



The Chain

We knew little that morning
That God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly.
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
That day God called you HOME.
You left us
peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide:
And though we cannot see you,
You are ALWAYS at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one
The chain will link again

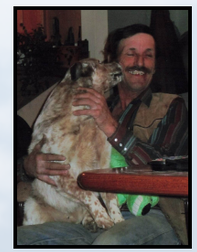
Born to Lester Leppell & Kay McCartney
September 3, 1958 ~ Stanley, North Dakota
Returned to His Heavenly Father
October 24, 2026 ~ Bismarck, North Dakota
Visitation
Sunday, November 1, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home Chapel
Watford City, North Dakota
Funeral Services
Monday, November 2, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM
Keene First Lutheran Church
Keene, North Dakota
Officiating
Pastor Peder Stenslie
Eulogist
Donny Moberg
Readers
Shaun Rink Jacob Hofmann
Pallbearers
Jimmy Leppell Mark Bobbe Donny Moberg
Jeff Rauser Wade Williamson Jake Leppell
Eli Leppell Adrian Belstad
Honorary Pallbearers
Grandchildren: Madison, Kylee,
Oliver, Ava, Paige, Caylee
Music Selections
"Lead Me Home" ~ Jamie Johnson
"Daddy's Hands" ~ Madison Hofmann & Tehya From
"Go Rest High on That Mountain" ~ Vince Gill
"Old Rugged Cross" ~ Hymn
"Goin Home" ~ Alan Jackson
Final Resting Place
Good Hope Cemetery
Keene, North Dakota
Arrangements By
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home
Watford City, North Dakota

In Loving Memory



Frank Leppell

September 3, 1958 - October 24, 2026




Frank Leppell was born September 3, 1958, in Stanley, North Dakota, to Lester Leppell and Kay McCartney Leppell Ogden. He passed away on October 24, 2026, at Sanford Hospital in Bismarck, surrounded by his family.

Frank spent his childhood in the New Town area, attending all 12 years of school there and graduating in 1976. In his younger years, he wrestled for a short time and liked to rodeo. He spent several nights riding broncs and competing in wild horse races with his brother, Jimmy. One of his favorite rodeo stories was winning the Blaisedale Rodeo on a bronc that no one had ever been able to ride, named Anchors Away.

Frank loved his siblings deeply. When he lost his father in a car accident at the age of 17, he stepped into a fatherly role for his younger siblings—a responsibility that reflected the hardworking, dependable man he would remain throughout his life.

Right out of high school, Frank enlisted in the United States Navy, where he ended up coming home early due to a back injury.

Frank spent much of his working life in the oilfield. He worked for Tiger Mike and on various drilling and workover rigs. He also spent a short time working for the State Highway Department before beginning what would become a career of more than 35 years with Delmer Rink Construction, serving as foreman for many of those years.

Never one to have just one thing going, Frank built and opened The Last Chance Bait Shop in Keene, operating it from 1989 to 1994. Family time was spent saining minnows to supply the shop —a venture that combined his resourcefulness with his love of fishing. Later in life, he also worked as a well pumper and took on contract dirt work for many people throughout the area.





Frank married Julie Norby in 1978, and together they put down roots in Keene and had five children. He later married Wanda Chapin, and together they built a life centered around farming and ranching and the home they shared.

In 1996, Frank decided to get into the cattle business with the purchase of 25 red cows. Those first cows began the many years of building fence and corrals, haying, branding, growing his herd, and eventually adding small grains to the operation. In 2008, Frank and Wanda found their forever home, where he was able to build his cattle and grain operation just the way they wanted it.

Frank's hobbies were never simply ways to pass the time—they were where so many of his best stories and family memories began. There was almost always a project in the shop that he was "fixing on." He spent years fixing a 1958 9N Fordson Tractor, rebuilding it from nothing but rust. In his twenties and thirties, he spent many nights bowling on a league and made several trips to the state bowling tournament. He rarely passed up an opportunity to play a game of pinochle with the neighbors.

Frank was an avid fisherman and enjoyed pulling the kids behind the boat on the tube. He also loved hunting with his family and took special pride in being alongside each of his children when they tagged their first deer. Oh, the stories we could tell hunting with Frank.

Frank was a fixture in the Keene community for most of his life. He helped build the original Keene park and played a major role in developing the Keene Fire Department. He served as Fire Chief for 12 years and gave many additional years as a volunteer firefighter. He also served his community in numerous other ways, including as a township officer and with the Board of Directors for the McKenzie County Fire District. He even advocated before the North Dakota Legislature for greater distance between oil wells and people's homes.

And when someone in the surrounding communities needed a grave dug, Frank was often the man they called. In truth, he was the man people called for just about everything. If something needed to be dug, fixed, figured out, or simply done, chances were Frank knew how to do it—or he would find a way. He was a true jack of all trades and a man who was always willing to lend a hand.

Frank loved his family deeply. The stories he told, the things he taught, the work of his hands, and the memories made alongside him will continue to live on in the family and community he leaves behind. He will be deeply loved, greatly missed, and remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Frank is survived by his wife, Wanda; sons, Dennis (Brean) Leppell, Naperville, IL, Wesley Leppell (Rebecca), Keene, ND; daughter, Bonnie (Jacob) Hofmann, Medina, ND; grandchildren, Jake (Jordan) Leppell, Eli Leppell (Tehya), Paige and Caylee Leppell, Madison, Kylee, Oliver and Ava Hofmann; his brothers and sister, Patty (Mark) Bobbe, Laurie Krueger, Jimmy (Taunie) Leppell; half brothers and sisters, Kenny (Linda) Leppell, Kathleen (Arnie) Kessel, Loreen (Bruce) Jorgensen, and Christopher (Jessica) Ogden.

He is preceded in death by his infant twin daughters Hope and Holly Leppell; his parents and grandparents; brother, Robbie Leppell; brother-in-law, Les Krueger; half-brother, Jeffrey Ogden; and nephew, Jamie Leppell.



