

JAMES P. LEE, SR.



Of North Versailles, age 89, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2023, while residing at Juniper Village in Forest Hills. Born on October 19, 1933, in Pittsburgh, Jim lived a rich and fulfilling life, marked by service, adventure, humor, and a deep love for his family.

Jim was a devoted husband to Ruth (Gullett) Lee for 66 years, and their enduring partnership was a testament to their shared values and

mutual respect. His love and dedication extended to his children: James P. (Marianne) Lee of Florida, Theresa (Robert Budnick) Lee of Virginia, Janette (John) Pekar of Manor, Suzan (Richard) Ballinger of Virginia, and Michael (Tonya) Lee of Tennessee. Jim was a proud grandfather to Amber (Matthew Korol) Lee, James P. Lee III, Lynn Pekar, Steven (Melissa) Pekar, Shawn Ballinger, and Anthony Lee. His joy was magnified with the birth of his great-grandson, Nicholas Rueling-Lee. Jim's life was characterized by a strong work ethic and a deep sense of patriotism. He served his country as a Korean War-era Army veteran. His commitment to public service continued in his career as a dedicated employee of the Federal government, working with the Department of the Interior and later, the CIA. Beyond his professional life, Jim was a man of many talents and interests. He was a skilled carpenter, bringing his creativity and meticulous attention to detail to every project he undertook. He also took a class in bartending with his VA benefits and he was a social member of the American Legion. Jim's adventurous spirit led him to explore the world. He enjoyed national and international travel, capturing memories and experiences that he would share with his loved ones. Camping was another passion, allowing him to connect with nature and enjoy the simplicity and tranquility it offered. He also volunteered with the Boy Scouts, imparting his love for outdoor adventure to younger generations.

A true Pittsburgh native, Jim was an ardent sports fan, always rooting for the Pirates, Penguins, and Steelers. He also was a basketball mentor to the kids in his former North Braddock neighborhood. If one had to choose a word to describe Jim, it would be adventurous. He was always ready for a new experience, a new journey, a new story to tell. He lived fully, shared his humor, and loved deeply, Jim's life was a journey well-traveled, a story well-told, and a life well-lived. Friends are welcome on Wednesday from 4-8 pm at **PATRICK T. LANIGAN FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY, INC.**, 700 Linden Avenue at Cable Avenue, East Pittsburgh (412-824-8800) where a Blessing Service will be held on Wednesday at 7 PM.

Jim will be laid to rest with Military Honors and Committal Service in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies on Thursday at 2 PM. East Allegheny Meals on Wheels, c/o Linway Presbyterian Church, 600 Lincoln Highway, North Versailles, PA 15137.

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