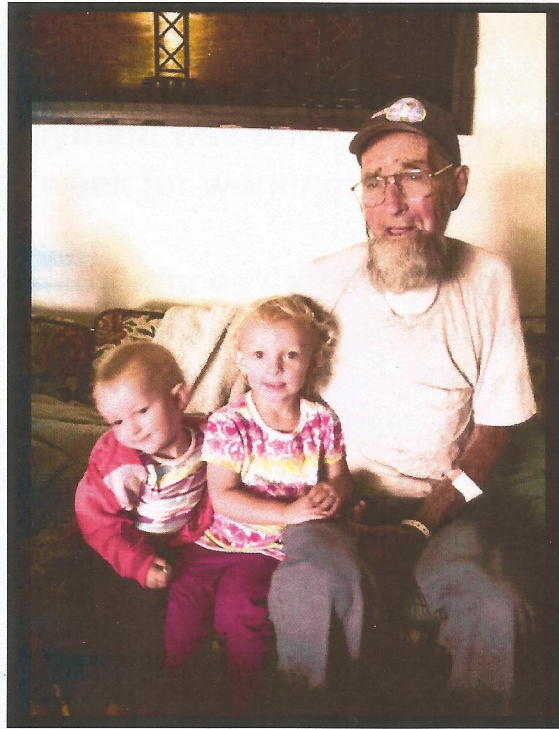


My Great Grandpa Les

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My Great Grandpa's name is Leslie William Parker, but I always call him Grandpa Les. He was born on December 25, 1925 in Ohio. He lived on a farm with his parents and one younger brother named James, who is still alive and lives in New York now. Grandpa Les graduated high school at Northfield High and at the age of seventeen joined the military. He served on a ship in World War 2. He was on a ship that carried oil for the other war ships.

After the war, Grandpa Les moved to California with a friend. He used his Veterans loan to buy his first house in Whittier, California in 1956, where he lived almost all the rest of his life. His house only cost \$11,000! His house payment was only \$69 every month, and that was what he earned each week for working.

In 1968, he married Frances Lightfoot and raised my grandma Judy Kliever. They loved to play softball together. He also used to play hide-and-seek and trick my grandma. After she hid, he would go back in the house and not find her! My grandma lived next door to her dad as an adult and when I was born, my mom even brought me home from the hospital to this house. My great grandpa was one of the first people who ever met me!

My Great Grandpa Les worked as a machinist until he retired in 1995. After he stopped working, my Great Grandpa Les loved to stay busy. He liked to garden and make different things out of wood, including outdoor furniture and tables. I love those things too! I like to garden and be outside, and I even made a birdhouse out of wood, just like my great grandpa.

Grandpa Les was very good at saving money. He didn't like to use electricity very much, and would use flashlights instead of the house lights. In the winter he would use his fireplace to stay warm instead of the heater. He went to bed when the sun went down.

Grandpa Les didn't like to spend money. If something broke, he would fix it. He was very generous to my grandma, her kids, and grandkids. He always remembered everyone's birthday.

My Grandpa Les was a very tough man. He once cut off his thumb while working with a saw in his garage. He didn't want to go to the hospital. Another time, he blew a hole in his heart while doing yard work and wouldn't let the ambulance take him. He wanted to finish mowing the grass first. He survived skin cancer many times in his 80's and 90's.

When Grandpa Les was in his mid 90's he finally agreed to come live in Utah with me and my family in February 2020. He fell outside and broke his hip. He passed away on May 24, 2020 in our home. He was 94 years old.

My Great Grandpa Leslie William Parker lived a great long life. When he passed away he left us his house in Whittier, California. We sold his house and bought a 40 acre ranch west of Cedar City, Utah for all of his great grandkids. My family is building a house on the ranch and we live here now.

From my Grandpa Les I learned how important it is to save money, how to recycle, and how to make do with what you have. He gave us our future life on the ranch. I am very grateful for my Grandpa Les.