**Russ & Colette Condie** - September 11, 2021 at 12:31 PM

SH

“ Uncle Leon & Aunt Warda, you have a special place in my heart, and will truly be missed! I am comforted that you are together. I always felt welcomed in your home; you always found a place for us, to sleep and at your table. I'm sure that was not easy with our large family. My fondest memories are your love for Zion's National Park. I saw the awe of it's beauty and hiked through with my uncle for a guide. I'd like to think that you both are like the strong trees that rooted into the cliffs. Your love held a beautiful family together and is an example to me and my family. Thank you for the many fun times with my cousins playing in the Virgin River, swimming and swinging across. It was so fun to get muddy, wet, and find baby toads! My heart goes out to Vicki, Vaughna, Rocky, and Vanita! I miss you all so much, and wished many times that we lived closer when growing up because it was so fun to be with you! May you be blessed with peace and comfort. I'm sure that your parents will always be very near, their spirits are rooted in the beautiful sandstone cliffs! Love, Sandra L. Harper

---

**Sandra Harper** - September 11, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ When we moved to Rockville a few years ago, Leon and Warda were so kind and welcoming! Leon gave me a tour around his farm and told me many stories. We talked for the afternoon and he sent me home with lots of vegetables from his garden.

*In a time where so many of us are too busy to meet our neighbors, Leon and Warda were such good examples of how to make people feel welcome. I'm so saddened to hear of their passing.*

*We would certainly benefit by having a lot more people in the world just like this wonderful couple.*

---

**Jacob Andersen** - September 11, 2021 at 11:31 AM

BM

“ *My heart is broken. My dear friends Leon and Warda Lewis were killed in a car accident. Leon and I served together every Monday morning for 20 years at the front desk of the St George Temple. He was one of the kindest people I've ever known, as was his sweet wife Warda. I can't believe they are gone but I know they are having a beautiful reunion in heaven. May God bless and comfort their family and friends. They will be missed by many!* 🙏❤️

---

**Bunny McArthur** - September 11, 2021 at 10:03 AM

EB

“ *"Some people strengthen our society just by being the kind of people they are." Leon and Warda were such touchstones for the community.*  
*Deepest sympathies to the grieving family at this time of great loss.*

---

**Eric and Michelle Bonner** - September 11, 2021 at 09:46 AM

JH

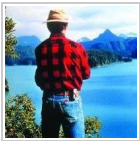
“ When Jon and I were a young married couple living in Rockville, Leon and Warda were always a kind and supportive couple to us. Leon had taught our younger brothers and sisters and they all remembered him as a fine teacher. We were always amazed at his recall of the names of all the students he had taught throughout the years. He met Jon's brother Chris at the auction here in Cedar City about a year ago and asked about each of the Heaton family members by name even though he had not seen them for about 40 years. Leon loved animals and came to the auction in Cedar quite frequently.

They raised fine children also. One of them would visit my elderly mother, Clara Cope frequently and would bring her treats or small gifts when she visited. Mom always appreciated that. We will miss the friendly faces and kindness of Leon and Warda.

With fond remembrance,  
Jonathan and Vicki Heaton

---

**Jonathan Heaton** - September 10, 2021 at 10:09 PM



“ Michael and Diane McBride on Grafton Road are grieving with all those who called themselves friends of Leon and Warda. As we all know, they were "bigger than life itself" and all of us wish we could be as meaningful to friends and community as they were. I have fine photos of putting up hay in our pasture with Leon and am happy to share them. How well we recall that as new, newcomers, they came to the house and sat on the couch and we had a long and happy visit. I was lucky to be fed in their kitchen when I helped Leon rebuild the burned barn/shed. This is the "best of America" I thought on those occasions of helping one another cheerfully. Riding to the head of Horse Valley Wash on his Old Navajo was another of scores of sweet memories. My thoughts are with all of you. Blessings on you and yours.

