



Mr. Leslie James Shear of Streamwood

January 11, 1943 - January 29, 2026

Leslie "Les" Shear, 83, of Streamwood, Illinois..

Leslie Shear, Loving husband of Annie Marie Shear, nee Davis; devoted father of Laura (Brian) Urbaszewski and the late Helen Marie (Guy) Bartlett; cherished grandfather of Julian and Lucia; beloved brother of the late Catherine (the late Bill) Crow, the late Joan (Paul) Johnson and the late Dr. John (Sandy) Shear.

Leslie was born and grew up in North Argyle, New York on a small dairy farm. After completing high school he served our country as an Air Force radar technician on the Gulf Coast and in North Carolina. While in North Carolina he met the love of his life, Marie. They were married on July 9, 1966 and moved back to New York.

After leaving the service, Leslie completed his college degree in English Language and Literature while working as a factory maintenance technician and raising a family in North Argyle. In 1974, he felt a spiritual call to ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and moved with his family to attend University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa. He completed Master's Degrees at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and at Aquinas Institute of Theology, and was ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1977. As a pastor he served several congregations at churches in

Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, and Pennsylvania. In 1984 he was recognized for his work as a Christian Educator for the Huntington Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Pennsylvania. In this role he travelled to many churches, training Sunday school teachers and pastors in christian education. As a pastor, he performed countless baptisms, weddings, and funerals and wrote thousands of sermons. He created and ran after-school and Sunday school programs for children and teens. In Tennessee he was called to be pastor at Rocky Springs Presbyterian Church in Sevierville, and he formed a special bond with that church community. Later in life, after he and Marie settled in Knoxville, Tennessee, he transitioned from church pastor to chaplain, and served as a chaplain for Shannondale Senior Living Community. As a chaplain, he was well loved for his kindness, humor, and ability to connect with people.

Marie and Les enjoyed 59 years of happy marriage and many adventures together. He was a loving and committed husband and father to his two daughters. His family has happy memories of him telling stories, building things like a treehouse and sandbox for his children, and playing games like the big kid he always claimed to be. They also remember visits with relatives and Summer family camping trips around the US. After retirement he enjoyed travelling and was able to take trips with Marie to Iceland, Holland, Scotland, and other destinations. He always enjoyed meeting people and talking with folks wherever he went.

Leslie loved reading, music, western books and movies, “dad jokes” and travel. His creativity was never ending and his creative endeavors included creating puppet and clowning ministries, teaching himself to play guitar, songwriting, and poetry. He was deeply devoted to his family and to serving the Lord. He spent much time in bible study and reflection and his faith in Jesus Christ was the guiding light of his life. His kindness and sincerity as well as his goofy sense of humor will be missed by all. Those who knew him will

always remember his resilience in hard times, his commitment to service, his kindness, and his love.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 10:30 A.M. to time of service at 12:30 P.M. at Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Rd., Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169.

In lieu of flowers donations made to Feeding America (https://give.feedingamerica.org/a/donate?oa_onsite_promo=header) or Working Against Violence for Everyone (<https://www.petersburgwave.org/>) would be greatly appreciated.

The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and videos. For those of you that would have attended services and would like to express your condolences please click on the "Share A Memory" link above and you can leave a message. If you wish to send a Sympathy Card, please feel free to send it to Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169 c/o the Family; we will gladly forward it on to the family.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444. Arrangements entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home, Cremation Services and Cemetery Memorials, at 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169. Morizzo Memorials and Monuments (<https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/monuments-and-headstones/memorials-monuments-and-headstones>)]

Cemetery Details

Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services and Cemetery Memorials

2550 Hassell Road

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Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

ross@morizzofuneralhome.com

<http://MorizzoFuneralHome.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Morizzo Funeral Home
2550 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Funeral Service

MAR 7. 12:30 PM (CT)

Morizzo Funeral Home
2550 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Tribute Wall

DF

“ Doug Briggs and Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Leslie James Shear of Streamwood.



Doug Briggs and Family - March 05 at 05:33 PM

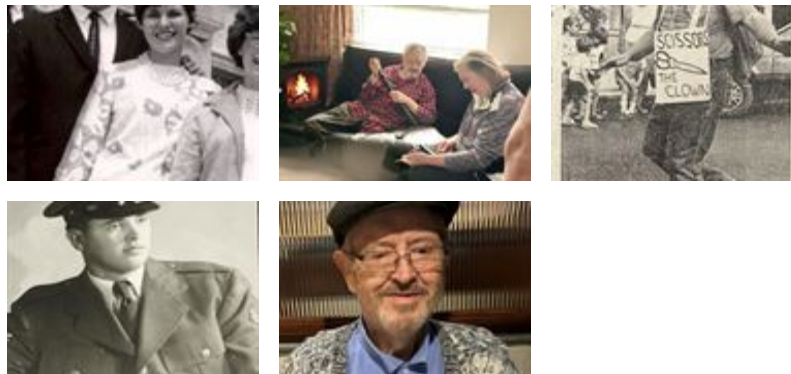
DF

“ Doug Briggs and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Leslie James Shear of Streamwood.

Doug Briggs and Family - March 05 at 05:33 PM



“ 97 files added to the album Life Tributes



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - March 02 at 03:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Leslie James Shear of Streamwood.



February 28 at 04:13 PM



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

February 28 at 04:13 PM



“ Who would have thought a boy from a small dairy farm in New York would find the love of his life in the hills of North Carolina. WOW. And what an adventure they began. Marie is my cousin, my friend, and neighbor. I remember when she talked about the first time she met Les. She was in love. I am thankful for the wonderful years the Lord gave them together, and I pray for Marie as she continues as the strong woman I know she is. Praying for the family for their loss.

Judy Porter Poe - February 23 at 10:26 AM



“ Sending our deepest sympathies from the congregation of Gallipolis First Presbyterian Church. We were so happy that Rev. Shear and Marie joined us for our 200th Anniversary.
Sara Ebinger
Clerk of Session

Sara Ebinger - February 21 at 08:42 PM

FU

“ From Rose, Joseph, and Alexandra Urbz purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mr. Leslie James Shear of Streamwood.



From Rose, Joseph, and Alexandra Urbz - February 13 at 01:35 PM

FU

“ From Rose, Joseph, and Alexandra Urbz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leslie James Shear.

From Rose, Joseph, and Alexandra Urbz - February 13 at 01:35 PM