



Leyon O. Brestel

March 19, 1926 - March 12, 2015

NORFOLK — Leyon O. Brestel, 88, died Thursday, March 12, 2015, at Heritage of Bel Air Nursing Home. Memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Friday at The Meadows in the Granada Room with the Rev. Shelly Peitz officiating and inurnment at a later date under direction of Stonacek Funeral Chapel.

Leyon Oliver Brestel was born on March 19, 1926, to Martin F. and Blanche M. Fowles Brestel of Brady. Some of his best childhood memories were playing and swimming in the Platte River and growing up with the freedom to explore all that a small town allows.

After graduating from Brady High School in 1943, Leyon helped his parents at the grocery store in Brady and on their purebred Hereford ranch just north of the town.

Leyon enlisted in the Army in 1945, training in heavy weapons. He reached the rank of sergeant, working in the Army's Adjutant Department while stationed in Hawaii.

On Sept. 26, 1948, he married M. Mardell Exstrom at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Platte. After living on the ranch, they moved to the farm purchased by the family business. While on the farm, Roger was born in 1951, followed by another son, Ron, in 1956.

Leyon developed health problems that caused him to have to leave life on the farm. He took a job as a water analyst with the Canaday Steam Electric Generating Plant near Lexington. This move would lead Leyon to a long and rewarding career in water treatment and power plant chemistry. His career

took him to positions at Sheldon Station near Hallam, to Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownville and to Colorado Ute Electric Association in Montrose, Colo.

Leyon later founded PowerChem Consultants, where he shared his experience in water chemistry with customers Intel, Sandia National Laboratories and power plants around the globe. He participated in an ASME Standards Committee on Performance Test Codes, was a guest speaker at the International Water Conference and authored papers which appeared in Power Magazine and other technical journals.

In 2002, Leyon and Mardell moved one more time to Norfolk to be closer to family. Here, he started another business venture — Typhoon Car Wash in Columbus, which continues operating today.

Leyon was an adventurer. He was a private pilot, earning his license in 1946 and continued actively flying until just a year before his death. Leyon accomplished about 1,000 hours of flight time throughout the years. While living in Montrose, Leyon was the squadron commander of the Civil Air Patrol. He qualified as a mission pilot for mountain search and rescue. He was also very active with the high school cadet program. He retired after 20 years with that organization, having reached the rank of captain.

In 2011, Leyon fulfilled one of the goals of his lifetime — to ride in a World War II-era P-51 Mustang.

Leyon was a Boy Scout scoutmaster and roundtable commissioner. He participated in leadership training and on another occasion, a 12-day wilderness trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. Leyon enjoyed alpine and cross country skiing. He and Mardell enjoyed boating and spending time at their cabin on Jeffrey Lake in central Nebraska. At age 79, Leyon got his SCUBA diving certificate.

Leyon was a longtime member of the Montrose United Methodist Church choir and was a member of the Black Canyon Barbershop group in Montrose. Later, he joined the Men's Chorus in Norfolk.

Even as his health declined, he always kept a positive attitude, rarely

complained and was determined to live life to his fullest ability. Leyon passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at Heritage of Bel-Air nursing facility with son Roger present.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Daniel Martin and his wife, Joan; and sister-in-law Bernice Exstrom.

He leaves behind his wife of 66 years, M. Mardell Exstrom Brestel; two children, Roger Lee (Kathy) of Norfolk and Ronald Ray (Martha) of Marshalltown, Iowa; grandchildren Patrick (Yulia) of Lincoln and their children, Cessna, Felix and Solice; Michael (Leslie) of Lincoln and their children, Cameron and Nathan; extended family Ryan (Rosalia) Watchorn and son Tyler of Grand Island and Kerry (Matt) McQuillan of Omaha; brothers-in-law Paul Exstrom, Donald (Darlene) Exstrom and Ralph (Peggy) Exstrom and their children and grandchildren; niece Vicki Lake Naranjo (Gary) of Richardson, Texas, and nephew Barry F. Brestel (Nancy) and daughters of West Des Moines, Iowa.

The family asks that memorials be contributed to the Norfolk Boy Scout Troops (124 or 122) or the Orphan Grain Train. Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Leyon O. Brestel*

October 05, 2023 at 03:46 AM



“ *Leyon hired me as a Chemist at the Hayden Steam Plant in Colorado in the Spring of 1981. He mentored me for many years and together we created many new computer-based models of boilers, cooling towers, feed-water systems, and steam condensers. He treated me like one of his sons. I continue to use his logic in my current job that deals with industrial water chemistry control systems. He will be sorely missed but continues to live on in my work.*

Lon Brouse

Lon Brouse - August 05, 2015 at 10:41 PM



“ *Mardell and family. Please accept our sincere sympathy. Randy and Jan Cromer Jeffrey Lake Brady,Ne.*

Randy Cromer - March 21, 2015 at 02:19 PM

PJ

“ *Great Photos and Video. As you would know, I didn't know your dad well Roger but enjoyed the two times you and he flew in to Kearney Aviation Center and we went down the road for a sandwich. Enjoyed the visit about being fellow Civil Air Patrol mission pilots....we had stories to tell. He was a Colorado CAP member. I have truly enjoyed the friendship we have developed given our common interests and look forward to future endeavors. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Kathy and your family at this difficult time.*

Jane and Phil.

Phil and Jane Jossi - March 19, 2015 at 09:50 PM

RB

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Roger Brestel - March 19, 2015 at 09:36 AM

MB

“ *Sorry to read about Leyons passing. I worked for his brother Dan for 26 years at Boice Crane and remember Leyon coming in and visiting. He was always respectful and kind to me. I have fond memories of the Brestel Hereford Ranch bull sales. May your memories carry you through this difficult time. With deepest sympathy,*

Marilyn (Oberg) Brock
Gothenburg, Ne

Marilyn Brock - March 19, 2015 at 09:17 AM

RB

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Roger Brestel - March 19, 2015 at 09:17 AM

BC

“ *Leyon's death was announced at our Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus meeting. Many of our members sang with Leyon. He was a wonderful guy...always happy and cheerful. We shall all miss him but know he will be singing in Heaven and may be telling a few jokes. We remember him telling jokes that really "tickled" him and he could hardly tell them because he was laughing so hard. Our prayers and sympathies are extended to Mardell and the family. Thanks for the memories, Leyon!*

The Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus; Montrose, CO.

Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus - March 18, 2015 at 11:05 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Leyon O. Brestel.*



March 18, 2015 at 11:53 AM

RA

“Leyon and I were fellow CAP members in Montrose, CO. He was such a meticulous pilot, good friend and a great member! One time Sharon and I, Mardell and Leyon flew his C182 to Nebraska and back, what a great time! We loved to hear about his "wings" from the P 51 ride.

Robert L (Bob) Adams

Robert L Adams - March 18, 2015 at 10:11 AM

BC

I also was a fellow pilot with Leyon with the CAP in Montrose CO. My first flt was with Leyon in his personal 182.

I also flew several Missions with Leyon when he was Pilot in Command....two of which were missing aircraft here on the western slopes and yes he was a very safe pilot, very meticulous in all aspects of his aviation involvement.

*A good friend and fellow pilot
Bruce Coffin MTJ CAP (SQ)*

Bruce Coffin - March 18, 2015 at 11:48 AM



“Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Leyon O. Brestel.



March 18, 2015 at 09:41 AM

UB

“Union Bank purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of Leyon O. Brestel.



Union Bank - March 17, 2015 at 03:19 PM