



William "Bill" E. Lee

July 10, 1943 - November 7, 2019

William "Bill" E. Lee, age 76, of Grove went to be with Jesus on Thursday, November 7, 2019 after battling cancer.

Bill was born on July 10, 1943 in Oklahoma City, OK to Truman and Opal (Lynds) Lee. He grew up in El Reno, graduating from El Reno High School in 1961. He went on to Oklahoma State University and then on to Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN where he got his Doctorate of Optometry.

On January 7, 1967, Bill married the love of his life, Nancy Peck, in Springfield, MA, just 10 days before they were both deployed to Vietnam. Bill was on active duty in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, serving at the 36th Evac. Hospital in Vietnam, the Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio, TX followed by 279th Station Hospital in West Berlin, Germany.

While in the military he received The Army Commendation Award from his service in Viet Nam and the Meritorious Service Award for his accomplishments during his service in Berlin, Germany

After their time in the service, the couple made their home in Bartlesville, OK. There, Bill practiced Optometry for 40 years until retiring in 2014. He was on the Board of Director's for A.R.C. - a shelter workshop and group home in Bartlesville - for 17 years. He was an active member of the Bartlesville Rotary and also, Grove Rotary for a continuous membership of 42 years.

While in Bartlesville, Bill was active in the JAYCEES and was presented the Distinguished Service Award in 1977 and the following year named one of three "Outstanding Young Oklahomans".

In Grove, Bill was very involved with Gideons International and served as Chaplain for Delaware County and was a member of the Cayuga Mission Church. He enjoyed "catching" fish, yard work and being outdoors.

Bill was an outgoing, "people" person, a loving husband, father & grandfather, but more than anything he loved Jesus. He was a faithful follower of Christ and his family can rest in the knowledge that they will see him again, as they have all trusted the Lord.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents.

Left to carry on his legacy: wife, Nancy Lee, son, John David Lee of Esmerelda, Mexico, daughter, Debra Oaks and husband, James of Webb City, MO; brother, John Lee and wife, Beth of Germantown, TN, 3 grandchildren and many loving nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be at 2pm Saturday, November 16, 2019 followed by a reception for friends and family, both at Nichols-Stephens Funeral & Cremation Services.

Donations in Bill's memory can be made to Gideons International or Cayuga Mission Church.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **16**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Nichols-Stephens Funeral and Cremation Service

10201 U.S. Highway 59

Grove, OK 74344

(918) 786-6761

nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" E. Lee*

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *Bill was a friend and fellow Army optometry officer who Ralph knew since the early 70s when the two of them served together in occupied Berlin, Germany. Barbara met him much later in the States. As a couple we are thankful to have had a friendship with Bill and Nancy over the past 20 or so years. Our friendship grew close and we will be forever grateful for the encouragement and love Bill and Nancy showed us as disciples of Jesus Christ. Bill was a thoughtful, resourceful and task oriented man. He demonstrated a great sense of humor and a zest for life that made life fun for all around him. But of most importance, Bill was a good and Godly man who loved the Lord, and demonstrated that love working alongside Nancy to fulfill the Gideon's mission of spreading the Good News of God's love throughout our Earth. We were blessed to have known Bill. Ralph and Barbara Patterson*

Ralph and Barbara Patterson - November 13, 2019 at 01:37 PM

“ Uncle Bill was truly the Funcle (Fun Uncle).

One of the things I remember most about my Uncle Bill is that he told the most long-winded jokes I'd ever heard, some of which have stayed with me to this day. Some of you may remember the joke where the Panda goes unexpectedly homicidal while dining at a nice Chinese restaurant and flees the crime scene to everyone's disbelief. Want to know why he did it? Look it up. "Panda" - "Eats shoots and leaves". He led me like an innocent lamb to each punch line. I really looked forward to hearing him ham it up.

I remember when I was a teen he used to tease me mercilessly, but all in good fun. To this day I still remember when he called me "Miss Pitts" in a subtle attempt to inform me that I was a bit ripe. Don't forget to pack your deodorant when you travel, folks. To this day I've got tubes of Secret anti-perspirant stuffed in all my luggage, lest I should forget to pack it again. Thanks, Uncle Bill. I owe you one. Not sure I should have taken the tip on shaving my legs, though. In retrospect, it might have been a better idea to let that go European. 30+ years later and I'm still trying to hold back the dam.

I really enjoyed the vacations visiting with my Lee relations at their house in Bartlesville, OK when I was growing up. Uncle Bill always kept it interesting. I still remember him trying to motivate a group of teenagers to get out of bed early and go on an Easter Egg hunt. He told us there was a \$20 bill stuffed in one of the plastic eggs as an incentive. We searched for hours. Hours.

Every trip to the lake house included a tour of Grand Lake on the boat. One of my first memories was my first (and last) attempt at waterskiing. I'm sure I swallowed half of Grand Lake that day. We went from that tubing, where Uncle Bill would do his best to toss you off the Tube as he would make a turn with "flare". There was a while there that I wouldn't be anything but a passenger in the boat. Marilyn and I had a pact. After a considerable time away, I returned in 2013 with my family and he convinced me to go out with him on

the Jet Ski. That was a thrill I'll never forget (or probably, repeat). Our last trip was in the fall of 2018 on a visit with Brad where we bundled up and made a tour of the lake in November. I shall not miss his obsession with speed...but I loved his playful and adventurous spirit.

Even at my dad's funeral, he helped to keep things lite hearted. My husband (who is 6'4") recalls that he elbowed him in the side and asked him to "stoop a bit for your, Uncle Bill" as they were Pallbearer's carrying the casket out to the hearse.

All joking aside, he was one of a kind. The best kind of person with a huge heart. I shall miss him a great deal.

God Bless you, Uncle Bill.

Pam (Peck) Bishopp, niece

Pam Bishopp - November 11, 2019 at 10:11 PM

PB

“ 15 files added to the album Bill Lee



Pam Bishopp - November 11, 2019 at 09:12 PM

DO

Love these, Pam. Thanks for adding them and bringing back good memories.

Debra Oaks - November 11, 2019 at 09:48 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William "Bill" E. Lee.*



November 11, 2019 at 03:41 PM

BJ

“ *A wonderful friend of mine has gone on before me. I look forward to seeing Bill again. His gift was making friends everywhere he went. I called him a tail-wagger because he always walked up to people like he was anxious to know them. What a joy it will be to see him again. (Bob Johnston)*

Bob Johnston - November 10, 2019 at 06:43 PM



All I can think of since hearing about Bill's new home is "I wonder if he and Bob Hudson have quit talking yet?" I'm sure it's going to take them a while.

Pam Hudson - November 11, 2019 at 10:33 AM

DO

“ 2 files added to the album *Bill Lee*



Debra Oaks - November 09, 2019 at 05:31 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of *William "Bill" E. Lee.*



November 09, 2019 at 02:36 PM