



Thomas Edward Lee

May 11, 1946 - November 21, 2016

Thomas Edward Lee, 70, of Burnt Woods passed away in Corvallis surrounded by family on Nov. 21, 2016, at 1:50 a.m.

Tom was born in New Britain, Connecticut, on May 11, 1946, to Marjorie (Seeds) Lee and Melvin Lee.

Tom proudly served his country by joining the Army. His dates of service were from June 10, 1963 to July 9, 1968, during which time he completed three tours in Vietnam. Later in life he made three separate trips to Vietnam in an effort to see the country in a more peaceful state and to put to rest some of his internal conflicts that he struggled with.

In December of 1979 Tom and his wife, Madlyn, moved their family to Oregon. After six months in Corvallis they found a home in the Eddyville area. Nestled into that little community, Tom and Madlyn found their home. They raised their two daughters there surrounded by a tight knit community where they had many friends.

Tom had been a truck driver for many years, a logger, had done construction on everything from highways to schools. Eventually he retired due to injuries sustained during his military service. After retiring Tom moved to Playa del Carmen, Mexico, for about a decade. He made friends from all over the world

and lived a life that most of us can only dream about. His easy going nature, generosity and dark witted humor will be missed by all that knew him.

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He leaves behind his sister, Cheryl Leavitt; brothers Terrence Lee and Dennis Lee; daughter Marnie Strilka; son-in-law Adam Strilka; daughter Melanie Lee; and grandsons Thomas A. Lee and Payton Lee.

Tom never wanted a fuss to be made over him and had requested that there be no formal service. He did think that it would be ok for his friends and family to gather together for an informal bonfire in his honor, which will take place in the spring.

Tribute Wall

CL

“ Tom was my big brother. Although we spent much of our lives apart, he was always dear to my heart. He was great company. He had a great sense of humor; and, he could tell a good story. When I was a kid, he would stick his finger in my ear and call me a "brat". In recent years, we clicked with almost every conversation we had. How much we thought alike. He is now gone, and, has left a hole in my heart. He will be surely missed.

Cheryl Leavitt

Cheryl Leavitt - December 04, 2016 at 08:06 PM

MS

Love you Aunt Cheryl- xoxo

Marnie Strilka - December 07, 2016 at 09:54 PM

CR

“ Found Tom st the Beer Bucket in Playa del Carmen. He was a character that will never be forgotten. Just a wonderful man.

Charlie & Bea Roster - December 01, 2016 at 04:51 PM

SG

“ Tom was a great guy... I worked with him in construction on the interpretive center on Yaquina Head. I knew him before that through Madlyn and Their daughters, who have always been like daughters to me. I love you Marni and Melanie, and my thoughts are with you right now. Rest in Paradise Tom...

Steve Glasscock - November 30, 2016 at 07:27 PM

MS

Love you much Steve.... xo

Marnie Strilka - December 07, 2016 at 09:55 PM

RH

“ *I met Tom in Playa del Carmen, and was trapped with him at Mom's Hotel for the duration of Hurricane Wilma. Because of him, I have returned to that area every year since. Many stories and fond memories - others that knew him there will share the same. Every trip, I would take him at least one suitcase on non-fiction books, that were difficult to find there. Somewhere he is sitting on a stool drinking a Mexican beer, and waiting for us to show up. He was everyone's friend.*

Robert Hausser - November 30, 2016 at 04:50 PM

RF

Tom was my cousin and we grew up in Plainville, CT. We had a lot of good times together with a large extended family in the area. I was very proud of his service in Vietnam Nam and his work with veteran groups as well. He went back to that country later with group of veterans. He and His wife Madelyn raised two wonderful daughters Melanie and Marnie. I will miss Tom very much.

Rev. Curt D. Fuller - November 30, 2016 at 07:14 PM

ML

He talked about you often. I do believe you are right. I'm envisioning him with a Sol in hand. Thanks for the memories. -Melanie Lee

Melanie Lee - November 30, 2016 at 09:42 PM

SB

Tom was my cousin. Like Curt, I was very proud of his service in Vietnam and his work with veteran groups. I remember seeing his picture in uniform hanging in Aunt Margie and Uncle Woody's living room. Anyone who met Tom knew of his kind spirit and warm heart. I have fond memories of late night talks while playing cards. Even though we didn't see each other much, I would get my updates on his adventures from his sister (and my cousin/dear friend/"sister-in-law" Cheryl). He will be missed.

Sally Bain-Picard

Sally Bain-Picard - January 02, 2017 at 01:33 AM