



Merlyn Leslie Martens

September 27, 1931 - November 25, 2024

Merlyn Leslie "Les" Martens, a devoted father, grandfather, and esteemed veteran, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 25, 2024, at the age of 93, surrounded by his loving family. Born on September 27, 1931, in Valparaiso, Indiana, Les lived a life full of purpose and passion, instilling Christian values in his family, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew him. A proud veteran of the United States Navy, Les served his country from 1952 to 1955. Following his military service, he dedicated 35 years to civilian work, retiring as a supervisor of the jet engine shop at Dover Air Base, where he became a respected figure among his colleagues.

Les found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He took immense pride in his yard and garden, creating a sanctuary of beauty and tranquility. An accomplished woodworker, his hands crafted not just items of utility, but tokens of love and creativity that will be cherished by his family. He was also an avid reader, particularly fond of Western novels and old cowboy films, which reflected his appreciation for storytelling and adventure.

Beyond his hobbies, Les fostered friendships that enriched his life. He enjoyed monthly lunches and gatherings with friends from the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), where he held several leadership roles. He was also a beloved member of his Card Club, where laughter and camaraderie were abundant.

A passionate sports fan, Les followed NASCAR, football, and was a lifelong supporter of the Baltimore Orioles. However, his greatest joy came from his

family. He took immense pride in cheering for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren at their important life events-be it sporting competitions, concerts, recitals, ceremonies, or graduations. His presence was a constant source of encouragement and love.

Les is survived by his daughters, Sharon Dolby and husband, David of Laurel and Tammy Steele and husband, Mike of Seaford, as well as his cherished granddaughters, Caitlin Givens and husband, Scot, Lindsay Parsons and husband, Matt, and Mackenzie Willis and husband, Ray, and great grandchildren, Kendall, Addison, and Graham. He is also survived by a brother-in-law, Ted Hitz, a niece, Nancy Wood, and a nephew, Dan Hitz. His legacy of love, kindness, and dedication will forever be remembered.

In addition to his parents, Louise(Wallace) and George Martens, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 60 years, Betty, and a sister, Audrey Hitz.

A celebration of Les's life will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Short Funeral Home in Delmar, a visitation for family and friends will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to NARFE, c/o Diane Fleck, 1 Ruddy Duck Lane, Bridgeville, DE 19933, or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by visiting www.stjude.org.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 1. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525

Celebration of Life

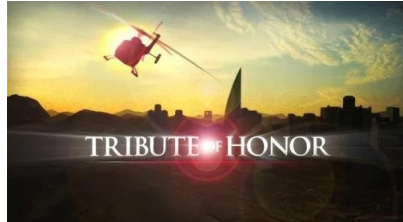
DEC 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525

Tribute Wall



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Merlyn Leslie Martens*



Short Funeral Home - December 01, 2024 at 06:40 PM

CL

“ *Les was truly a great person to know- a man who devoted his life and love to his family, friends, church, and community. His presence will be deeply missed by all.*
Cindy Lyons Taylor



Cynthia Lyons - December 11, 2024 at 09:22 PM

CL

“ *Cindy L. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Merlyn Leslie Martens.*



Cindy L. - December 11, 2024 at 08:59 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Merlyn Leslie Martens.



December 11, 2024 at 08:35 PM



“ Les was a wonderful man.He will be missed by so many.Les and Betty became part of our family when Mike started dating Tammy. We were so blessed knowing them.Sending very special prayers hugs and love to his wonderful family.



Darlene Steele - November 30, 2024 at 11:01 PM



“ 124 files added to the album LifeTributes



Short Funeral Home - November 30, 2024 at 11:17 AM

RF

“ Rick and Kim Fischer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Merlyn Leslie Martens.

Rick and Kim Fischer - November 29, 2024 at 09:13 AM

RF

“ Rick and Kim Fischer purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Merlyn Leslie Martens.



Rick and Kim Fischer - November 29, 2024 at 09:13 AM

TF

“ The Melon 1 Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Merlyn Leslie Martens.



The Melon 1 Family - November 27, 2024 at 05:04 PM