



## John Alan Lee

February 26, 1942 - December 15, 2019

John Alan Lee, 77, passed away peacefully in his own home on Sunday, December 15, surrounded by his loving family. John was born in New Castle on February 26, 1942, to Wilbur “Skinny” Lee and Hallie (Shirk) Lee. He was the third of three children and was a “surprise”, as his sister was 17 and his brother was 15 when he was born.

While in the hospital after his birth, he met his wife of 56 years, Martha Pollard, who was born the day after him and occupied the bassinet next to his in the nursery. They were married on September 1, 1963, a mere 21 years after their first introduction. Together, they produced John David Lee of Yorktown and Stephanie Lee (Garrett) of New Castle.

John attended Parker Elementary school and then went on to New Castle Chrysler High School, where he was a standout athlete in basketball and football. He set the Fieldhouse record for most points in a game (52) against Lewisville. The record stood until it was broken by Kent Benson over 10 years later. He was All-North Central Conference in basketball and was named to the New Castle Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013. Following his graduation, he attended Ball State University on a basketball scholarship. He finished his career as the 4th leading scorer in Ball State history at the time and averaged over 17 points a game for his career. His athletic career was capped by his induction in to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame earlier this month, an

honor that both he and his family were and are very proud of.

Following graduation from BSU, he coached and taught at Marion High School, then served as the principal of the school at the New Castle State Hospital. He obtained his Master's and EDS degrees at Ball State and went on to be athletic director and vice-principal at Shenandoah High School. He was the athletic director for the SHS team that went to the state finals in basketball in 1981, the only team in school history to achieve that in a single-class system. He left Shenandoah in 1981 and served as vice-principal at Parkview Junior High School until his retirement in 1998. He also served on the New Castle school board. In the last few years, John worked as a medical transporter, taking people to doctor's appointments and hospital visits. He enjoyed this immensely, as it allowed him to meet many new people.

John was a fixture at the American Legion Golf Course at Memorial Park for many years and was often the one who "organized" the morning games of golf. He shared his passion with his son and they were able to go on many golf trips together, including Myrtle Beach, Biloxi, Florida, Michigan, Arizona, Pinehurst, Pebble Beach, and Scotland (twice). He was nearly a scratch golfer and had 3 hole-in-ones, even though he didn't get his first one until after the age of 50. Some of his favorite moments were experienced on the golf course and he developed lifelong friendships with many of the golfers that he knew. He was also very active at the Elks Lodge in New Castle, where he continued his father's legacy by presenting the Wilbur "Skinny" Lee Elks scholarship to countless students, including his daughter, niece, and nephews. Up until this summer, he was often found playing gin in the card room at the Elks lodge with his friends, including John Heck, Jack Spangler, Jim Myers, and Dave Cook, among others.

John was very active in the community of New Castle his entire life and loved his hometown. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to friends and

neighbors, usually with little or no fanfare. If anyone ever needed something done, they knew that they could go to John and get help in getting it done. He was a highly-respected member of the community and was held in high regard by his peers in the education and athletic fields.

Although, he was passionate about his community, John's biggest passion and joy in life was his family. His and his wife's profession allowed for long vacations with family, a tradition that was carried on for over 50 years and included trips to Florida, Hawaii, Alaska, Maine, California, and all points in between. He loved nothing more than to go on trips with his children and their families. He was always, along with his wife, at EVERY athletic and school event, even if it was just for one line of a play, one free throw or soccer kick, or one word at a spelling bee. Even after becoming ill, he could be found at every game, party, or family get-together, encouraging others and bragging on his kids and grandchildren. He was always very supportive and encouraging to all members of his family in all their endeavors and interests.

John was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church after being a member of First United Methodist Church, where he served on many committees. He was also active with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and took his wife and kids, along with several high school athletes, to a national FCA conference in Colorado in 1984. He demonstrated his faith through the many selfless acts of kindness that he displayed to his friends and neighbors.

John leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 56 years, Marty (Pollard) Lee, son, John David Lee, daughter, Stephanie Garrett (Husband: Marty), and four grandchildren: Allyson Garrett, Andrew Garrett (Girlfriend: Madison Garreth), Austin Garrett (Girlfriend: Lindsey York), and Cody J. Lee. He is also survived by several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Virginia Miller and a

brother, James B. Lee.

Services will be held at Sproles Family Funeral Home in New Castle, with calling hours from 4 - 8 pm on Thursday, December 19, 2019 and funeral service at 11:00 am on Friday, December 20. The service will be officiated by Pastor Joel Troxell and Pastor Hannah Wiswasser. Burial will follow at South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition. The Elks Lodge will have an honorary service during the calling on Thursday.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the John A. Lee Memorial Scholarship through the Henry County Foundation with envelopes available at the funeral home.

The family would also like to express their gratitude to the many friends, health care workers, and community members that were supportive and caring during his recent illness. The outpouring of love for John and family was and is deeply appreciated.