---

**Michael McBride** - September 10, 2021 at 05:08 PM

RR

“ I had the unique privilege of teaching school for 5 years with Leon. It was just the two of us. I taught first, second, and third grade; and Leon taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grade. He became a dear friend and when he invited me to his home in between school and evening meetings, I was treated with a delicious meal by Warda and I always joined Leon in his evening chores of milking his cow, gathering eggs, and feeding all the livestock. Leon and Warda are the “salt of the earth “ and will truly be missed. I’m so thankful for the small part of my life and the close interaction I had with them. Their examples have had a powerful impact on my life.

---

**Roma Ann Stout Richmond** - September 10, 2021 at 10:50 AM

GH

“ Both were wonderful people and so kind. Brother Lewis was a wonderful Stake President. Warda always made you feel like she was your friend. Sorry for your loss but happy they went together. May you have comfort and peace. Donald and Gloria Halterman

---

**Gloria Halterman** - September 09, 2021 at 10:07 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.



---

September 09, 2021 at 08:32 PM

CN

“ Doyle and I are so very sorry at the passing of your parents. What a shock. Leon was a few years older than me. I do remember him in the ward when I was a young girl. My brother George Simpson was a couple of years older than Leon and remembers many fun times with the Lewis Brothers. We send our deepest sympathy to Rocky and Ken Green who we know well, we send Love and Prayers to the rest of the family also. The blessing in their death is that they went together and did not leave one of them suffering from injuries in the hospital. Love and prayers to each of you. May Heavenly Father comfort you and the Holy Ghost whisper peace.  
Connie Simpson Nowling and Doyle Nowling.

*My cousin Bonnie Simpson Wilde send her love and prayers also. She and Leon were class mates at South Summit High School. She is extremely sorry*

---

**Connie Nowling** - September 09, 2021 at 05:23 PM

DP

“ Your family does not know me but I met Leon at the cattle auction one year. He touched my soul as he helped my disabled friend bid on a cow of his choice. I lost my mother and father to a car accident . I feel your hearts, as I have experienced how you must feel. . I will always be grateful for the tender mercies in life and Leon was one of those tender mercies in this world. Leon was a true example of Gods greatest commandment for us to love one another. My love and compassion I send to all family and friends. Diane Peterson

---

**Diane Peterson** - September 09, 2021 at 04:30 PM

WC

“ *With love, Jeff, Darci & Matthew Carlson purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.*



---

**With love, Jeff, Darci & Matthew Carlson** - September 09, 2021 at 03:29 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.*



---

September 09, 2021 at 03:24 PM

TP

“ *Town of Springdale and Springdale Police purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.*



---

**Town of Springdale and Springdale Police** - September 09, 2021 at 03:11 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.*



---

September 08, 2021 at 09:58 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.*



September 08, 2021 at 01:56 PM



“ *Stuart, Amanda, Tecopa, Micco & Crystal purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.*



**Stuart, Amanda, Tecopa, Micco & Crystal** - September 08, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.*



September 08, 2021 at 10:09 AM

DH

“ It would be impossible to pull the threads of Leon and Warda from the fabric of my family's life without leaving an unpatchable hole, from surprise egg deliveries to homey home teaching to speaking at family member's memorials.

My all-time favorite memory was one of Leon's surprise visits to my sister Becky Barker's home a couple years ago, and when he popped his head in, he said, "I heard Delmar was in town and just had to say hi!"

If you didn't feel noticed and loved by Leon and Warda, you weren't paying attention.

---

**Del Hughes** - September 08, 2021 at 05:05 AM

HS

“ We were shocked and saddened to hear about Leon and Warda. Leon married us over 34 years ago, and we will always be able to look at our wedding album and remember that he was a very important part of the start of our lives together. We have enjoyed all our encounters and experiences with them and enjoy many good memories of them. The community lost two stellar individuals. Deepest condolences to all the Lewis family. Hart and Sonja Sweeten

---

**Hart and Sonja Sweeten** - September 07, 2021 at 11:12 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Leon and Warda Lewis.



---

September 07, 2021 at 09:34 PM

KS

“ I would see Leon with Warda, they were together everywhere. Warda was a special lady, she was a ray of light, a person you wanted to be around, she loved her family and Leon beyond anything. I'm sorry for your loss and please know they were admired and loved by all in our communities.

