



Richard J. Lees

March 27, 1940 - July 9, 2013

Richard "Dick" Lees, 73 of Carroll, died Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at his residence in Carroll following a battle with cancer.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 13, 2013 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Carroll. The Celebrant will be Fr. Timothy Schott. Music will be by Marcy Anderson and the St. Lawrence Choir, with Sherry Loughran as song leader. Lectors for the funeral mass will be Richard's grandchildren, Jack Hummel and Mary Kate Hummel. Gift Bearers will be Richard's grandchildren Maggie Hummel, Molly Hummel, Anna Kopf, Madeline Kopf, and Sarah Kopf. Eucharistic Ministers will be: Lou Pottebaum, Jean Knobbe, and Ann Christiansen. Casket Bearers will be: Bob Mac Craw, Dick Heimer, Jack Ramaekers, Tom Willwerth, John Sjobakken, and Greg Siemann. The Carroll American Legion will form an honor guard for the funeral mass. Burial will be at the Carroll City Cemetery with military honors conducted by Offutt Air Force Base.

Friends may call at the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll after 5 p.m. on Friday where there will be a Christian Wake Service by St. Lawrence Parish at 7 p.m. The casket will be moved to St. Lawrence Church at 8:30 a.m. Saturday where visitation will resume until time of the funeral mass.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be sent to New Hope Village or St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for Richard's family at www.sharpfuneral.com.

Born on March 27, 1940, Richard James was the son of Robert and Alberta (Willwerth) Lees. Richard grew up in Des Moines, graduating from Dowling Catholic High School. He graduated with a B.A. from Loras College and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Utah. On June 6, 1964 Richard was united in marriage to Jean Sjobakken in Dubuque.

Lt Col Lees was a 22 year veteran of the United States Air Force. He served in Okinawa

and Viet Nam from 1968-1969 during which he received the Bronze Star. After returning from a four year assignment in England, he served as Deputy Director for Collections for the Strategic Reconnaissance Center at HQ Strategic Air Command in Bellevue, NE. Upon retiring from the Air Force, he worked as a systems analyst for Science Applications International Corporation for 15 years.

In 2000 Dick and Jean moved to Carroll to be close to daughter Katherine at New Hope Village. In 2005 Dick was the recipient of a heart transplant. Dick's personal philosophy was "God, family, Country." He was an avid fan of Notre Dame Football, the Green Bay Packers as well as motorsports and a train enthusiast. He was a much beloved husband, father, grandfather, and a friend to many.

Left to celebrate his life is his wife of 49 years, Jean Lees of Carroll; daughters Jennifer Hummel and husband Jeff of St Louis, MO.; Allison Kopf and husband Pat of Tampa, FL.; and Katherine Lees of New Hope Village, Carroll; eight grandchildren; his in-laws, Sue (Lees) Iber of Des Moines; John (Jan) Sjobakken of Dubuque; and Jerry (Ruth) Sjobakken of Dubuque; as well as several nieces, nephews, other extended relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Alberta Lees; brothers Rev. Terry Lees and Charles Lees.

Comments



“ My sincere condolences to all in the Lees family. I had the privilege of meeting and working with Dick when we both started at SAIC at around the same time. Dick was always the Gentleman's Gentleman. His values were clear, he was true to his beliefs and knew what was the right thing to do. He taught me many important work and life values just by being around him. His friendship was valued and remembered even though our paths never crossed again. God bless him, his family and all those that treasured his friendship.

Marc Williams
Frisco, Texas

marc williams - September 12, 2013 at 06:51 PM



“ Jean, Allison, Jennifer and Katherine...
I just learned of Dick's passing yesterday from my mom. I'm so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Donna Wieseler Klein

Madonna Klein - August 15, 2013 at 09:10 AM



“ To Dick's Family...
My thoughts are with all of you as you have had to say goodbye to Dick. What a kind person he was and how he touched so many lives. I became acquainted with him at St. Mary's in Bellevue. Thoughts of him randomly popped into my head a few days ago before I knew he had passed away. I pray that you all feel God's loving arms embracing you and that you will be blessed with peace and comfort in the upcoming days and weeks.
Cindy Bishop
Bellevue, NE .

