

Leroy "Lee" Fred Schwan

May 8, 1941 - June 1, 2020

On Monday, June 1st, 2020, after wrangling with cancer for more than a year, Leroy (Lee) Fred Schwan, passed away peacefully at home, at the age of 79.

Lee was preceded in death by his daughter Heidi; his parents, Fred & Mary Schwan; his brothers and sisters: Lambert, Kathrine Nowicki, Marie Evangelista, Frank, PeterL, Joseph, Rose Ann Slauter, Eva Ramzy, and Harold. Lee is survived by his sister Marcella Bune and brother Gerald; his companion Rosemary Heiman; his children, Antoinette Sue (Toni) & Klondike Hughs, Fred, Becky, and Lee & Ashlee Kica-Johnson; his beloved grandchildren Christy, Dylan, Storm & Kalynn, Sara, Fred Jr, Katrina, Kyrin, Maressa, Kaitlin, Alice, & Mollie and his adored great grandchildren Zavier, Mazzy, Rainbow and Pierce. He will be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends scattered around the world. Lee was a valued and beloved member of Rosemary's family: Liz (Brice), Joan (Peter), John, Kandy and Josette and their children and their grandchildren.

Leroy was born on May 8th, 1941 in Karlsruhe, ND to Fred and Mary Schwan. When he was 17, he successfully joined the Navy (after trying to do so at 16), circling the globe twice. Lee was a member of one of the first two underwater demolition teams, before they were named Navy Seals. His team was responsible for retrieving space capsules from the ocean, among other things. (Being dropped into the ocean from a helicopter to do capsule retrieval was

his least favorite thing, cementing a life long dislike for helicopters.)

In the course of his life he worked in various capacities including working at a seaside carnival (sway pole and sharp shooter); beverage distributor in Mississippi and Michigan; and as a High Iron Welder/Boilermaker, drawing paychecks in seven foreign countries: South Africa, Australia, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Canada. The last 30 years saw him traveling back and forth across the country as an Over-the-Road Independent Contractor, working primarily for Transport America.

The family wishes to thank the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) Palliative Care and Hospice Program, and his doctors for everything they have done for Lee and his family over the last year. Their unfailing support, comfort, humor and guidance made all the difference. Donations may be made in memory of Lee to <http://giving.hcmed.org/hospice>

A Special Thank You to both Joan Spangrud and Beatrice Grant for their generous love and care this last month.

"Small children and animals loved Lee. As did old ladies and all of us."

Extra Credit:

At the dawn of time. God could not figure out how to create the universe. So he created Leroy Schwan and asked him for help. Lee put all the good parts together and decided he wanted to be born on May 8th 1941. As soon as he came out of the womb he got to work on his family's farm while also fighting the Nazis while listening to Hop-a-Long Cassidy, The Lone Ranger and Roy Rogers.

Lee built all of his children out of spare parts he had laying around. He put a

piece of his own personality into each of them.

His first child Suzi (Toni) was given many of his features but especially his heart and his huge love for family.

His second child Fred was handed a bit of Lee's brain but it was enough brain that Fred could beat you at chess while sitting inside a building he built himself.

His third child Rebecca (Becky) received her dad's passion for friends & family, having a good time, skill at the pool table & a great work ethic.

His fourth child Heidi, he helped bring into this world on a highway in the middle of a November snow storm in North Dakota. She inherited her father's social skills & craftiness. She could talk to & become friends with anyone at will.

Last, but not least, he had another child named Lee. Lee is a cool dude. Just like his dad.

Later in Life Leroy decided he was tired of everyone's crap. So he decided to rock the trucking industry for the next 30 years. He could spit in the Pacific ocean and the Atlantic ocean in the same week. After that he decided he was even more tired of peoples' foolishness, so he left this earth. He is preceded in death by all of the Nazis he beat up, the dinosaurs, Elvis, his favorite horse Maggie and his friend Johnny Cash.

A family gathering/celebration is in the works. Possibly this fall 2020 or coinciding with a Schwan Family Reunion May 2021.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Crematory

2610 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall

RH

“ Lee’s favorite flowers were lilacs. From his birthday on, various friends made sure we had a big bouquet until the season was over. Thank You for that.



RoseMary Heiman - June 10, 2020 at 10:23 AM



“ Fred & Lee go to Fleet Farm



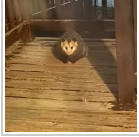
Rosemary Heiman - June 09, 2020 at 10:05 PM



“ Becky & Lee dancing up a storm at Ashlee & Lee's wedding.

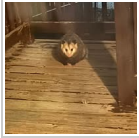


Rosemary Heiman - June 09, 2020 at 10:00 PM



“ Also... *the best pasta dish I've ever had was just a bowl of noodles he made.*

Lee Kica Johnson - June 07, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ *Dad meant so much to all of. And, with each one of us, he had a unique and different relationship. He played a different role to all of us.*

To me he is every trucker, every Jonny cash song, every Vikings fan.

I'll think of him every time I see those things and so much more.

I'll share a very random story I have because it's the only one I can think of right now.

He was always pretty cool calm and collected (around me) so one time I was at his place and he told me that he was going to do laundry. So I gave him what I thought was just normal clothes and long story short he was FURIOUS at how dirty my socks were. He straight up threw them in the trash and told me to go buy new ones. Please share your own stories.

Lee Kica Johnson - June 07, 2020 at 05:15 PM

BG



Beatrice Grant - June 07, 2020 at 05:36 PM

BG

“ *From the time I was a little girl, when I heard Uncle Lee was going to visit, I couldn't sit still. What grand stories would he tell this time? Would I get to stay up late? Would I get to leave with him to spend time with Heidi and Becky? My love for him grew as I did. He will forever be my hero and in my heart ❤️ of hearts!!!!*



Beatrice Grant - June 07, 2020 at 04:30 PM

RH

“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Rosemary Heiman - June 06, 2020 at 04:10 PM

SH

Rest In Peace Lee.

Susan Headley - June 07, 2020 at 04:24 PM