-----  
**kerry smith** - September 07, 2021 at 08:25 PM

BJ

“ Leon had a great love for basketball. He would hang around with the youth and school them with his formidable shooting prowess. Especially his 3-point shot. Now, I consider myself to have been a baller, and a pretty good 3-point artist myself. But I NEVER had the nerve to challenge him to a shooting contest, cause I knew he'd school me (he was a teacher)! We lost an icon, and he and Warda will be missed terribly. My life is richer because of them. And I'm glad they are still together.....Bob Jones

-----  
**Bob Jones** - September 07, 2021 at 08:17 PM

SR

Yep, and that 3-point shot was most generally a hook shot, and most generally a swish. Samuel Roth

-----  
**Samuel Roth** - September 07, 2021 at 08:31 PM

MI

Oh mister lean we used talk and talk on my evening walk trou Rickville oh things the we talked priceless always watching and helping the neighbors ... one day I honk at him so bad the he turned around snd smile and waved on me!! May you keep singing those old song 🎵🎵

-----  
**Maria Iscoa** - September 07, 2021 at 10:34 PM

KB

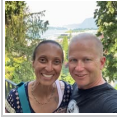
Mr. Lewis had a world-class sky hook only surpassed by Kareem himself.

-----  
**Kyle Bennett** - September 08, 2021 at 08:33 PM

KB

*Mr. Lewis had a world-class sky hook. Only Kareem himself could compare.*

**Kyle Bennett** - September 08, 2021 at 08:35 PM



*Known by Mr. Lewis by all at the school and commonly as President Lewis and Brother Lewis at church, Leon was and is an absolute hero of mine (I also always felt quite fortuitous to share a birthday with him). I think back so fondly of those elementary school days: being educated by him in a myriad of subjects, being read books by him (including "The Great Brain" series) daily after lunch, and (my personal favorite) playing basketball with him at recess. That hook shot of his was truly amazing - he had range well out beyond the top of the key and could even drain it with one (or more) of his students hanging onto his left arm. He also had in his arsenal a quick-trigger, two-handed push shot that was absolute money from most any distance. Perhaps in the great hereafter I'll get another chance to shoot some hoops with him (although, to facilitate that, he will undoubtedly have to take a trip quite a bit southward to visit me in much warmer climes).*

*In the world of celebrities we commonly hear about "power couples" - in my view Leon and Warda were the actual embodiment of a true power couple. Always so warm and kind to all, consistently true to their beliefs and to each other. I have no doubt their marriage relationship is eternal and, together, they have now made that step to the other side. While we who now remain will miss them tremendously, they leave a great legacy that will ever linger and resonate throughout Zion Canyon.*

**Chris Madsen** - September 09, 2021 at 03:09 PM

BJ

*I'm sure Mavis/JR and Leon/Warda are all having a good chat!*

**Bob Jones** - September 09, 2021 at 08:06 PM

EM

*Two of the most beautiful people the Lord ever produced..Warda was my PE teacher at Hurricane High and she was always happy and caring. Leon was the Bishop during the last couple of years of my mother's life and I will never forget how compassionate and loving he was to her.. I have admired Warda and Leon over these many years and love them for their humility and for their love of everyone they chanced to meet.. May their influence linger in our lives to make us better citizens..Thanks Leon and Warda for your example of Christ's love..*

---

**Evelyn Hirschi Merrill** - September 11, 2021 at 01:28 AM

JS

*“ I love you all so much.. Leon, Warda and family but especially my Sister Neeter! My evil twin! I'm crying with you and for you ❤️❤️ Some of the best people I've ever known and my life has been better for knowing all of you*

---

**Joel Sanders** - September 07, 2021 at 08:05 PM

DM

*Unbelievable that we have lost such wonderful treasures from our lives. They have always been exceptional examples in every way and have influenced our lives for good and we continue to be blessed by the goodness of the family members. We loved them too. Dan and Aleen McGuire*