You may send the family a personal condolence at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of John Alan Lee.

# Cemetery Details

## South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.  
New Castle, IN 47362

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 19. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

## Service

DEC 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ *John D. and family: Family obligations and medical concerns keep me from coming to New Castle to express my feelings, but please know that Cate and I are thinking of you. The several times I had the chance to visit with John A. were most enjoyable and I'm certain that you and his many friends will miss the interactions, warmth, and love that he gave. My condolences.*

*Arno*

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**Arno Wittig** - December 20, 2019 at 10:39 AM

LL

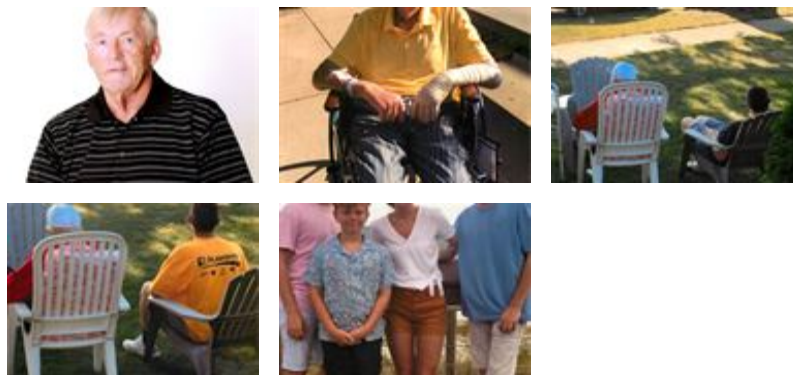
“ *Many great memories of playing golf with John. Mary Ann and I loved your surprised visit to our new home in Arizona the last couple of years. Marty you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*Ed and Mary Ann*

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**Leslie E Lewton** - December 19, 2019 at 02:45 PM



“ *100 files added to the album LifeTributes*



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**Sproles Family Funeral Home** - December 19, 2019 at 01:07 PM

CH

“ Curt Huntley lit a candle in memory of John Alan Lee



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**Curt Huntley** - December 19, 2019 at 12:39 PM

CB

“ Marty,  
Though the voice is quiet, the spirit lives on.  
My condolences, Cassie Bowers

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**cassandra bowers** - December 19, 2019 at 09:34 AM

JB

“ A true friend, teammate and brother. New Castle will miss in many ways.

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**Jerry Beguhn** - December 19, 2019 at 03:38 AM

RR

“ Sending condolences to John's family.



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**Ron Ragan** - December 18, 2019 at 06:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Alan Lee.*



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December 18, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ *Jimand Anna Orrell purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John Alan Lee.*



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**Jimand Anna Orrell** - December 18, 2019 at 05:33 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Alan Lee.*



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December 18, 2019 at 11:29 AM



“ *Marty & Family so sorry for your loss, we'll have you in our Prayers & Thoughts, John was a really great neighbor of 22 years & he will me missed dearly :(*  
*Bev & Bob Holwager*

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**Robert W Holwager** - December 18, 2019 at 02:50 AM

RH

“ Robert W Holwager lit a candle in memory of John Alan Lee



Robert W Holwager - December 18, 2019 at 02:48 AM

MP

“ Dear Marty: So very sorry to hear of John's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Elouise Paine

Martha Paine - December 17, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Alan Lee.



December 17, 2019 at 07:44 PM

TC

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss. I had the pleasure of being a medical patient he drove to Indy. He was always so friendly, kind, and caring. We had wonderful conversations everytime he drove me. I also worked in ER with John Lee. Marty your husband, John and Stephanie your father was truly an amazing person. Prayers for you all as you learn to move on with him in your hearts!



Tara Carter - December 17, 2019 at 07:06 PM

BC

“ *Your Dad watched over Ashley while she attended Parkview.....in her eyes he was her Hero. She would loved to have caught up with Mr Lee the last time she was home but her visit was only a day. Rest in peace dear man knowing you made a great deal of students feel so good to have you on their side. Marty, John D, and Stephanie, We will always remember our FCA memories at your house. May his spirit continue to give you not just peace but inspiration to last you until you all are reunited. Love and prayers to you and your families*  
*Mark and Bev*

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**Bev Cronk** - December 17, 2019 at 06:22 PM

HT

“ *Marty and dear family, what a good guy was your guy John. Always thoughtful, always engaged, he was a giant presence in New Castle. I never saw him without a smile and a ready hello. We were all so lucky - so blessed - to have been raised in a wonderful town durng a wonderful time and John was such an important person during those days and all the days beyond. All of us now, oldies but goodies, raising a glass of kindness to dear John.. Blessings upon blessings.*

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**Harleeta Trainor** - December 17, 2019 at 04:54 PM

LS

“ *Marty*  
*It was a sad conversation I had with brother Jerry when he called about John passing. You and your family our in our prayers*  
*Larry Stohler*

