



The Life & Legacy of Leonard Sanders

“What I look for is a way to let somebody know the greatness we have in the ability to let others know what love awaits us when we give GOD a chance to build our house” Facebook Post, Jan. 13 2011 Leonard Sanders

He was an encourager, mentor and counselor. To the struggling – a light pointing the way through darkness that seemed impenetrable and hopeless. His family and friends relished his sense of humor and engaging conversations that normally ended in laughter. He never took no for an answer and sported a zero-tolerance attitude for negativity and complacent behavior. This was Leonard Sanders, more affectionately known as L.A.

On August 23, 1958 Leonard Ardis (thus, L.A.) was born at Pittsburgh Hospital in East Liberty. He was the firstborn son of the late Rosemarie Ardis and Calvin

Mosley. Shortly thereafter, Rosemarie married the late Charles C. Sanders of Pittsburgh and Leonard proudly bore the name of his beloved adoptive father, Leonard Sanders.

The Sanders family moved to Penn Hills in 1971 where Leonard attended Penn Hills public schools and began dominating the football field. He graduated from Penn Hills in 1976 with a football scholarship to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. After a debilitating injury, Leonard returned to Pittsburgh to work at Sanders Trucking, driving his Mack truck, with his father and three brothers.

In 1984, He married the late Antoinette Denise Mitchell and fathered two adoring children: Silas Leonard and Mariah Denise (Mia) and step-son Gregory J. Mitchell. The family moved to New Kensington, Pa. where Leonard managed the truck yard for Sanders Service Inc.

For L.A., life became a struggle and battle riddled with substance abuse, and the mental challenge to overcome obstacles of defeat and despair. He finally accepted the challenge – went into recovery and arose a victorious warrior – scarred, but not defeated! But his personal victory was not enough. He committed to fight the battle

for those ensnared in its crippling talons and vowed to assist all who would listen to his story and stand behind everyone God would send his way. To this, he devoted the remainder of his life.

Leonard relocated to Johnstown, Pa. in 2008 where he nurtured his renewed life in Christ. He attended Christ Centered Community Church and quickly became a strong presence in the congregation. He was head of the Usher Board, created the Junior Usher Board, and led recovery meetings. Furthermore, he was the Head of Security where he was lovingly referred to as "Secret Service Agent."

In 2011, L.A. opened a transition home, PASSA LLC, mentoring others towards a new start with their lives. The men and women who evolved through the PASSA LLC program looked to him for guidance, correction and care with a compassionate, yet firm hand. He became active in the community and won Junior Basketball Coach of the Year in 2010.

He set on a quest to restore broken relationships and share the joy and peace he found in recovery with his loved ones. He helped everyone to see and know that Christ

was still in the business of restoring broken pieces. One significant relationship in his life was with close friend Crystal McMinn and her children: Natasha, Tyler, Tara, Annabell, Andrew, and Carleah and their grandmother JoAnn Long.

L.A. loved learning and attaining knowledge. He earned his Drug and Alcohol Counseling Certificate from ICDC College in 2012, which was a milestone for him. He loved sharing hope, anywhere, anytime and to whomever would listen. His Facebook posts were filled with encouraging words, often comical, timely and always uplifting. He never showed misery or despair again – even when he was diagnosed with Lymphoma Cancer in August of 2014. He just started thinking about those under his care, and who he hadn't touched with hope. His caring nature extended to all.

Leonard was preceded by his parents Charles and Rosemarie Sanders, father Calvin Mosley, wife Antoinette "Toni," grandparents Lucille and Milton Phenizy, sister Sharon "Terri" Ardis, niece Angela Sanders and beloved others who welcome him with joy from his earthly journey.

Cherishing his memory are son Silas, daughter Mariah, stepson Gregory G. Mitchell and grandson Silas Jr. He also leaves his siblings: Charles G. Sanders, Min. Stephenie Moss, Mark Sanders (Gail), Darren "Termite" Sanders, Charlene S. Bell (Bobby), Charles S. "Chuck" Sanders (Elisa), Chandra M. Law (Dwight), Gloria C. Potter, and Edward L. Sanders. He is survived by his aunts Gloria Moye (Opha) and Marion L. Scott, and beloved cousins Kedron Phenizy and Lamar Smith. He also leaves beloved companion Crystal McMinn, her children and their grandmother, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and caring friends.

Leonard Sanders

Born: Sat., Aug. 23, 1958

Died: Sat., Jun. 27, 2015

Visitation

4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Wed., Jul. 01, 2015

Location: House of Law, Inc.

Funeral Service

11:00 AM Thu., Jul. 02, 2015

Location: Laketon Heights United Methodist Church