



## Lee Charles Graham

September 1, 1937 - December 28, 2018

Lee Charles Graham entered eternal life on December 28, 2018, surrounded by his family. He was born in Oakland, California on September 1, 1937 to Captain Frank Maitland Graham and Mrs. Gwendolyn A. (Melby) Graham.

He joined the Coast Guard in 1955 and advanced to Radar Man Third Class for the USSCG weather ship, search and rescue vessel the Chautauqua at Ocean State Victor between Japan and Hawaii. He remained in the Auxiliary until 1965, when he was honorably discharged. Lee attended Orange Coast College and graduated from Orange State College at Fullerton with a degree in Accounting.

Lee married Leslie Alene Duclos on March 7, 1964. He began working at Phillips Petroleum Company in 1968 and worked in both the international and domestic departments. He was involved with the American Petroleum Institute and the International Petroleum Institute and wrote policy manuals for both organizations. He traveled extensively, negotiating contracts with other oil companies and foreign governments. Phillips transferred the family to Lagos, Nigeria in 1972, back to Bartlesville in 1974, then to Bogota, Colombia in 1976, and back to Bartlesville in 1978, where the family remained. He retired from Phillips in May 1999 as a Loss Control Specialist after more than 30 years of service and resumed traveling with his wife, Leslie.

Lee enjoyed an adventurous life; he had a private pilot's license and was an avid sailor, world traveler, and storyteller. His family and friends enjoyed hearing humorous stories of his many adventures (all of them were true!). He also enjoyed flying model airplanes and drones, going to the theater, music, and camping. He was a former member of Toastmasters, and a current member of the All American Coffee Club, Wheels 'N Reels, Wheeler Dealer Camping Club, the Lion's Club, and the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife, Leslie, and three daughters: Lisa Marie (Ian DeSpain), Laura Michele (Daren Cooley), and Erica Melby (Aaron Smith). His five grandchildren include Nicole Marie (DeSpain) Ampersand, Nathan Lee DeSpain, Chance Meric Indigo Montoya Swartz, Bradley Maximillion Hamilton, and Max Maitland Smith.

Please join us in celebrating his life at St. John's Before the Latin Gate in Bartlesville on Thursday, January 3rd at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to MD Anderson Cancer Center.

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JAN 2. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. John Before the Latin Gate  
715 S. Johnstone  
Bartlesville, OK 74003  
<http://www.stjohn-bartlesville.org/>

## Celebration of Life

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Before the Latin Gate  
715 S. Johnstone  
Bartlesville, OK 74003  
<http://www.stjohn-bartlesville.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lee Charles Graham*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Lee Charles Graham*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Flowers*



**Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory** - January 03, 2019 at 08:08 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lee Charles Graham.*



January 02, 2019 at 10:09 AM

EA

“ I was in the Bartlesville Falcons Model Airplane club with Lee and was his instructor when he was learning to fly radio controlled model airplanes. He and I shared a lot of adventures in that process, sometimes involving traipsing through the trees and tall grass looking for a downed airplane. He was persistent, and finally on "graduation" day, he made numerous successful flights and beautiful landings, with no trips into the woods. I considered him a very good friend and fellow flier. Goodbye Lee, may all your takeoffs be a thing of beauty and your landings be the envy of all when you get to heaven. You will soar with the eagles!  
Earl J. Agee, Bartlesville, OK

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**Earl Agee** - January 02, 2019 at 09:21 AM

TF

“ The Todd families purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Lee Charles Graham.



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**The Todd families** - January 01, 2019 at 07:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lee Charles Graham.



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December 31, 2018 at 10:58 PM

TT

“ *The Broken Arrow Toastmasters purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Lee Charles Graham.*



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**The Broken Arrow Toastmasters** - December 30, 2018 at 08:18 PM

GM

“ *I am glad I got to know Lee over the last 13 or 14 years. He was a man with a great sense of humor – dry, as we all know! At least once a week he would say something at the Great American Coffee Club and everyone would have to stop and think, is he pulling our leg? Naturally, we knew he was and everyone would smile. He told many stories about life in San Francisco, working overseas, in Columbia, South America, and checking oil cargo's for Phillips. At times it sounded like he was in dangerous situations overseas. We never thought he was pulling our legs when he told us these stories. He talked about Leslie and his family and we all knew he was a good husband and family man. We will miss Lee. Jerry Martin*

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**Gerald W Martin** - December 29, 2018 at 09:45 PM