



J. Lee Van Metre, Jr.

FEB 6, 1938 - JAN 29, 2023



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John “Lee” Van Metre, Jr., age 84, of Lewes, DE, and formerly of Martinsburg, WV, passed away on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at Beebe Healthcare in Lewes. He was born on February 6, 1938, in Baltimore, MD, son of the late Dr. John Lee Van Metre, Sr. and June Keene (Roth) Van Metre.

Lee grew up in Charles Town, WV and was a graduate of Randolph Macon Academy in Front Royal, VA. In 1959, he graduated from Duke University, earning his bachelor’s degree in history. He went on to pursue a law degree and in 1962, he graduated from George Washington University School of Law. In 1966, he married the love of his life, Sally Quinn Dunn in Winchester, VA and the two would spend the next fifty-six years creating a beautiful life and family together. They were members of Trinity Episcopal Church in Martinsburg.

Lee started his career as a bank examiner for the US Department of the Treasury Office of the Comptroller. He then went into private practice in Martinsburg as a business and real estate attorney with the firm of Avey and Steptoe, which later merged with Steptoe and Johnson, enjoying a forty-year career that was both challenging and fulfilling. He served on Steptoe & Johnson’s Executive Committee and was the Managing Member of the Martinsburg office. Lee lived an active lifestyle and enjoyed hunting, tennis, golf, fishing, reading and watching sports, especially football and college basketball. He was an enthusiastic fan of his alma mater, Duke, and he loved cheering on his beloved Washington Commanders football team. Lee spent summers as a child vacationing in Rehoboth Beach, DE, a tradition which he continued throughout his life and into retirement in 2003 when he and Sally moved to Lewes to be closer to paradise.

Lee believed in giving back to his community and proudly served in the Rotary Club, as chairman of the Gateway Foundation golf tournament, and on the Board of Directors of both the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Berkeley and Morgan Counties (now the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle), where for many years he led the Lawyers Division of the United Way annual campaign. He was a member of the Tuscarora Kurnals and the Exhausted Roosters. He was active in banking in Martinsburg, serving as



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chairman and interim CEO of Citizens National Bank, and on the Board of Directors of One Valley Bank and BB&T Bank. His devotion to his family and friends, however, took precedence above all and the time spent with those he held dear was what he cherished most. Lee was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend who will be deeply missed by all who had the good fortune to know him. After his passing, his family has heard from many how Lee was “one of their favorites.”

Lee is survived by his beloved wife, Sally Van Metre; his son, J. Patrick Van Metre and wife Jenni of Vienna, VA; his granddaughter, Elizabeth M. Van Metre of Vienna, VA; his sister, Nancy V. Boozer of Milton, DE; his brother, David R. Van Metre of Dumfries, VA; and his numerous nieces and nephews.

An open house reception in celebration of Lee’s life will be held on Sunday, February 5th at Fish On, 17300 Village Main Blvd., in Lewes, DE from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Interment will be at Elmwood Cemetery in Shepherdstown, WV at a future date.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.




Events

J. Lee Van Metre, Jr.

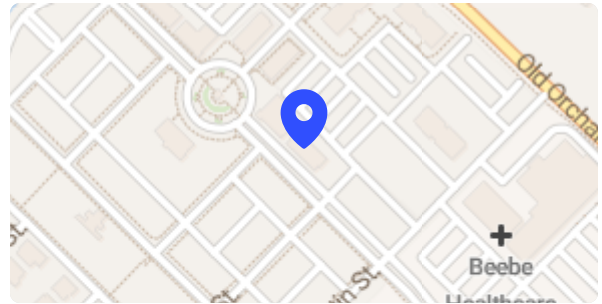
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Celebration of Life Reception

 **Sunday**, February 5, 2023

 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM ET

 **Fish On**
17300 Village Main Blvd., Lewes DE 19958





Tribute Wall

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Peter L Mulford posted:

continued: Sally and Patrick, I must have hit the wrong key. Lee was a major influence, mentor, and friend to me in so many ways as we joined the M'burg community back in 1985. And you, Sally were right there with him in so many great times as well. I know many others will say the same. I will hope to contact you early this week. Thinking of you, and wishing you that famous "peace of all understanding" during these next weeks and months. Pete and Betty Mulford.

