



Edward Joseph Leonard

July 17, 1940 - March 26, 2026

Edward Joseph Leonard, born July 17, 1940, in Kansas City, Kansas, to Elmer L. Leonard and Catherine Leonard, passed peacefully under hospice care at Trustwell Living at Mission Springs on March 26, 2026, after a life marked by service, leadership, and dedication to others.

Ed began a lifelong commitment to service at an early age, enlisting in the Civil Air Patrol as a cadet in 1955. He went on to serve in the United States Air Force from 1958 to 1966 as a Russian linguist, with assignments in Berlin and Misawa, Japan, during a critical period in global history. His work required precision, discipline, and deep responsibility—qualities that remained with him throughout his life. During his service, he trained at the U.S. Army Language School and studied Russian at Syracuse University, later receiving an Achievement Award at Randolph Air Force Base.

On October 1, 1965, Ed married Toshiko Honda in Sapporo, Japan, beginning a lifelong connection between his American roots and his extended family in Japan.

Following his military service, Ed built a long and respected career with the United States Postal Service, where he worked from 1966 to 1995. Over nearly three decades, he held a range of leadership roles, including Supervisor of Mail, Manager of Distribution Operations, and Labor Relations

Officer. He was recognized with a USPS Special Achievement Award and was known by colleagues for his reliability, strong work ethic, and steady leadership.

Committed to lifelong learning, Ed pursued further education at the Cleveland Institute of Electronics and later at Kansas City Kansas Community College, where he graduated summa cum laude in 1984. His academic achievements included multiple honors in business and merchandising, reflecting both his discipline and drive for excellence.

Ed remained deeply devoted to service and community throughout his life. He was actively involved in the Civil Air Patrol across decades, rejoining in 2001 and serving as Commander of Group V. In this role, he mentored cadets and contributed to leadership development and community service efforts. He also served on the Board of Directors for Schooner Bay Landing and as a member of the Kimberling City Planning and Zoning Commission, and was affiliated with organizations including the Moose Lodge, the Missouri Pilots Association, and the Experimental Aircraft Association.

In 2024, with the help of his niece, Robbyn, Ed published his memoir, *And Then, Nothing Happened: Coming of Age in the War Years*, offering a reflective and personal account of his early life and the experiences that shaped his character and sense of service. A collection of his poetry, *Get Tough! Your Employees Demand It*, will be published posthumously.

Ed was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Toshiko Honda Leonard; his parents, Elmer and Catherine Leonard; his stepmother, Roberta Leonard; and his brother, Robert Leonard.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Sharlene Leonard; his nieces, Robbyn Layne and Autumn Terry; his nephew-in-law, Joshua Terry, and nephew-in-

love, Thomas Needs; his grandniece, Hayden Terry; his brother-in-law, Koji Kojima, and sister-in-law, Setsuko Honda, in Japan; and extended family in both the United States and Japan.

“A man’s life cannot be measured by his accomplishments alone, but rather by his outreach to others, and his ability to help them excel.” — Ed Leonard

He will be remembered for his discipline, humility, and unwavering commitment to helping others grow.

A celebration of Ed's life and service will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Terminal Building at Hollister Municipal Airport (KPLK).

Address:

491 Blue Sky Lane
Hollister, MO 65672
United States

All who knew and loved Ed are welcome.

Previous Events

Service

MAY 16. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Terminal Building at Hollister Municipal Airport
491 Blue Sky Lane
Hollister, MO 65672