

Walter O. Leino

4/19/1937 – 9/21/2025

SOUTH PARIS — Walter Oscar Leino, 88, of Harrison passed away peacefully at the South Paris Veterans' Home on Sunday, September 21, 2025. The last of the Leino baseball team has left the field.

Walter was born in Harrison at the Leino Family Farm on April 19, 1937, the youngest of the children of John Severin and Hilda Kangas Leino. He was a graduate of Bridgton Academy and was inducted into the U.S. Army in October of 1960. He served stateside in the Supplies Division until his



discharge, as a Special 4, in September of 1966. Walter, in his words, was the last of the "Fighting Nine" as he and all eight of his brothers proudly served the country.

Walter spent his working life as a lumberjack with his brother, Bruno, and later, with his nephew, Alvin. Earlier in life he worked construction for Hartley Little of Harrison and, seasonally, for Morse Orchards of Waterford.

He was a lifelong active member of the Harrison Finnish Lutheran Church and later the Trinity Lutheran Church in South Paris, when the Harrison Church was sold. In June, the new steps to the church were dedicated to Walter, the man who always held the door. At the church he was a deacon, head usher and a member of the choir. He also served as vice president of the Finnish Lutheran Cemetery Association.

Walter lived his life (with the exception of his years in the service), in the home in which he was born. Earlier in life he enjoyed going to the horse and stock car races with his brothers, always with at least two nieces and/or nephews in tow. Recently he enjoyed mowing, gardening and feeding a multitude of God's wild creatures who enjoy the farm land. He was always very eager to share the recently created Family Memorial Garden in the upper field of the farm.

Walter is survived by his sister, Martha Ruth Matilda Leino, with whom he shared the family farm, 31 devoted nieces and nephews, as well as two more generations of nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, four sisters: Helmi Leino, Lempi Heath, Lila Butterfield and Eila Makey, and eight brothers: Arne, Matti, Bruno, Lauri, Henry, Eugene, Arthur and Harold.

Services will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church in South Paris on October 18. Visiting hour will be at 10 a.m., funeral at 11 a.m., followed by burial at the Finnish Lutheran Cemetery in Harrison. A Walter-worthy party will then be held at the Leino Family Farm.

In lieu of flowers please scratch a lottery ticket in Walter's honor.

Other donations may be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church (So. Paris), Papa's Boots (c/o Bolsters Mills UMC) and/or Misfits Crafters (Oxford).

Online condolences may be shared with his family at www.chandlerfunerals.com. Arrangements are under the care of Chandler Funeral Homes.