



Lee Liles

February 8, 1950 - May 11, 2018

Lee Liles, of Sulphur, Oklahoma, passed away on Friday May 11th, 2018. He was born February 8, 1950 to Williams D. Liles and Burnett P. Liles in Crockett County, Tennessee. Lee was reared in Holly Springs, Mississippi. At fifteen, he began his horseshoeing career, often skipping school to shoe his own teachers' horses. He left school to pursue horseshoeing apprenticeship full time but in 1969 he was drafted to serve his nation in the Army. After two years of service in Vietnam, he returned and set back to work with horseshoeing. Before long, he made a name for himself in the world of Tennessee Walking Horses, where he found fame with his innovative approach to shoeing, as well as his quick fixes in the ring. Specializing in therapeutic shoeing methods, he traveled the country speaking at clinics and sharing his knowledge. He went on to become the official farrier for four world championship horse shows for three different breeds - the American Quarter Horse Association, the Tennessee Walking Horse Association, and the American Paint Horse Association.

Lee married Alma McCool on December 27, 1986 in Memphis, Tennessee. Their daughter, Samantha, was born in 1993 and a few years after, they relocated to Sulphur, Oklahoma. Lee and Alma brought Carrousel Farms to Sulphur, and continued to be very active in the Quarter Horse community where Lee won several world championships for calf roping and heading and heeling. In 1997, Lee started expanding his collection of horseshoeing memorabilia to what would soon become his legacy, The National Museum of Horseshoeing Tools and Hall of Honor. In 1999, the city of Sulphur presented him with the Key to the City at the official opening ceremony to the public. The museum is now the most comprehensive collection of shoeing, blacksmithing, and farrier history in the world. To honor his contributions to the practice, Lee was inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame in 2004, located at the Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Williams and Burnett.

He is survived by his wife, Alma Liles of Sulphur OK,
daughter Samantha Liles Frank (Andrew Frank) of Dallas, TX

three siblings, Bill Liles, Danny Liles, and Tonie Rayburn
two aunts, Blondell Pearson and Mary Lynwood Liles Slankard
along with many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at the National Museum of Horseshoeing Tools on
Wednesday, May 16th officiated by Pastor Jerry Lemley. Military honors by the US Army
Honors Team. If desired, friends may make memorial contributions to St. Jude's hospital in
Memphis, TN in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements by DeArman Funeral Home
online condolences may be sent to www.dearmanfuneralhome.com

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Comments



“ Many happy memories of the times we spent with Lee in years past. Blacksmithing was always the subject. Our prayers to his family. Ken and Sandy Wilson

Sandy Wilson - June 11, 2018 at 04:10 PM



“ Tonie Liles Rayburn sent a virtual gift in memory of Lee Liles



Tonie Liles Rayburn - May 23, 2018 at 09:42 PM



“ To Alma & Samantha: My thoughts and prayers are with you daily! May the promise of heaven bring you both much comfort and peace. Thank you for including me. It meant so much! Love to you both! Tonie

Tonie Liles Rayburn - May 23, 2018 at 09:40 PM



“ I want to thank Lee and Alma Liles for the time I worked for them. He took me places and introduced me to many great people that I would of never met thank you both so much! RIP Lee, prayer to the family!
Scott Lund

Scott Lund - May 19, 2018 at 01:23 PM



“ Lee was always kind & considerate to me at the ropings - he always offered to get me water or a snack when I was announcing (little things mean a lot) he was a good leather craftsman - Melvyn still has 2 breast collars that Leemade him over 30 years ago & they are still in good condition - condolences to the family — Melvyn & Shirley Wood

Shirley Wood - May 16, 2018 at 08:50 PM



“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.

God Bless You,
The Metz family

Beverly Metz - May 16, 2018 at 05:21 PM



“ Dear Alma & Sam,
Bridgette and I just wanted you to know that the two of you are in our thoughts and prayers. We know exactly what you are going through and how you are feeling. If there is anything I can do please let me know my number is 580-618-2955. I will just be praying that god puts his arms around the two of you and comforts and peace.

Lisa Bell - May 16, 2018 at 10:43 AM



“ Lee you will be sadly missed. I only wish we could have spent more good times together as adults, but at least I have my memories as children. My prayers go out to you Alma and your beautiful daughter. I met you through Aunt Burnette, telling us all about you and your wonderful daughter, I don't think I will ever forget her telling us about the tea party that Lee went to with your daughter. You all were so loved. I know this is so hard for you, but don't ever be afraid to lean on your family and friends. Love to both of you. Patricia Osnoe, the cousin in Maine.

Patricia Osnoe - May 15, 2018 at 05:01 PM



“ Dearest Alma and Samantha, I am so very sorry for your loss and feel your pain. May you find comfort and love from your family and friends during this time and the many days ahead. Warmly, Sonya Anderson

Sonya Anderson - May 15, 2018 at 06:46 AM



“ Alma and the Liles family We will miss him terribly he was an inspiration to alot of people i know one person and that is my Dad Jackie Joyner. Dad loved Lee with all his heart and soul. May God Bless You and your family We love ya'll very much .

Rest in Peace Lee love u and will miss you so much.

Melody Dawn Joyner - May 15, 2018 at 04:31 AM



“ I went to school with Lee in the mid to late 60s in Holly Springs (Class of 69). I was a runt and he was 6'2" and tough. He was always super friendly and respectful to me. He was different (liking his horses instead of sports and girls) but was a true and honorable person.

Jim Colston - July 11, 2018 at 12:45 PM