



Lee Den Hartog

JUN 7, 1932 - FEB 8, 2020



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Lee Den Hartog

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Dr. Leland G. Den Hartog, 87 of Centerville passed away Saturday, February 8, 2020. Lee was born to John & Emma (Van Gorp) Den Hartog in Pella, Iowa, on June 7, 1932. He received his education graduating from Knoxville High School in 1950. Lee attended college at Central College in Pella, IA, and transferred after three years to Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, graduating in 1956. He then enlisted in the United States Air Force and practiced optometry in Saudi Arabia until his discharge as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1958. Lee then opened his optometry practice in Centerville and served the community for 50 years. Lee's first marriage was to Becky Warren in 1966. On December 29, 1985, Lee married Mary Jo Youll in Centerville. Lee had five sons: David, John, Bob, Brandon and Tyler. Lee's interests were many. He loved to travel and especially loved India and Mexico and where he always met and interacted with wonderful people. Lee was a philanthropist giving with little fanfare and often in anonymity. Lee donated hundreds of hours working on the Lelah Bradley walking trail and taking care of the city tennis courts. Lee always challenged himself physically. In high school he became an accomplished football player. He continued his football career as a running back at Central College. He completed RAGBRAI numerous times with his family, rode his bike from the Gulf of Mexico to Alaska and also rode his bike from the southern Iowa border to the northern Iowa border in one day. He enjoyed canoe trips to Arkansas, skiing trips to Colorado, and fishing trips to Canada. He began playing tennis while stationed in Saudi Arabia and continued playing until he was 85 years-old with a men's tennis team in Oskaloosa. After hanging up the racquets, he loved to walk for exercise and also enjoyed working in his yard. He actually looked forward to raking leaves. By far, his favorite activity was watching his boys play in high school and then college sports. He continued to look forward to seeing his grandchildren participate in sports and school activities. His family was his greatest joy. He always remarked what a blessed



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life he led and was immensely proud of the the kind, decent adults his children became. Survivors include his wife, Mary Jo, children: David Den Hartog (Rachel), John Den Hartog (Stephanie), Bob Den Hartog (Jennifer), Brandon Den Hartog (Jennifer), Tyler Den Hartog (Brooke), grandchildren: Martel, Drake, Jalen, J.T. (Gabriella), Haley, Natalie, Anna, Rosie, Breckin and Hudsin Den Hartog. Lee is also survived by a longtime friend, Glenn Moritz, and numerous extended family. Lee was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Norman. A service to celebrate Lee's life will be 5:00 pm, Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at the First Presbyterian Church. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 4-5 pm. Interment will be private in Oakland Cemetery in Sac City, Iowa. Memorials may be given to Centerville A-Club, the Centerville High School tennis team and condolences may be shared at www.thomasfh.com or facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Lee Den Hartog please visit our Sympathy Store. Visitation FEB 18. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CST) First Presbyterian Church 102 N. Main StCenterville, IA 52544 Celebration of Life FEB 18. 5:00 PM (CST) First Presbyterian Church 102 N. Main StCenterville, IA 52544



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 3:38 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 4:23 PM



Nancy Moore posted:

I'm so sorry to hear about Uncle Lee's passing - he was a wonderful man and will be missed by many. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Nancy and Tom Moore and Family (Norm's daughter)

February 17 at 7:00 PM



Cox Media posted:

We are sorry for your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you. Sincerely, Your friends and family at Cox Media

February 16 at 7:00 PM



Debby (Vanderheyden) Faught posted:

Prayers for all.

February 15 at 7:00 PM



Bill posted:

Lee was a regular at the Oskaloosa Tennis Club for many years. He drove many thousands of miles to do it. He played with the same men on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Everyone thought the world of him. We will surely miss him. One thing that we all remember were 'discussions' about political matters with one particular member of the group who happened to be of the opposite party.

February 14 at 7:00 PM



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PB

Peaceful White Lilies Basket posted:

Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lee Den Hartog.

February 14 at 7:00 PM

TR

Troy Roach posted:

Troy Roach purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Lee Den Hartog.

February 11 at 7:00 PM

HF

Hopkins High School Football Team And Families posted:

Hopkins High School Football Team and Families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lee Den Hartog.

