



## Leslie Wells

February 21, 1941 - September 15, 2025

Leslie L. Wells, a life well-lived (1941-2025)

Our cherished father & grandfather, of Centralia, IL, passed away peacefully on September 15, 2025, at the age of 84. He was surrounded by his loving family, who will forever carry his memory in their hearts. Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the son of J.C. Wells and Elizabeth (Fultz) Wells. He married the love of his life Melva (Wheeler) Wells on September 4, 1965, they built a family and life filled with love & cherished moments. He was a proud devoted father to Trinetta (James) Beasley, Justin Wells, Stacy (Brad) Kleeman, Christie (Tim) Paddock, & Amanda (Daniel) Novak. He cherished children, especially his Grandchildren Brittany (Beasley) Ragland, Jessica (Wells) Hull, Vanessa (Wells) White, Kyle Kleeman, Ryan Kleeman, Reid Kleeman, Travis Carter, Candace (Carter) Wittenberg, Natalie Novak, Allison Novak, & Rebecca Novak; and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother John (Linda) Wells and several nephews and nieces.

Leslie built a remarkable life defined by his boundless kindness and unwavering dedication to God, family, friends, church, and community. He was a technician for National Cash Register until Retirement in 2000, then enjoyed his retirement jobs at Hillcrest Cemetery & 2nd Chance Auto. When he wasn't working, he loved to garden, cut wood, or simply be with nature. His strong work ethic was matched only by his generous spirit. He was the kind of man

who would give you the shirt off his back, and his warm, infectious laugh made any gathering feel like home. You could always count on hearing “Ho, Ho, Ho” on random occasions as the little one’s look and question could he be Santa?

Leslie was preceded in death by his parents, beloved wife , daughter: Trinetta (Wells) Beasley, son: Justin Wells, grandson: Kyle Kleeman, sister: Rebecca (Wells) Chance, and brother: Carroll Wells.

His family, friends, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him will deeply miss his kindness, humor, and unwavering love. A visitation will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. The Funeral Service will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 2:30 PM at the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Centralia with Pastor Jimmie Fitzjerrells officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

In honor of his love for the innocence of children, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Pregnancy Care Center and the Illinois Baptist Children's Home, they will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home, located at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801. (618)532-3523, who is honored to serve Les’s Family during this time. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Funeral Home Facebook page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **20**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Funeral Service

SEP **21**. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
2003 Zion Hill Rd  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall



“ Visiting Uncle Leslie and Aunt Melva and the crew was always a fun time. Uncle Leslie was always so easy-going even with three additional kids running around. I remember Aunt Melva always being so kind and giving. I feel so very blessed to have had them for Aunt and Uncle.

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**Ken Wells** - September 24, 2025 at 09:48 PM

CF

“ Craig Herriges's & Joe Clarke families purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Leslie Wells.



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**Craig Herriges's & Joe Clarke families** - September 19, 2025 at 12:10 PM

WS

“ With love; Sam, Jackie, and Sam Sanchez purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Leslie Wells.



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**With love; Sam, Jackie, and Sam Sanchez** - September 19, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leslie Wells.*



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September 19, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leslie Wells.

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September 19, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leslie Wells.*



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September 19, 2025 at 10:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leslie Wells.

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September 19, 2025 at 10:51 AM

JK

“ *John, Linda, & Kevin Wells, Dawn Karguth purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Leslie Wells.*



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**John, Linda, & Kevin Wells, Dawn Karguth** - September 18, 2025 at 08:49 PM

LF

“ *Love, Ashley, Todd and Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Leslie Wells.*



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**Love, Ashley, Todd and Family** - September 17, 2025 at 04:19 PM

FP

“ *One of the highlights of my pastorate at Zion Hill was to work closely with Les. As his obituary stated, he was one of the kindest & most gentle man on the face of this earth. I don't recall ever hearing Les speak in a negative manner against anyone. He had the Spirit of Barnabas from The Book of Acts. He knew how to encourage!*  
*Floyd Pyle*  
*Washington, MO.*

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**Floyd Pyle** - September 16, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ We will miss you les your free of pain and walking and talking with Jesus until we meet again.

*Travis Patty and Tyler Bivens*



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**Travis Bivens** - September 16, 2025 at 03:58 PM