



Charles LeRoy Smothers

APR 23, 1950 - APR 28, 2025



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Charles "Speedy" "Lee" LeRoy Smothers, age 75, of Moravia, passed away Monday, April 28, 2025.

Lee was born on April 23, 1950, the son of Kenneth and Jacquetta "Jackie" Ilene Guinn. Lee later gained a bonus father, Rudy Zemo, a part of most of his life. He was united in marriage to Deborah Tomlin.

Lee attempted to be a jack of all trades in everything he did. He spent time as a volunteer firefighter and first responder. Lee spent most of his adult life driving a truck, early on gaining the nickname "Speedy" and the name stayed with him until his last day.

He loved driving a school bus and took great care of the children on those routes. Lee enjoyed caring for animals, often pig farming and dairy farming. Lee appreciated the Amish community, transporting others, and helping where he could.

He cherished attending his children/grandchildren's activities as long as he could. He was fond of being outdoors. Lee enjoyed being around horses, often having a team/wagon and giving others rides around Moravia. He was known for a relaxing drive on a Sunday afternoon, a visit to The Catfish Place, and absolutely loved visiting and socializing with his family and friends.

Left to honor Lee's memory are his wife, Deb Smothers; his children, Anthony (Brooke) Smothers of Glenwood, IA, Heather Maletta (Tim Potter) of Moravia, IA, and Miranda (Cliff) Tucker of Ottumwa, IA; his grandchildren, McKinlee (Jordan) Jenkins, Ty Tucker, Cambree Smothers, Kirby Tucker; his great-grand child, Walker Jenkins; his siblings, Randy Smothers, Mark (Thelma) Smothers, Brent Smothers and Mike Zemo; as well as several extended family members and friends.



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Lee was preceded in death by his mother, Jackie Zemo; his father, Kenneth Smothers; his stepfather Rudy Zemo, and his son, Kenny Smothers. Per wishes, cremation has been accorded.

An open house to greet his family will be held on Friday, May 9th from 4pm-8pm to be held at the Moravia Grace Fellowship Hall, Moravia, Iowa. Memorials may be made to the Smothers Family, to be determined at a later date and may be mailed to Thomas Funeral Home, ATTN: Smothers Family, 501 North 18th Street, Centerville, Iowa 52544.

Condolences may be shared online at www.thomasfh.com or www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome.



Tribute Wall

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DL

Dan And Lois posted:

Speedy was a generous man. I remember him lending his team of horses for the tour of homes one year. Trusting us with Max and Molly.

May 8 at 7:00 PM

DJ

Dwain, Danette, Jayce, Lexi, Rylie, Kelsi & Baby Jenkins posted:

Thinking of you all during this difficult time.

May 8 at 7:00 PM

RE

Rick Evers posted:

So sorry about Speedy,he never knew a stranger. I know he thought the world about his family.I'll never forget watching him dance it was amazing.Glad I got to know him.Be strong and remember all the good times,stay strong Anthony. May he RIP

May 7 at 7:00 PM

MS

Mark And Thelma Smothers lit a candle in honor of Charles.

We've had a week to try and figure out how to go on with life without Speedy. All we have are the great memories to treasure. A few memories are the Sunday dinners and holidays with family, he was the best man at our wedding, camping trips to Mt. Pleasant, road trips to the Catfish Place and the phone calls, which will be greatly missed. What a privilege and gift it has been to us to have been a part of Speedy's life. RIP You will be greatly missed!

May 3 at 7:00 PM



DM

Deb Kelley Mcdow lit a candle in honor of Charles.

May 1 at 7:00 PM





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TW

Taren Whisler posted:

Deb and family, Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. Sending you all lots of prayers and love. Love, Taren Whisler & Family

May 1 at 7:00 PM

LB

Lori Boyer posted:

My late husband always called Speedy his little fat buddy ..haha They were quite a pair. Imagine the conversations the two of them are having right now!! Hugs to the family.

April 30 at 7:00 PM

DL

Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson posted:

Please accept our sympathy to the family.

April 30 at 7:00 PM

MZ

Mary Sue Zaputil posted:

To Deb and family. Please accept my deepest condolences. Remember the funny events and happy times. Mary Sue Zaputil

April 30 at 7:00 PM

YF

Your Vermeer Iowa Family posted:

We are so sorry for your loss and are here for you.

April 29 at 7:00 PM

JP

Jerry Power posted:

OUR CONDOLENCES TO SPEEDY'S FAMILY! He was always a breath of fresh air, I could always tell by that constant smile he was having a good day! That always rubbed off on me, he was just fun to be around, may he Rest in Peace! Deb and family, we're truly sorry!!

April 29 at 7:00 PM



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BW

Brittney Walton posted:

Bucket of orange slices and pizza/ice cream parties will forever be a favorite bus memory - Speedy was one of my first friends - coming from a little girl who was scared to ride the bus - speedy made riding the bus not so scary

April 29 at 7:00 PM

GL

Gary Lumberry posted:

Our deepest sympathy at this time of sorrow.Gary and Rogena Lumberry and Family

April 29 at 7:00 PM

CM

Chopper Maddaleno posted:

JV and Bc Maddaleno always called Speedy their P R Man Chopper

April 29 at 7:00 PM

RO

Roe posted:

Had some great times in my teens and twenties with Speeeeeeeeee. He taught me a few things as well, like "you dont need to use the clutch watch this". He always had everybody laughin non stop. Thoughts and prayers to family. R.I.P. Ole buddy

April 29 at 7:00 PM

SS

Steve Sprouse posted:

Worked with Lee at Young Radiator, always a laugh and smile.Sorry for the families loss.Steve C. Sprouse

April 29 at 7:00 PM

SF

Sheryl Fuller lit a candle in honor of Charles.

Debbie & family my heart goes out to you & your family. Prayers for you and your family.Sheryl Fuller

April 29 at 7:00 PM





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Nellie Thomas lit a candle in honor of Charles.



April 29 at 7:00 PM



Marilyn Middleton posted:

Deb and family you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Lee was a great guy. God bless you all..Marge and Kelly and Marilyn

April 29 at 7:00 PM



Brenda Ryan posted:

Deb you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers .

April 29 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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