February 11 at 7:00 PM

RN

Robert C. Naslund posted:

Sorry to learn of Lee Den Hartog's death . Our sympathy reaches out to his family . He leaves many wonderful legacies because he touched so many places , events and people .Luther College was blessed to have three of Lee's sons ,Dave , John and Bob and now a granddaughter ! Sorry , Central ! Like their Dad , the boys are great athletes but even better people ! And , we're Gopher Softball fans because of a granddaughter ! May God Bless the life and memory of Lee and may God's Love ,Strength and Comfort find his Family in the days ahead . Soli Deo Gloria !
The Naslund Family

February 11 at 7:00 PM

JT

Jamie Terrell posted:

He was my first eye doctor when I was a kid. I always enjoyed going to him. He was so gentle and had a soothing voice when he would ask questions. He even inspired me to tell my mom and dad I wanted to be an eye doctor someday. -Jamie Terrell

February 10 at 7:00 PM



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TD

Tom & Joni Davis posted:

Take comfort-those who love will be reunited in eternity. May happy memories carry you and your family through this sorrowful time, Mary Jo. From Tom & Joni Davis

February 10 at 7:00 PM

MV

Marilyn Vanderlinden posted:

I will miss Lee, especially at church. He never failed to ask how I was.

February 10 at 7:00 PM

SM

Shirley Morlan posted:

So sorry, the family are in my thoughts and prayers. What a great guy and eye doctor.

February 10 at 7:00 PM

KT

Kendall Thu posted:

Very saddened to hear this. Condolences to family and friends. Many great memories playing tennis with this kind man.

February 10 at 7:00 PM

MC

Mike Cortesio posted:

My first glasses in fifth grade. The first to diagnose the migraine issue. The magazine articles he dropped by to help with migraine. He touched my life for 50 years up to the welcome home and advice he gave me last year. Condolences and prayers to his family and our community for this tremendous loss. You left the world is a better place Doc, thanks.

February 10 at 7:00 PM

BB

Beautiful In Blue posted:

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lee Den Hartog.

February 10 at 7:00 PM



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HB

Heather Babula posted:

Wrapping you all in a warm embrace. I'm so very sorry to hear this.

February 10 at 7:00 PM

SR

Serene Retreat posted:

Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Lee Den Hartog.

February 9 at 7:00 PM

BO

Bobby posted:

To all the fine family, friends and relatives of Lee-I offer my condolences to all and will share with you that this wonderful man was what I consider to be my second father after my own had passed away 5 yrs. ago. Lee and I had a special bond and also traveled together many times to visit his family and shared many, many great life stories along the way. I pray for his soul and for strength for all his family members and have been blessed to know such a great man and all of his family members! R.I.P. Leeland! Kindly, Bobby.

February 9 at 7:00 PM

DS

Dianne Strickler posted:

Condolences to the family. He was a good person and took care of many eyes.

February 9 at 7:00 PM

KD

Kirby Dorothy posted:

I am so sad to hear about Lee's passing. Grandpa Lee was a pretty incredible force in everyone who knew him lives. His kindness and composure was uncommon among men. My life is better for knowing him. I think my fondest memory was my good friend, John DenHartog, telling all of us on a fishing trip that a 74 year old Lee needed to take it easy while we were portaging. When I next saw Lee, he was lumping a boat motor down the trail and we had a long discussion about what John had specifically told us about taking it easy... before Lee headed off with the heavy, awkward motor! Lee was the definition of a tough, kind, decent, patient family man. He is someone I will always look up to. John, JT, Haley, Nat, Steph, Brandon, Mary Jo, Dave (and all others who love him), I love you and hope you are able to heal from this. Rest In Peace and God bless, Lee!

February 9 at 7:00 PM



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PW

Patricia Walker posted:

Patricia Walker lit a candle in memory of Lee Den Hartog

February 9 at 7:00 PM

PW

Patricia Walker posted:

My husband got a piece of metal in his eye and we went to him to take this out and he did very good job. Will always be grateful to him for this. So sorry to all. He was a good man.

February 9 at 7:00 PM

JK

Janet & Jim Knedler posted:

I am in shock hearing this. I worked for Dr. Den Hartog for 10 years before moving away and have many, many fond memories of Lee and the boys and the whole family. Just heard from him last Christmas and caught up on the family. Nicest boss ever and enjoyed working at his office. Remember the boys, the haircuts, running errands, ballgames, etc.... Very hard to hear this, he meant a lot to our family.

February 9 at 7:00 PM

NM

Nichole Moore posted:

Nichole Moore lit a candle in memory of Lee Den Hartog

February 9 at 7:00 PM

JM

Jim And Kayla Montgomery posted:

I am shocked to hear this. Had just seen him not to long ago leaving Hardees. He was a great Dr. He was a good person..

February 9 at 7:00 PM

PB

Paula Brinegar posted:

So sorry to hear of Lee's passing. Prayers for family healing.

February 9 at 7:00 PM



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Jayson Campbell posted:

So sorry to hear of Lee's passing. A true renaissance man. So many fond memories growing up with the Den Hartog family- The farm, the trips, hanging out on West Lane. He had such a tremendous impact on so many lives as a dad, doctor, friend, and citizen

February 9 at 7:00 PM



Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared 2 photos to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 4:23 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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