



## Leonard Carl Hart

December 11, 1941 - August 11, 2025

Leonard Carl Hart, Sr. of Centralia, Illinois, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, August 11th, 2025, at the age of 83. Born on Thursday, December 11th, 1941, in Centralia, he was the son of James Hart and Dorothy M. (Arning) Werner.

On March 30, 1963 he married Ruth Barlow and they spent 59 wonderful years together before she passed away on September 24, 2022.

Leonard is survived by his loving children: Leonard Hart, Jr. and wife Deanna of Virginia and Carla Vandeventer and husband Curt of Centralia; brother Melvin Hart of Mt. Vernon; sisters Carol Shook of Florida and Hazel Reed (Charlie) of Florida; grandchildren Elizabeth Keeter (Wesley) of Virginia, Josh Vandeventer (Hannah) of Hoffman, and Brandy Vandeventer (fiancé Tyler Dunhan) of Springfield; and his great-grandchildren Jaxon Dunhan, Amelia Keeter, and Benson Lee Vandeventer.

He was preceded in death by his father, James C. Hart; mother, Dorothy Hart; beloved wife, Ruth Hart; and sisters Judy Parkinson and Julie Rice.

Leonard proudly served his country as a Marine, earning the Good Conduct Medal for his dedicated service. Following his military career, he embarked on a remarkable 38-year journey as a Barkman/Conductor with the Canadian

National Railroad. His commitment to his work was well recognized, and he was highly respected by his colleagues.

Leonard's life was filled with passion and adventure. An avid outdoorsman, he found joy in hunting, fishing, and camping. His talent for crafting model AC airplanes showcased his intricate skills and creativity—hobbies he loved sharing with his family. Leonard was a devoted family man, always cherishing moments spent with his loved ones. His heart was further enriched by his love for his fur babies, Boo and Lulu, who were a constant source of companionship.

Leonard was an active member of the American Legion Post 446 and AMVETS Post 101, where he was a life member. His commitment to his community was unwavering, and his presence there will be missed dearly.

Family, friends, and those whose lives were touched by Leonard are invited to celebrate his life on Friday, August 15, 2025 at 12:00pm at the Hillcrest Lakeside Chapel in Centralia. A Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Hillcrest Lakeside Chapel in Centralia. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery in Centralia. Military rites will be accorded by the American Legion Post 446 and the V.F.W. Post 2055 in Centralia. In honor of Leonard's deep affection for animals, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Centralia Humane Society and will be accepted by the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street in Centralia, IL 62801 (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Hart family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Leonard Carl Hart's memory will live on in the hearts and lives of all those he touched. May he rest in peace, embraced by the love he so freely gave.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Hillcrest Cemetery, Funeral Home & Cremation Center  
2500 Old 51 Rd  
Centralia, IL 62801  
(618) 532-6122  
headsutherland@aol.com  
<https://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com/>

## Celebration of Life

AUG **15**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM.

Hillcrest Lakeside Chapel

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Leonard Carl Hart*



**Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services** - August 15, 2025 at 09:40 AM

CV

*I love you daddy and miss you bunches. Your with your baby now momma.*

**Carla Vandeventer** - December 31, 2025 at 04:18 PM

CK

“ *Cousin Leonard, My dad told be stories of the three of you cousins were born within days of each other. My dad Larry Stinde and I believe Clarence was the other cousin, I don't remember what day in December that he was born but all three of you was Dec 1941 babies. I remember Ruth contacting me when Dad died in Feb, but I hate to hear Ruth passed months later the same year. I will remember meeting and talking with you at the restaurant. I will be thinking of the family. Your cousin Cassandra Stinde Kinney*

**Cassandra Kinney** - August 14, 2025 at 10:51 AM

DF

“ *DWR Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Carl Hart.*

**DWR Family** - August 14, 2025 at 08:35 AM

DF

“ *DWR Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Leonard Carl Hart.*



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**DWR Family** - August 14, 2025 at 08:35 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leonard Carl Hart.*



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August 13, 2025 at 07:29 PM