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**Larry Stohlet** - December 17, 2019 at 04:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Alan Lee.*



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December 17, 2019 at 04:04 PM



“ *Marty I am thinking of you and your family praying for you, I knew John since 3rd grade at Parker school Great person he always treated me nice. I know he loved his family very much he lived a good life. Mike Babbitt*

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**Mike Babbitt** - December 17, 2019 at 02:02 PM



“ *Dear Marty and family; I am pleased to say John Alan Lee and I were best of friends growing up in New Castle in the late 40's thru 1954 when my parents moved to Ohio. I now lookup to him as the MAN. He was an exceptional man among men!. His personal and athletic credentials are impeccable. As he slips his earthly bonds and is greeted by OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, the Master will surely tell him "WELL DONE JOHN, welcome to your new home in paradise. Sadly missed by Jim and Marian Humlong*



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**JAMES HUMLONG** - December 17, 2019 at 12:02 PM

JH

*ABOUT 1949-50 TIME FRAME, JOHNNY ALLEN ON TOP STEP, BUD COUNCELOR ON THE LEFT, JIMMY HILL IN THE CENTER AND NANCY CRANDELL ON THE RIGHT, AND ME, JAMIE HUMLONG LOWER RIGHT SIDETHIS IS THE HOUSE JOHN WAS BORN IN 1225 WEBSTER AVE NEW CASTLE, INDIANA*

**JAMES HUMLONG** - December 17, 2019 at 01:01 PM

TU

*“ Knew John for years thru the school systems and formed an unlikely bond about three years ago when we were in cardiac rehab together at Forest Ridge. What a wonderful person. May your memories lift you up.... Condolences to the entire family.  
Teresa Umbarger*

**teresa umbarger** - December 17, 2019 at 09:57 AM

SH

*“ Marty, John, Stephanie and family. We are praying for all of you during this difficult time!  
Hopefully, all of you feel the presence of our Lord and you well know John is in better hands now!! John 8:51 "I tell you the truth, if a man keeps my Word, he will never see death." God is with all of you!!!  
Love and prayers, Sam and Sharan*

**Sharan** - December 17, 2019 at 08:40 AM

LJ

*“ Linda And Monty Johnson lit a candle in memory of John Alan Lee*



**Linda and Monty Johnson** - December 17, 2019 at 07:54 AM

PS

“ Prayers for God's comfort and peace for your whole family. In high school, Mr Lee encouraged me and many others to be the best we could be. He loved helping students/athletes to achieve their goals in education, sports and life! I know your family will miss him greatly, but, oh what memories you all have! Blessings and love to each of you, Peggy (Jackson) Sweigart

Peggy Sweigart - December 17, 2019 at 07:37 AM

DK

“ Marti and family we are so sorry for your loss. John always had a smile and kind word to everyone he met. Our prayers are coming your way. David & Linda Knotts



David&Linda Knotts - December 17, 2019 at 06:40 AM

JS

“ Jill Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of John Alan Lee



Jill Smith - December 16, 2019 at 11:30 PM

JS

“ Jill Smith lit a candle in memory of John Alan Lee



Jill Smith - December 16, 2019 at 11:28 PM

BG

“ One of my great golfing buddies and great friend. Enjoyed all of the golfing trips throughout the years. You will be missed. Thinking of Marty, JD and Stephanie in this tough time.

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**Brian Graham** - December 16, 2019 at 09:19 PM

BY

“ In sorry for your loss

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**Bobby York** - December 16, 2019 at 08:57 PM

ND

“ I remember watching John play ball in high school, and have known Marty and the Pollard family for years too. My deepest sympathy and may God bless you with peace and comfort in the days ahead.  
*Norma Mastin Dishman*

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**Norma Mastin Dishman** - December 16, 2019 at 08:55 PM

MP

“ Mida Penticuff lit a candle in memory of John Alan Lee



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**mida penticuff** - December 16, 2019 at 08:27 PM

AS

“ Love and prayers to the Lee family! John was at Shenandoah when I went through high school. Years later I had his granddaughter Allyson in first grade at Parker. Marty had retired from teaching the summer before Allyson started first grade. Marty helped in my classroom with reading groups and other activities. Forward to 2017. While my mom was in the hospital the last time before she passed, Stephanie was a kind and helpful friend.  
My thoughts and prayers are with you, Love, Anita Stout



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**Anita Stout** - December 16, 2019 at 04:50 PM

HH

“ Our prayers are with the family at this time of sorrow.

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**Heidi Hudelson** - December 16, 2019 at 04:14 PM

 Jeff  
Chambless

“ Wow!! John was a Great Coach along with Bob Heady, Lou Koning, and Rick Penn. Have some Great Memories of Him “Cooling Coach Heady Down” after many bad calls!! Rest In Peace Coach Lee!!  
Many Prayers To His Family!!

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**Jeff Chambless** - December 16, 2019 at 04:12 PM