Cindy Bishop - July 19, 2013 at 08:44 AM



“ Dick and I shared many good times over the years from Okinawa to Thailand to Vietnam to England to Nebraska to Wisconsin serving in the Air Force and sharing our hobby of watching and photographing motor racing events. In recent years, we've recalled many of those times via the phone and emails. Dick's friendship meant the world to me, and I'll miss him very much. After all, who can I talk to about Danica Patrick, "Smoke" and other NASCAR boys and girls every Monday or with whom can I share my photos that understands sports car racing.

Our condolences to the beautiful Lees family and especially to Jean, who has weathered many a storm in life but always comes up happy and smiling. I'm confident she'll weather this one too. We're all the better for knowing Dick, and thank you Dick for enriching my life. Love and prayers for the Lees family.

Jeff and Mickie Allison
Ken-Caryl Valley, Colorado

JEFF ALLISON - July 15, 2013 at 01:22 PM



“ Jean, Katherine and all.
So very sorry to hear of Dick's passing. I called many CHAP people and all feel the same way. So many wonderful memories that I have of your family. You are in my prayers. Love, Mary Moore

Mary Moore - July 12, 2013 at 06:04 PM



“ Jean and Family,

Please accept my sincerest condolences for the your loss.

I was deeply saddened when Bob MacCraw informed of Dick's passing. You may recall Dick was my Deputy in SAC/INC. I always considered Dick not as a subordinate but a true partner in the sensitive work in which we were involved. I valued his knowledge and advice professionally, and his friendship personally. Dick was a proud American, an outstanding officer and a true professional. He will be missed.

I am sorry to say that prior commitments preclude my attendance this evening and tomorrow, but know that Dick will be in my thoughts and you and your family in my prayers.

John A. Sheffield, Colonel, USAF (Ret)

John Sheffield - July 12, 2013 at 03:38 PM



“ Jean and family,

We are so very sorry to learn of Dick's passing. I truly enjoyed his visits to the shop when the cars needed some attention. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. May God comfort you at this difficult time.

Larry & Jemma Olberding
Larry's Auto & Align

Larry Olberding - July 11, 2013 at 09:31 PM



“ My condolences to the Lees loved ones during this time of grief. May the "God of all comfort" bring peace to your hearts through His Word at Psalms 9:9,10

Alexander's - July 11, 2013 at 03:52 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Richard J. Lees.



July 11, 2013 at 03:02 PM



“ Jean, my sincerest sympathy on your loss. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Lynn McGuire

Lynn McGuire - July 11, 2013 at 01:35 PM



“ Jean and Family,
Please accept our sincerest condolence for the loss of Dick. He was a very strong man and a proud American. Dick's service to God and country was unmatched. We wish you well and we will keep you all in our prayers.
Major General Bill and Jackie Doyle

Bill and Jackie Doyle - July 11, 2013 at 12:02 PM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard J. Lees.



July 11, 2013 at 08:59 AM



“ One of my favorite memories of Dick was when I visited him in Belleview, NE. He took me downstairs and showed me his train room. He had Uncle Bob's trains and had added to them through the years.. The meticulous manner in which he displayed the trains was most impressive. He had trains that went around the room on shelves he had built on the walls. He had a huge train display in the middle of the room. He used coffee grounds for dirt. He had grass, hills, houses, buildings, tunnels, switches...everything you can imagine. It was so very realistic to scale and so creatively done! Dick seemed to do everything in life with the same attention to detail and gusto. He was truly a Lees and I loved him.

Linda Dudas
2nd Cousin to Dick

Linda Dudas - July 10, 2013 at 03:45 PM