

IN MEMORY OF
**LESLIE FREDERICK
 BARNES**

Obituary for Leslie Barnes



Leslie Frederick Barnes, 88, went to his Savior and Lord on November 5, 2014. He was born on the Fourth of July, 1926 in Los Angeles, California, to Ines Mercedes and Leslie Ernest Barnes. Les was an only child.

Les was taught some very tough life lessons. At the age of thirteen, his mother died in his arms. At the age of 28, Les found his infant daughter had died in her crib. Les learned to find comfort in sports. In his later years, he added faith to his life.

Les was proud to have served his country during World War II. He served in the Navy as a Pharmacist's Mate. He served in the Asiatic Pacific Area. The medical training that he received in the Navy served him well throughout his life. The neighbors would bring their injured children to Les to be bandaged up. You never wanted Les to pull off an old bandage. If you let him, you were in for a good dose of pain.

The cute and petite neighbor girl always had his attention when they were growing up. On St. Patrick's Day in 1949, he married Gloria Frances Curtis in Las Vegas. From this union came four beautiful daughters, five wonderful grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Les loved the game of baseball. In April of 1948, he signed a contract to play baseball with the very first Billings Mustang's Baseball Team. He was so proud to have played professional baseball for several years, ending his career with the Brooklyn Dodgers organization.

After retiring from baseball, he went to work for the Los Angeles Times. Les worked in the Transportation Department until his retirement on July 4, 1988. With their daughter Leslie and grandson Frank in tow, Les and Gloria made their way back to Billings after Les's retirement. You would often see Les and Gloria behind home plate, enjoying a good game of baseball. Les cherished the brotherhood he had with the fellow members of the Mustang Booster Club. More

times than not, Les would be in the Beer Bar serving up some suds for the fans. Les also loved his golf. He started playing the game as a teenager. He couldn't wait for the next golf tournament. Les would come home so proud of his trophy, and Gloria would just sigh, another dust collector. Les was so very happy to have won nine Montana State Senior Championships in his age group.

Les is survived by his daughters Coleen Braun, Debbie (Miguel) Suazo, Leslie (John) Albright, his grandchildren Francheska, Donna, Tina and Frank, his great grandchildren Alexsis, Viktoria, Dylan, Zachary, Taylor, Destiny, Brandon, and two great-great grandchildren.

Les was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Gloria, his daughter Vickie, and his granddaughter Alena.

A memorial of Life is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11 @ 10:00 am at St. Thomas Church, 2055 Woody Drive, Billings.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested that any memorial contributions be made to Landon's Legacy, 3025 Lloyd Mangrum Lane, Billings, Montana 59106, online at LandonsLegacy.com, or to his granddaughter's foundation at alenasuazofoundation.org.

Affiliations



US Navy



WWII Victory Medal

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