



## William Leighton Cornell

June 30, 1941 - December 4, 2020

William “Leighton” Cornell, Age 79, of Orlando passed away surrounded by his family on December 4, 2020.

Born in Avon Park, FL, a son to the late Woodrow and Mary Louise (Stewart) Cornell. He was raised in Orlando.

Leighton had a long career at Walt Disney World for 24 magical years. He also coached little league with Azalea Park Little League. He coached his kids and many others over the 23 years, where a couple of his players did end up in the major leagues, in which he was very proud. He was also a long time member of the Orlando Elks Lodge where he served a year as the Exalted Ruler and as the Chaplain.

He very much enjoyed reading a wide variety of books, watching his cowboy movies, looking at the birds in his backyard, spending time with his family, and playing Words with Friends on his computer.

Leighton is survived by his children- William “Leighton” Cornell II, Amy Suzanne Cornell, and Douglas “Ty” Cornell with his wife, Shannon. Grandchildren- Dustin Cornell and Emily Cornell, and Great Grandchild- Autumn Joy Cornell. Siblings: Nora Jane (Terry) Billings, Warren (Barbara) Cornell, Benjamin Stewart Cornell, Mac (Rhonda) Cornell.

Leighton left a big mark on many lives and he will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held at South Conway Road Baptist Church, 6099 S Conway Rd Orlando, FL at 11 am, on Saturday December 12, 2020.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

South Conway Road Baptist Church  
6099 South Conway Road  
Orlando , FL 32812  
<http://6099>

# Tribute Wall

CM

“ I heard the news today of Leighton’s passing while fishing with Paul Browning and Lonnie Devore. We all had the privilege of playing baseball for Leighton back in the early 80’s. We were the Belk Lindsey Cardinals. Oh how the Leighton stories began to flow. Imagine being on a boat in the middle of the ocean with three ex Cardinals. We were so blessed to have experienced playing baseball for Leighton. Three grown men getting choked up talking about all the great memories from 40 years ago, and the lessons learned from Leighton. Although, I had not seen Leighton in over 30 years, I thought of him often. I was thirteen years old when I started playing for Leighton. I was an immature and insecure boy. Leighton taught me to believe in myself and to do the right thing. Don’t makes excuses for failure. Thank you Leighton for all the great memories and life long friendship’s formed because of you. Thank you for giving your time as a volunteer to help young boys become fine young men. You will truly be missed. I love you Coach Leighton Cornell. Rest In Peace my friend.

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**Chuck Mendenhall** - January 27, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William Leighton Cornell.



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December 11, 2020 at 10:31 AM

BS

“ There was a song from the 50's by The Teddy Bears called “To Know Him is to Love Him” that described Leighton perfectly. He was one of a kind and an excellent person to be around. He loved his family. He was a loving, caring, gracious, man who could entertain the warts off a frog. He was a joking fun loving individual that could prank people, but was an easy target himself.

Jenny would often pull APRIL Fool's jokes him. One of our all time favorites was Jenny replacing the bills in his wallet with Monopoly Money. And, of course, when coffee was made in the evening, Leighton would always insist on decaf. Jenny told us that years ago she bought a can of Sanka and after using the contents, she saved the can and would buy Maxwell House and pour into the Sanka can. When Leighton would remind her, she simply showed him the Sanka can and he was satisfied.

He was constantly introducing Bob as someone special. One time they went to Orange Memorial to visit one of his elderly uncles and the room was full of old people, when entering, he introduce Bob as his Pastor. You should have seen the Seniors trying to get up out of their chairs to shake hands with his Pastor.

He was always introducing Bob as a retired quarterback from the Denver Broncos and after several exchanges of data, most would say “Yeah, I remember him”.

If he thought that he offended you or hurt you in any way, he would try extensively hard to make things right.

Good Times we had: Johnny's Pizza, motor cycles, Little league, officiating ballgames, moving chickens to Eatonville, etc.

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**Bob & Minnie Sue** - December 06, 2020 at 03:10 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of William Leighton Cornell.*



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December 05, 2020 at 03:51 PM