

Leo Hoffer – BS 1968 Pharmacy, MS 1974 Pharmaceutical Sciences

Leo Hoffer, 76, of Victorville, California, died peacefully on the morning of Feb. 18, 2022, at Providence St. Mary Hospital in Apple Valley, California. Leo passed away after a protracted struggle with complications from knee surgery.

Leo hailed from Turtle Lake, the only child of Ed and Aletha Hoffer. He was a high school standout in basketball and track and field. Leo earned his master's degree in toxicology from the University of North Dakota and became a pharmacist. In 1976, Leo moved to Southern California, where he lived until he passed away.

Standing 6'5" tall, Leo was an active and physical man, even into his later years. He ran sub-40 minute 10k races and he enjoyed playing basketball at beachside courts well into his 50s. Leo reminisced about playing pickup basketball against North Dakota legend Phil Jackson while both were at the University of North Dakota.

Leo was well known for his sense of humor and keen intellect. Ever the prankster, Leo was known for his sometimes elaborate practical jokes. They are too numerous to recount here.

Leo was passionate about his work as a pharmacist. He was licensed for over 50 years and, long after he could have retired, he worked as a temporary pharmacist all over Southern California. Being a retail pharmacist allowed him to combine his love of hard work, his intellectual curiosity, and his enjoyment of meeting people from all walks of life. He even maintained his sense of humor in dangerous situations, once thwarting a robbery. When presented with a note from a man informing Leo that the man had a gun and demanding that Leo hand over all the narcotics in the pharmacy, Leo told the man, "I can't give them to you. You have to have a prescription for those." The man became confused, left the pharmacy, and was arrested shortly afterwards.

Leo truly was one of a kind. His friends and family will miss him.

Leo is survived by his son, Michael, and his grandchildren, Jude and August (all residing in Atlanta, Georgia).