



## Leland V. Bell

March 2, 1934 - February 28, 2026

Leland V. Bell, 91, passed away on Saturday, February 28, 2026, following a tragic fire. Born March 2, 1934, Leland lived a life shaped by service, scholarship, and a deep appreciation for beauty, ideas, and history.

A proud U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict, Leland went on to devote his career to education and research. He was a retired history professor and former Department Chair at Central State University, and also taught at the University of Dayton. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, he also taught at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, reflecting the breadth of his academic life and his commitment to learning across cultures.

Leland was a historian, author, professor, and dedicated researcher, with a love for fine art and literature. A published author, he wrote four books, including *In Hitler's Shadow: The Anatomy of American Nazism*. He was known for his warm smile and gentle sense of humor, and for the way he carried himself with quiet elegance—often in a sport coat, a favorite corduroy or linen blazer, and a hat. He made friends wherever he went and was a familiar, beloved presence at Dorothy Lane Market. He loved to share stories, fine French wine, and flowers—often roses—simply to brighten someone's day. Friends and family will remember the way he held on tight to your hand as he spoke, taking genuine time with each conversation.

He is survived by his children Eric (Susanne) Bell and Rachel (Eric) Fields; and his grandchildren Justin, Courtney, Emma, and Ryan.

A memorial gathering will be held on April 19, 2026, beginning with a private service, followed by a public drop-in open house at Dorothy Lane Market, 6177 Far Hills Ave, Washington Township, OH 45459, from 5:30 p.m. until closing. In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations in Leland's memory to the Ohio History Connection. Arrangments in care of The Final Legacy.

He will be deeply missed—and forever remembered for his gentle reminder: “Take care of yourself.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Friends

APR **19**. 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Dorothy Lane Market  
6177 Far Hills Avenue  
Centerville, OH 45459

# Tribute Wall



“ 7 files added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Schlientz-Moore & Reis Life Celebrations** - March 15 at 08:52 AM