

Nicholas "Nick" LeFors Sr.

January 18, 1928 – September 12, 2022

Nicholas "Nick" LeFors Sr., 94, passed away peacefully on September 12, 2022, in Indiana, where he had been living with his son, David.

Nick was born January 18, 1928, in Stinnett, Hutchinson County, Texas. His father's employment took the family to several states. During their years in South Dakota, Nick grew up in Jefferson and attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls.



At SDSD, Nick formed lasting friendships with John Buckmaster, Ken Czerny, Everett Ruedebusch and Robert Lange. He played guard on the school's basketball team. One of his favorite memories was the 1944–45 season, when SDSD defeated Baltic, 35–33, to win the District 18 championship. John Schumacher's last-second long hook shot at the Sioux Falls Coliseum brought the crowd to its feet.



SDSD Pheasants of 1947-48 Boys Basketball team
L to R: Bobby Ellis, Leonard Ortman, Nick Lefors, John Buckmaster, Coach Roy Holcomb, Walter Baumgartner, Kenneth Czerney, Jerry Berke, and Edward Barber.

Nick attended the Mississippi School for the Deaf during his junior year after his family moved south. When the family moved again to Louisiana, he persuaded his father to let him return to SDSD for his senior year so he could graduate with his friends. His aunt served as his guardian, and he graduated in 1948.

Among his most memorable school experiences were visits from his father, who owned an airplane. His father would fly over the SDSD campus as a signal for someone to bring Nick to the airport. From there, they flew home to Louisiana for visits.



After graduation, Nick returned to Louisiana and began a printing career in Baton Rouge that lasted 39 years.

Basketball continued to be an important part of his life. While playing for the Louisiana Deaf Club team, he traveled to Mississippi for a game and met Bobbie Jean Slaton. They married and shared 64 years together, raising three sons: Nicholas Jr., Larry and David. Bobbie preceded him in death in February 2016.



Following his wife's death, Nick lived with his sons and eventually made his home with David in Indiana. He treasured their companionship and the special times they shared. He was also a proud Louisiana State University fan.

Nick is survived by his three sons, Nicholas LeFors Jr., Larry LeFors and David LeFors.