

***In Loving Memory of***



***Leonard Jackson Holton***

*April 20, 1949 – August 4, 2024*

## Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:*

*He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul:*

*He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:*

*Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

**In Loving Memory**  
Leonard Jackson Holton

**Born**  
April 20, 1949  
Blue Island, Illinois

**Entered into Rest**  
August 4, 2024  
Sun City Center, Florida

**Memorial Service**  
Bethel United Methodist Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
October 4, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

**Officiating Pastor**  
Ralph L. Wrightstone

**Eulogy Reading**  
Ted Hallas

**Music**  
Travis Oaks

## Obituary

Florida lost a staunch pillar of criminal defense law when Leonard Holton passed away August 4, 2024, in Sun City Center, Florida. He battled cancer through numerous experimental trials for the disease that didn't cure him, but perhaps could help others overcome that terrible disease.

Leonard's parents, Carrie Holton and Mildred Milechevich Holton, welcomed their son into this world on April 20, 1949, in Blue Island, Illinois. The family moved to Tampa where Leonard completed his secondary education in Catholic school. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Florida and subsequently earned his Law Degree from the University of Florida. He graduated in 1975 and was admitted to the Florida Bar the same year.

After an initial stint in private practice Leonard was appointed Director of the Sentencing Guideline Commission by the Florida Supreme Court. His work as the Director of the Commission was historically important for achieving fairness and uniformity for all parties. Attorneys from across the state called on Leonard for his expertise on sentencing in criminal court. Following his work with the Commission Leonard spent the next 20 plus years as an Assistant Public Defender at the Second Judicial Circuit where he excelled in trial and appellate representation. Among his peers Leonard was a "lawyer's lawyer." In his work and as a courtroom advocate, he was kind and respectful of clients, coworkers, opposing counsel, and judges. He was low key, but fearless.

In addition to being an outstanding lawyer, Leonard was an avid sports fan, devoted to the Florida Gators, Tampa Bay Rays, and the Detroit Tigers. He was also a family man; he always talked lovingly about his wife and daughter. He loved every dog he ever had. He had a strong faith in his religion, but did not proselytize.

Leonard was predeceased by his wife of 25 years, Patricia (Patty) Holton. He is survived by his daughter, Sarah Beth Holton; granddaughter, Madelynn Grace Holton; grandson Stanton Jackson Holton; and niece, Heather Hallas (Ted).

Leonard's life will be celebrated Friday October 4 at 1:00 p.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church, 1470 Bethel Church Road, Tallahassee, Florida. A light lunch will be provided by the family following the service.