



M. Leeds Chessir

May 7, 2006

M. Leeds Chessir, 97, of Cottonwood, and formerly a long time resident of Sedona, passed away on Sunday, May 7, 2006. Leeds was born in Peabody, Kansas on July 10, 1908 and raised in Nebraska. After graduating from high school in 1925, he left for Chicago and worked for the National Air Transport Co. who carried the mail from coast to coast using former Douglas was planes. He was instrumental in opening the Consolidated Air Passenger office, handling all air passenger flights out of Chicago. His picture was in a 1927 edition of the Popular Mechanics magazine selling the first ticket on a regular passenger line out of Chicago which was the Southwest Airlines in St. Louis. Tickets from Chicago to Los Angeles flew you by day and by train at night. A ticket to New York was \$450 and you donned a flying suit and sat with your legs on the mail sacks in an open cockpit. Having always been enchanted with seeing California's orange groves and roses, he left Chicago to be western representative of the Official Aviation Guide. He worked for the Los Angeles Times in their new building after the old one was blown up. Later he was a distributor for both the L.A. Times and L.A. Examiner. Leeds met his first wife, Mary Long and they were married in 1934. They had two boys, Leeds Jr. an engineer, and Robert a lawyer. Leeds was the first employee of the Disneyland Hotel, where he kept the books on the construction cost and later retiring from the hotel as Credit Manager in 1972 when the couple moved to Sedona. Leeds was a long time member of the Lions International and the Horseless Carriage Club in California, and a charter member of the Elks and

Mason, Good Sam Club and the Sedona Car Club in Sedona. He had an avid interest in old cars and stationary engines and was active in the Arizona Flywheelers club. He had seven Air-cooled Franklin cars at one time, one had belonged to Mary Pickford\u0027s film producer and is now in the Montreal Canada museum. There were only six of that model made. Leeds was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary in 1987, and Ethel his second wife in 1993 and us survived by his wife Joanne. He will be missed by his many friends and family. He had five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He is also survived by 5 step-children and 12 step grandchildren. He will be missed primarily for his kindness and generosity. A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 12th at 11:00 AM at the Westcott Funeral Home, 1013 E. Mingus Avenue, Cottonwood, AZ. An online guestbook is available at www.westcottfuneralhome.com

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of M. Leeds Chesshir, please click here to visit our Sympathy Store.

Tribute Wall

PM

“ *The world lost another fine man. A true leader and a terrible loss to our lives.*

Peter & Eileen Miller - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

KP

“ *Dear Bob: I enjoyed knowing your father these many years. He was a lovely man. KD*

Kathryn Para - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

AF

“ *Dear Bob: Our thoughts are with you. We so much enjoyed knowing your Dad these many years. Dick, John, Cheryl, KD. Ayres & French*

Ayres & French - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

MM

“ *He will be missed*

Michael D Munsey - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

EC

“ *A great friend who will be missed very much. A staunch supported of the Sedona Car Club.*

Ernie & Loraine Cousins - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

LF

“ *My Beloved Grampa Leeds! I miss you! Love, Linda*

Linda Lee Fincher - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

JR

“ Love you and will miss your wonderful smile. You're always in my heart. June Riess

June Riess - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

DO

“ we are so sorry. i will play a song for him. take care we will miss him.

duane/kay olk - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

CN

“ All our love and thoughts are with you during this time. Leeds was a beautiful person and we are so grateful to have known and loved him.

C.J. & Dayna Nicley - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

SD

“ On behalf of Central Arizona Masonic Lodge #14, our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. I've been out of town for 3 weeks, however I'm sure that my line officers performed the Masonic Memorial Service with dignity. With Respect, Scott Donham
Worshipful Master Central Arizona Masonic Lodge #14

Scott Donham - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

M&

“ WE LOVE AND AM GOING TO MISS YOU SO MUCH. LOVE MIKE ,PATTY AND KATIE

MIKE &PATTY - June 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM