



Leslie "Les" Paul Groves

November 2, 1932 - January 22, 2018

Leslie Paul (Les) Groves, 85, of McPherson, Kansas, passed away at 6:30 a.m., Monday, January 22nd, 2018 suddenly at McPherson Hospital.

Leslie was born in Freeman, South Dakota on November 2, 1932, a son of Mary (Stucky) and William Paul Adelbert Groves.

Les attended the Freeman Public School, Freeman, South Dakota, graduating in 1950. He then attended Freeman Junior College, and graduated with his associates arts degree. Les attended and graduated from Bethel College, Newton, Kansas with his Bachelor of Arts Degree. He then received his Master of Arts Degree in Psychology and Counseling from Emporia State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church McPherson, KS 67460., where he served as Deacon for 3 years. Les was raised in the Bethany Mennonite Church, Freeman, South Dakota and a member of the Eden Mennonite Church rural Moundridge, and McPherson First Mennonite Church.

Through the years Les taught in Harvey County at Garden Valley District 43, then rural Hesston, District # 112, Plainview Country School rural Inman, and began an 34 year career with McPherson U.S.D. 418 that started at Washington School in the 4th grade, Park School with the 6th grade, and retired in 1993 from Roosevelt Grade School teaching the 5th grade.

Les enjoyed children, creative writing, poetry, and music. He was a member of McPherson Teachers Association, Kansas and National Education Association; the Men's Mennonite Chorus Association for 47 years (as of 2015); International Amateur Poetry Association; numerous poetry and writing groups. In 2015 Les received the Poet of the year award.

Les Groves was united in marriage to Ellen Stucky at the Eden Mennonite Church on August 12, 1953. Ellen died on March 26, 2010.

Les is survived by his children, Russell Groves and his wife Jeanne, of Hillsboro, Kansas, Jan Groves and his wife Anne, of Valley Center, Kansas; his sister Lois Goertzen, of North Newton, Kansas; his granddaughter Lia-Jing, of Valley Center, Kansas.

Les was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Mary Groves; his wife of over fifty-eight years, Ellen (Stucky) Groves; sister, Doris Kaufman; and brothers, Raymond, Roy, Carlyle, Quentin, and Les's twin brother, Lowell Groves.

Friends are invited to call Wednesday, January 24, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Glidden - Ediger Chapel.

Memorial Service will be held Thursday, January 25, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, at 11:00 a.m. McPherson, Kansas, with Reverend H. Dick Reynolds, Jr. officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church or Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

24

Glidden - Ediger Chapel

222 West Euclid Street, McPherson, KS, US, 67460

JAN **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

25

First Presbyterian Church

1400 N. Main St., MCPHERSON, KS, US, 67460

Comments



“ Les Groves was one of my all-time favorite teachers of any subject, at any school (and that includes college and grad school). Truly one of the best. Teachers like him make McPherson a special place, his family should know that he had a big impact on generations of children who still think fondly of his influence.

Steve Frazier - January 26, 2018 at 12:08 PM



“ I am heart broken, that I just this evening, learned of Mr. Groves passing. He and Mrs. Groves were two of the kindest, most talented people I know. He was a wonderful teacher to my children, I have a CD he gave me of the men's choir, I have several of Mrs. Groves lovely paintings, and his awesome poetry, & I loved when he used to help us at the museum. In fact, we had exchanged cards at Christmas, and I still have the beautiful snowflake & poem hanging in my tv room. We have had some great visits. I'm so sad that I didn't get the chance to pay my respects. He and your Momma are now rejoicing together! You are in my thoughts and prayers. Thank you for sharing your lovely parents with all of us.

Most Sincerely, and with love,
Louie Potts Peterson :0)



Louie Potts Peterson - January 25, 2018 at 10:36 PM



“ I am very sure Uncle Les is reunited now with Aunt Ellen and they are joyful to be together again. Les brought a lot of light and love to the world, and I'm sure he deeply touched many, many lives through his years as a singer, an educator, a poet, a woodworker, and a loving husband and father.

Both he and Ellen had So Many impressive talents! We are lucky in how they so generously shared them. I still have some of Ellen's paintings & cards, and Les's poetry. Especially the one he wrote for his brother Carlyle, after my Dad passed in 1991.

My heart & deepest sympathies go out to both of you, Russ & Jan. Losing parents is a hard row to hoe. Please know that the family is keeping you in our loving thoughts.

"Death is not putting out the light. It is only extinguishing a lamp because the day has

come. " ~Rabindrath Tagore

Love always from Cousin Debbie

Debbie Groves Bollinger - January 24, 2018 at 01:26 PM



“ Cousin Debbie Groves Bollinger purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Leslie "Les" Paul Groves.



Cousin Debbie Groves Bollinger - January 24, 2018 at 01:06 PM



“ My thoughts are with you and your family, Russell

Vicki Beebe - January 24, 2018 at 10:03 AM



“ A Full Life was purchased for the family of Leslie "Les" Paul Groves.



January 23, 2018 at 01:25 PM



“ Les influenced the lives of many children in McPherson thru his teachings. He was one of my favorite teachers. May your memories help you in the days ahead. Terri Turner Crampton

Terri Turner Crampton - January 23, 2018 at 09:51 AM



“ Les and I taught at the same time at Roosevelt Elementary. He was a wonderful teacher and a fine gentleman. He made a difference in so many lives. My sympathy to all the family. Lorna Stroup

Lorna Stroup - January 23, 2018 at 09:00 AM



“ My memories of Uncle Les go back to the early days of my life, and those memories always are aligned with common themes of music, literature, education and service to community.

I have treasured examples of stories and creative writing authored by Les, as well as recordings of Les's clear voice in song. Both were inspirations for me that live on to this day, and the contribution and commitment that Les made to the Kansas Men's choir stands as a singular tribute.

I also have fond memories of being "boys in the basement" with Russ and Jan in the Kansas home of Les and his beloved wife Ellen, with the hospitality extended to my mom (Doris, the older sister of Les) and my dad.

I will miss Les, but I am so grateful that he has moved on to the eternal Choir that praises God's grace.

Brian Kaufman - January 22, 2018 at 10:52 PM



“ Amen to all of that, cousin Brian!

Debbie Groves Bollinger - January 24, 2018 at 12:49 PM



“ Brian and Julie Kaufman purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Leslie "Les" Paul Groves.



Brian and Julie Kaufman - January 22, 2018 at 10:23 PM



“ He must have been a fine man for he raised up a fine son.

David Hughes - January 22, 2018 at 09:17 PM