February 5 at 5:43 PM



Sally Van Metre March 3 at 5:25 AM

Thank you both for your support and friendship.



Louise Foster posted:

Sending love and heart felt sympathy to Sally and family. Tom and are are so sorry to hear of his departure. He was a good neighbor and friend. Louise and Tom

February 3 at 7:15 PM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Van Metre, Jr. family.



February 3 at 9:14 AM



Sherrie Johnson posted:

So sorry to hear of Mr. Van Metre's passing. He was a lovely gentleman and I enjoyed my time of employment at Avey & Steptoe. Grace and peace to Sally and all of his family. Sherrie Morrison Johnson

February 3 at 4:53 AM



William Miller posted:

I am only a recent (4 years) friend of Lee but in that short time I became both a friend and admirer of Lee. His wisdom, always tempered with humor and valuable insights, was something to behold. His passing is loss not only for me and our coffee group, but also all those who he knew. Rest comfortably Lee. Bill Miller MD

February 2 at 7:57 AM



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CS

Cinda L. Scales posted:

So sorry to learn of the passing of Lee. He was always such a kind man and an honor to his profession.

February 2 at 7:56 AM

GJ

Gregory Janes posted:

The Janes family (Paula, Greg, Brad and Cathy) is so sorry to hear of Lee's passing. When Lee took my brother Brad and I on as clients years ago he was handling pretty big businesses, so I ask him why he took his time with us little guys. Lee looked at us and said I have clients who become friends and I have friends who have become clients. You two fit the second category. Such a wonderful attorney and kind human being. We will miss him greatly. Hugs and prayers to Sally, Patrick and family

February 2 at 7:08 AM

NA

Nina Arnett February 3 at 6:48 AM

So very sad to learn this. Lee was a true gentleman. My love and prayers to Sally, Patrick and family. God's peace and blessings to all.



Lucien Lewin posted:

Demi and I are sorry to hear of the passing of Lee who was my mentor and hired me away from my law office over a drug store around 1976. He trained and mentored me to be a real estate lawyer for a number of years with his partners, Bob Steptoe and Guy Avey. Who could be so lucky. Lee was the guiding light of planned unit subdivisions in Berkeley County, West Virginia and a guiding light for me always as we melded later into being members of Steptoe & Johnson. Lee was always the lawyer's lawyer. I remember, and still laugh about, the year our sons, Chris (Khris) and Patrick graduated from High School, quite a year for both of them. Lots of memories, too many to relate. Our deepest sympathies to Sally and Patrick who were also the best of our memories from Martinsburg, WV for many years. Long time passing. Lee, we salute you and wish you fair winds and following seas. Lucien and Demi

February 1 at 3:38 PM



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SH

Susan Hall posted:

I want to give my sincerest condolences to Sally, Patrick and the rest of the family. Mr. Van Metre made a huge impact on me and my success with being a real estate paralegal. I looked up to him with the highest of respect and he taught me so much. I was young and stubborn when he first hired me back in 1988, and we had our disagreements, but I will never forget how he hired me back that second time without hesitation and how truly special that made me feel. I tried to find him on social media on his birthday a few times but I couldn't. I never forgot his Birthday because it was only 6 days after mine. Whenever I mentioned that I worked for him it seemed everyone knew him and thought very highly of him. I will be forever grateful for working for him and knowing him. He was a great boss. He will be missed by many. Prayers for the family. Susan (Mckee) Hall

January 31 at 12:11 PM

RM

Richard Mccune February 4 at 4:27 AM

I was saddened to learn of the death of Lee Van Metre. I first worked with Lee in the summers of 1972 and 1973 while I was still in law school and when he was a very young man. He taught me much during that time and was always there to help throughout the remainder of his career. He was a very special advisor and friend both to me and to my family. Never was there a question that couldn't be asked or that wouldn't be answered. It was an honor to know him.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring J. Lee by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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