

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our father, Benny M. Leonard, on July 30, 2025. He passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family. He was 88 years old.

Benny was born on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1937, to Perry and Estelle Leonard of Fairfax City, VA.

He attended Fairfax High School, graduating in 1956. He met Sharon, his bride of 67 years, while in high school. They married in November, 1958 and lived in Falls Church, VA where their first child, Sandy, was born. They moved to Vienna, VA in 1963 where their second child, Robyn, and their third child, Mark, were born. During this time, Benny was actively involved in the community and worked many side jobs, including maintenance for the Vienna Woods swimming & tennis club, bartending at the Vienna Inn and many others.

Benny served in the Virginia Army National Guard for 38 years until his retirement in 1992. He was additionally employed in the Cartography Department of the Department of the Interior's Geological Survey from 1957 to 1993.

Benny and Sharon moved out of Vienna in 1999, and built their retirement home in Fairfax Station. Always a volunteer and a doer, he became a member of the Historic Fairfax City Inc. organization.

Benny was a self-made genius who educated himself and others through books and trial and error until he found YouTube. He loved laughing, learning and enjoying many of those videos with Mom.

In 1954 he bought his first two cars, (for \$.99 cents each.), which started his passion and hobby of automotive restoration. In 1978 he began restoring a 1963 VW and attending car shows. This led to his restoration of a 1930 and then a 1931 Model A Ford. He joined the George Washington Chapter (GWC) of the Model A Ford Club, and quickly earned the reputation as the "go to guy" for troubleshooting and repair. It was not uncommon for him to get calls from other club members, then go to their homes or use his garage(s) to help resolve a wide range of mechanical issues. He enjoyed participating in car shows and actively attending meetings, community events and going on local and long-distance road trips and tours with his friends in the GWC.

Benny was a man of many talents a mechanic, a bartender, a social events planner and a jack of all trades. He loved music, dancing, and most of all his family. He was passionate about going on family vacations including boating, camping, or other memorable events. He enjoyed life to the fullest, always found time for his family and being active in his kids' sports, fixing their first cars, or just being a part of their daily lives.

He struggled with kidney disease for many years, while also suffering from many other chronic conditions. He fought his way through them all with the aid of wonderful caregivers who provided both him and his family support through to the end.

Benny is survived by his wife, Sharon, his children Sandy (Kevin Jester) two grandchildren Nick (Ashley) and Zach; Robyn (Mac Church) one grandchild Taylor; Mark (Sharon Leonard) three

grandchildren Mallory, Will (Molly), and Ryan (Lara) and two great grandchildren David and Henry and many grand pets.

Memorial services have been arranged for August 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 at Fairfax Memorial Funeral home. A Celebration of Life will take place afterwards at the American Legion Post 177, Fairfax City from 12-2:00. All are welcome to attend and remember this one-of-a-kind great man. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to the American Kidney Fund.

Fairfax Memorial Website: [fmfh.com](http://fmfh.com)  
9900 Braddock Road  
Fairfax VA. 22032  
(703)-323-5202

American Legion Post 177  
3939 Oak Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703)-273-2250

American Kidney Fund  
<https://give.kidneyfund.org/donate-now>