



*In Memory*

CELEBRATING A LIFE  
**Rodney "Rod" Leaders**

**Born**

October 1, 1926  
Wadena, Minnesota

**Died**

August 3, 2021  
Ormond Beach, Florida

**Service**

St. John Lutheran Church  
Wadena, Minnesota  
Monday, August 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

**Clergy**

Pastor Stephen Meltzer

**Military Honors**

Elmer Goche V.F.W. Post #3922  
Wadena, Minnesota

**Survived By**

Son: Walt; daughter: Mary; four grandchildren: Jim (Tressa) Leaders; Becca (Alex) Hill; Lindsey Taylor; and Casey Taylor; six great-grandchildren: Terralyn, Deakyn, Marlee, Crystal, Evangelyne, and Katelyn; brothers-in-law: Dick Bugher; and Don Marken

**Laid to Rest at a Future Date**

Jacksonville Veteran's Cemetery  
Jacksonville, Florida



God looked around His garden  
And He found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon His earth,  
and saw your tired face.  
He put His arms around you  
and lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful,  
He always takes the best.  
He saw the road was getting rough,  
and the hills were hard to climb.  
So He closed your weary eyelids,  
and whispered, "Peace Be Thine."  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
but you did not go alone.  
For part of us went with you,  
the day God called you home.

Rodney Walter Leaders was born October 1, 1926, to Walter and Leila (Bacon) Leaders. He graduated from Wadena High School with the class of 1943.

Rod joined the Navy in 1944, served as a Sonarsman on the U.S.S. Barricade (Minesweeper) in the Pacific Theater. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

Rod was united in marriage to Evangeline (Vangie) Peterson on October 31, 1948. They made their home in Wadena and raised two children, Walt (Diane) Leaders of Sebeka, Minnesota, and Mary (Al) Taylor of Ormond Beach, Florida.

Rod was self-employed as a holsum bread wholesaler from 1946 to 1961. He then started the Leaders Distributing Company, as an automotive jobber, specializing in air and lubrication supplies. He loved working, hunting, and camping with his family, and later traveling with Vangie in their avion trailer. He loved being with family. His wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were the highlight of his life.

He was active with the St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, and the Wadena V.F.W Post #3922, serving as Post Commander for a term. They moved to Florida in 2004.

On August 3, 2021, Rod joined his beloved wife, Vangie in heaven.

Rod was also preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters: Margaret Bugher; and Lenore Marken.