---

**Daniel McGuire** - September 08, 2021 at 10:20 AM

SH

*If anyone epitomized the saying “salt of the earth “ it would be Leon and Warda Lewis. Goodness and kindness emanated from them with such ease I feel sure they were born that way. One would be hard pressed to find anyone in our canyon community who has not been on the receiving end of their loving concern - for it was always there, available to all. The day I heard the tragic news, I sat with a tearful and grateful heart remembering the many gifts they have given me over the years. For some reason, my mind took me back to the time Warda worked at the bank. She always sent us on our way with a cheerful “have a good one”. My heart smiled, and in my mind I pictured Leon and Warda planted in the universe where they are most needed, and my heart called out “ have a good one”. You are so loved.*

*Sharon Hatfield*

---

**Sharon Hatfield** - September 08, 2021 at 12:33 PM

PF

*What Leon and Warda have given and mean to the communities of Zion Canyon is heart warming. So many lives have been touched by these two kind and humble individuals. The knowledge, inspiration and kindness they have shown over the years to my family will never be forgotten. Prayers , love and sympathy is extended to their family. Gone but never forgotten. God Bless and help you through this difficult. Love you all.*

*Pat Fesler*

---

**Patricia Fesler** - September 08, 2021 at 02:05 PM



*The canyon will not be the same without Leon and Warda. They are icons forever and we will miss them dearly  
Cornelia and Maury*

---

**Cornelia Kallerud** - September 08, 2021 at 05:31 PM

PL

*It is hard to imagine Rockville without Leon and Warda’s presence. Quick with a smile, a helping hand, a good story and a friendly word. They were two of the first people to welcome us to the community, and two of the people that we will always remember. Sending love, Pam and Ron*

---

**Pam & Ron Leach** - September 09, 2021 at 09:04 AM

SH

*Authentic Kindness with a huge spirit of giving, Leon is truly special. The first time I meant your father he showed up at one of my fields that was 4 ft high and started mowing my field w/o a word. When I went out to greet him, He taught me to clear all the rocks from the field first and than pointed out all the noxious weeds I should dig up. He got up and down off the tractor 50 times to help clear rocks. I did not know him until that moment he showed up. He made quite a impression on me, One which humbles my spirit every time I pass their home. You must feel truly blessed to call them dad and mom. Praying for your peace and comfort.*

*Kind Regards, Sharon*

---

**Sharon** - September 09, 2021 at 01:41 PM

KS

*I've written a tribute, can't find, never the less Warda was a sweet heart, smart, loved her family and I thought so much of this wonderful soul, I'm still crying, she was a great lady. Rest in peace Warda and Leon. She had the sweetest smile and loved her crackly wonderful voice.*

---

**kerry smith** - September 09, 2021 at 11:11 PM

JB

*On behalf of all of us at Zion National Park, we wish our most sincere condolences to Warda and Leon's family. While its been many years since Leon worked as a seasonal park Naturalist, we still consider he and Warda part of the park family. And of course we are so appreciative of Leon "starring" in his leading role in the new park film released for the park centennial in 2019 - what a treat! Blessings! Jeff Bradybaugh, Superintendent, ZNP*

---

**Jeff Bradybaugh** - September 10, 2021 at 05:36 PM

DE

*Mary and I are saddened by the loss of Leon and Warda. They are friends and family. We look forward to our next visit with these wonderful and saintly couple. We pray for their family and share our belief that families truly are eternal.*

---

**David & Mary Excell** - September 10, 2021 at 08:37 PM

SF

*I am truly saddened by the loss of Warda and Leon, they are and will continue to impact the lives of all of us, privileged to know them. Last time I visited the Ward who was there to greet worshippers but Leon, with a firm hand shake and a pat on the back, followed by a hug from Warda, waiting in the chapel for Leon to join her, together in life and death. Memories have been running thru my mind all week but many have a common thread, Christ like service, love, gentleness and kindness to all who crossed their way. Warda's great smile and laugh and Mr. Lewis' no nonsense way with that twinkle in his eye. My deepest sympathy and prayers to the family, and to the canyon community, who are mourning such a giant loss.*

---

**Sue Fraley** - September 11, 2021 at 06:03 PM