



Leland Robertson

March 23, 1931 - May 3, 2020

Leland “Lee” Robertson, 89, of Columbus, died at 2:55 a.m. Sunday at Our Hospice of South Central Indiana Inpatient Facility. He was born March 23, 1931 in Columbus to the late John and Esta Cooper Robertson.

Lee was the embodiment of the self made man. He graduated from Clifford High School with the class of 1949 and married Shirley McKinney in 1951. With limited education, he started as a bank teller and eventually opened a small used car lot on 8th Street in Columbus. Starting a new business was difficult but with perseverance and the support of his wife, he eventually became a Chevrolet-Pontiac dealer. Lee had a lively personality, generous with others and was devoted to his family. These qualities earned him many friends, loyal employees, customers and the love of his family.

Lee was a man of many passions. He had a short career as a race car driver in the 1950’s and went on to sponsor a race car built by his father-in-law. He built several custom homes in the Columbus area, even while running his business and later formed Robertson Construction with his wife. He enjoyed gardening, grilling (his steaks were legendary), carpentry, basketball and tennis. It seemed like there was very little he couldn’t do except sing. He and Shirley attended the First Christian Church and later joined the First Baptist Church in Columbus. During the last years of his life, he reunited with his grade school sweetheart, Ethel Baute and they were married in 2018.

Lee and Shirley’s only child, Rick, was born in 1952. Rick left the car business while in his 30’s and with the love and support of his parents became a board-certified physician. Lee is also survived by Rick’s wife, Michelle; grandchildren, Sylvia and Carl (who called him Grampy), of Plainfield; sisters, Eva Bennett of Columbus and Jane Paetzel of Hope; brother, Steve (Vicki) Robertson of Hope and many extended family members.

Father, brother, friend and “Grampy”, rejoice in heaven with the Father in the room he has prepared for you.

A private memorial service will be held on Saturday May 9, 2020 at Jewell-Rittman Family Funeral Home with the Rev. Dan Cash officiating. Following the service, Lee will be laid to rest with Shirley in Garland Brook Mausoleum. Memorial gifts may be made to the IU Simon Cancer Center for Miles for Myeloma. Please make checks payable to: IU Foundation/Miles for Myeloma Fund and mail to IUF P. O. Box 70742 Indianapolis, Indiana

46207-7072 or online at: <https://www.cancer.iu.edu/m4m>. Indicate "In memory of Leland Robertson" on the memo line.

Cemetery

Garland Brook Cemetery Mausoleum

Columbus, IN,

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Jewell-Rittman Funeral Home - May 08 at 03:36 PM



“ LOLA ENOCHS lit a candle in memory of Leland Robertson



LOLA ENOCHS - May 12 at 03:07 PM



“ My Mother Vesta M Collins (Esta Faye Robertson, mothers twin) thought so much of Leland, I remember mother telling me when he was a small boy, had his own little plot of a garden, loved to grow flowers. I remember his motor bike he built and giving me a ride on it, it was fun and scary too. He built an ole jalopy, he took me and my brother for a ride, I couldn't get over you saw the road through the floorboard! I have many fond memories of Leland and so glad to have him as a cousin.

LOLA ENOCHS - May 12 at 03:30 PM



“ Chuck Kelley lit a candle in memory of Leland Robertson



Chuck Kelley - May 10 at 01:08 PM



“ Although I did not personally know Lee, I do know his son. Lee must have a great man because he has passed on wisdom, caring, and passion to his son Rick. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of the family of Lee.

Chuck Kelley - May 10 at 01:10 PM



“ Aunt Faye and my mother Vesta were twin sisters. Leland took me a ride on his motor bike and I got a little burn on my leg when it brushed against the motor. I always enjoyed being with and talking with him. I am proud to get to call him my Cousin. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Robertson family. God bless.

Dennis Collins

Rose Collins - May 10 at 02:03 PM



“ Uncle Leland was a loving part of my life for 66 years. I'll always remember the times our families spent together when Rick and I were growing up. Playing Ping Pong, tennis, Euchre, basketball. He was good at all of them and very competitive. I'm also glad my wife and kids were able to spend time with him in more recent years so they were able to have wonderful memories of him as well. I was able to spend some quality time with Uncle Leland when I stayed with him a few years ago when my father passed away. We had some great conversations about business and basketball over a glass or two of wine. He had a great life and I feel blessed to have been able to share some of it with him.

Love always,
Steve, Elizabeth Zachary David

Steve Rabosky - May 08 at 09:55 PM



“ Sian and I have fond memories of Leland. Many times we played tennis with him and Shirley. He was a difficult person to play against, with a lot of tricky slice shots that kept us guessing, and always laughing! He had lots of stories to tell, and was fun to be around.

We will miss him.

Sincere Condolences, Andrew and Sian Goldsmid.



Andrew and Sian Goldsmid - May 08 at 09:41 PM



“ Tina Robertson lit a candle in memory of Leland Robertson



Tina Robertson - May 08 at 07:39 PM



“ Leland has a special place in our hearts. Leland was the kindest man. Leland always had a happy smile. He was a joy to be around. Hank and I have lots of fond memories especially our visits at St Pete Beach.

Our prayers and thoughts are with his family during this difficult time. May God give each of you comfort and peace.

Hank and Vickie Mueller

Hank and Vickie Mueller - May 08 at 08:49 AM



“ John And Lori Mangrum lit a candle in memory of Leland Robertson



John and Lori Mangrum - May 08 at 08:39 AM



“ Valerie Douglas lit a candle in memory of Leland Robertson



Valerie Douglas - May 07 at 06:24 PM



“ Tamara Forand Crawford lit a candle in memory of Leland Robertson



Tamara Forand Crawford - May 07 at 12:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leland Robertson.



May 06 at 05:12 PM