



## Galen Merrill Lee

June 14, 1943 - November 2, 2023

Galen Merrill Lee, age 80, of Cokato, MN passed away Thursday, November 2, 2023, at the St. Cloud Hospital. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cokato with Rev. Timothy Wheatley officiating. The interment will be held at the Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery in Cokato.

There will be a visitation one hour prior to the service on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel is in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Galen Merrill Lee was born on June 14, 1943, in Willmar, Minnesota to Samuel (Sam) and Mildred (Anderson) Lee. He grew up as a middle child with one older sister and one younger brother.

Galen was baptized on August 22, 1943, at the First Lutheran Church in Renville and confirmed into his faith on May 25, 1958, at the Cokato Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cokato.

He spent his early years in Prinsburg where he attended elementary school at District #103 in Prinsburg and when he was in eighth grade his family moved to Cokato. He graduated from Cokato High School on May 31, 1961.

Galen enlisted into the military on August 6, 1964, and was discharged on July 22, 1966. Galen served in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany and worked as a Payroll Clerk. Upon being discharged from the Army, Galen lived in Minneapolis and attended Dunwoody College of Technology, where he received a degree as a Tool and Die maker under the GI bill.

On March 1, 1968, Galen was united in marriage to Carol Olson at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Together they made their home in Richfield before moving to Long Lake. In 1974, Galen and Carol moved to the family farm in Cokato. Galen had spent ten years working in various machine shops in the Twin Cities area. Then one day he came home and told his wife he had quit his job and was going to start working for her. Galen and his wife, Carol, owned and operated Budget Furniture in Cokato for 23 years. After retiring you could find Galen spending his time in his garage building Street Rod's. 1935 Ford cars were his passion. Especially his 1935 Ford Cabriolet. Galen had won many awards with that car, including the Midwest National Street Rod of the Year. Galen would spend hours sanding on parts in the garage. When Galen was not in the garage, he would be doing projects around the farm. Galen had a special talent of being able to fix and build anything.

Galen was a humble and caring man who loved his family with his whole heart. His wife Carol, children, and grandchildren were the love of his life. He always had time to spend with his grandchildren from going to school and sporting events to going to swap meets to sell car parts and the grandchildren selling pop and candy. Galen was always willing to help his family with projects. It could be a road trip to Missouri to pick up a vehicle, cutting down trees in the yard or home renovation, Galen wanted to be a part of the project. He enjoyed spending time at the summer cabin on Lake Sylvia when the

children were young. He was a member of the Sportsman Club where he enjoyed trapshooting. He loved to spend time hunting deer, ducks, and geese. He especially enjoyed going on hunting trips to North Dakota. He could often be found engaging with his grandchildren, by having a good conversation or just by snuggling on the couch. Galen will be missed by his family and his friends.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Lee of Cokato, daughters, Laurie (Brandon) Johnson of Sartell, and Carrie (Myron) Klinkner of Loretto, four grandchildren, John Klinkner, Sarah Klinkner, Emma Johnson and Lindsey Johnson, siblings, Geralyn LeMon of Minneapolis, and Sharel Lee of Dassel.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel, and Mildred Lee.

# Cemetery Details

## Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery

Cokato, MN 55321

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
280 3rd St SW  
Cokato, MN 55321  
<http://www.elchome.net/>

## Funeral Service

NOV 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
280 3rd St SW  
Cokato, MN 55321  
<http://www.elchome.net/>

# Tribute Wall

WI

“ *What a gift of a man. A man of many gifts. Galen had such passion for life and found it in the people around him, and the joy of creation. He brought back life to the heaps of parts around him. Enjoyed the toil down the roads he chose. His understanding of life encompassed a depth few can fathom. His curiosity was infectious, and brought with it joy to others. It was so sad to hear of such a loss as Galen, standing there on the front stoop. The same stoop I had shared a Hamm’s beer with he and Carol, his greatest gift, just last year. Galen enjoyed the flock of Studebakers I tended over the years. Empathized with my heart as some left the fold. He got it. Amidst the myriad of parts he always had it organized and clean. Everything was always clean...  
What a life he and Carol had built. Built on such a solid foundation. Galen lives on in the lives and hearts he touched. He will always be in my thoughts and bring a smile, as I head north from Cokato. From the midst of the woods, Galen’s on a new road and has him driving a new ride built on the memories of this life. See you on the road Galen...*

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**Walter E Nachtigall III** - November 17, 2023 at 11:26 AM

DO

“ *Carol,  
My deepest sympathy for your loss. I always enjoyed listening to Galen talk about his cars and Winter trips you both had planned with your family. God bless his memory.*

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**Donna Olson** - November 12, 2023 at 06:06 PM

YC

“ Your friends at Windsong Farm Golf Club purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Galen Merrill Lee.



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**Your friends at Windsong Farm Golf Club** - November 06, 2023 at 11:40 AM

YC

“ Your friends at Windsong Farm Golf Club planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Galen Merrill Lee.

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**Your friends at Windsong Farm Golf Club** - November 06, 2023 at 11:40 AM

KC

“ I'm praying for Galen's dearest ones, knowing how painful this earthly loss is for each and every one. May God comfort your hearts.

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**Kathy Grev Carlblom** - November 05, 2023 at 08:13 PM

DB

“ Carol...  
We were so taken back and sad to receive the news...our thoughts are with you and your family and sending our deepest sympathy.  
Don and Jadyne

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**Don and Jadyne Berg** - November 05, 2023 at 04:29 PM

CN

“ Dear Carol, Carrie, Laurie and family: We are shocked in the passing of Galen! We were blessed having him as a friend. He was a gentle man. How he loved his family. He was God-fearing, loved his country, humble, hard-working. It was so fun listening to him talk about each of you and his involvement in clearing land, all your times together at the lake, baking cookies, building cars, dog sitting. And we knew we could call on him any time and he would be there to help, listen, and had great advice to lend. What a legacy for your family. Heavens gates opened Thursday as the angels welcomed him home, what a celebration! He will always be in our hearts and we know His promise we will be together again. Our love and sympathy to all of you. He will be sorely missed. Dale & Cheryl

Cheryl Lynn Nordstrom - November 05, 2023 at 10:09 AM

BB

“ Carol, Laurie & Carrie  
Sorry to hear the loss of Galen. Thoughts and prayers to you and your families.  
Bev (Noyed) Bipes

Beverly J Bipes - November 04, 2023 at 10:10 PM

GN

My Deepest Sympathy. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Live on all the memories.

Gail Nelson - November 05, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Galen Merrill Lee.



November 04, 2023 at 08:07 PM