



Lee Eugene Byrd

February 12, 1935 - December 23, 2016

Lee Eugene Byrd, 81, passed away on December 23, 2016 in Pilot Point, Texas. He was born February 12, 1935 in Beaumont, Texas. He leaves his wife of 56 years, Sandy (Palano) Byrd; his son, Lee Byrd of Denver, CO; his daughters, Mary Cay Kosten of Boston, MA and Deborah Armstrong and husband, Stephen of Oak Point, TX; Five grandchildren, Kendall and Kelsey Kosten and Katy, Abby and Macy Armstrong; brother, Joe Byrd of Carrollton, GA; sister, Alice Shub of Arlington, TX; and many close friends. Lee was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, William (Bill) Byrd and Richard Byrd. Born and raised in Beaumont, TX, the son of William Carlton Byrd and Bernice Ina (Robinson) Byrd. He attended South Park High School and graduated in 1953. Following high school he attended Lamar State College of Technology where he studied commercial art. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1952 until he was honorably discharged in 1958. In 1958, he reported to the Selective Service and entered the U.S. Army as a Private First Class. He earned the U.S. Army Expert Weapons Qualification Badges for Rifle and Machine Gun weaponry. He served 2 years stationed in Augsburg, Germany where he met the love of his life, Santina Palano. They were married April 23, 1960 at Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Pittsfield, MA. They settled in Beaumont, TX where Lee worked as a Television Director for KFDM-TV. In 1963 they moved to Dallas, where Lee began a 25-year career in commercial art for St. Regis/Pollock Paper. He retired in 2000 from Container Graphics. Throughout his career he produced numerous package

designs for companies such as Mrs. Baird's breads, Frito Lay, and Toro lawn equipment. An accomplished artist, he volunteered his time to create beautiful hand lettered signs, murals, and posters for many local organizations. He was a dedicated blood donor supporting Carter Blood Care, a member of the 40-gallon club and numerous platelet donations in his lifetime. He was honored to serve as the Historian for the American Legion Post 550 in Pilot Point where he would serve with many dedicated service members and veterans supporting the Pilot Point/Tioga area. He volunteered at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Pilot Point. Rosary and visitation will be held at 10:00AM on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church of Pilot Point with Father Tom Kennedy officiating a Mass of Christian Burial beginning at 11:00AM. Burial will be at St. Thomas Cemetery in Pilot Point TX. Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com. Memorial donations may be made to the American Legion, Donation Processing, P.O. Box 361623, Indianapolis, IN 46236-1626. Services are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center. To send a flower arrangement to the family of Lee Eugene Byrd, please click [here](#) to visit our Sympathy Store.

Tribute Wall

BM

“ I was sorry to hear of Lee's passing. I worked with him for several years at Pollock/St. Regis in the Art Department. He was a great guy, very friendly and always had a smile on his face. He was a terrific artist and I was always amazed at his beautiful hand lettering.

*Bert McCall
Oklahoma City, OK
December 14, 2022*

Bert McCall - December 14, 2022 at 04:31 AM

RD

“ Lee and I both worked at St. Regis Paper Company in Dallas in the 1960s and 1970s. He worked in the Art department, and I worked in the Lab. Later he and I attended one or two of the Pollock-St. Regis informal reunion lunches at the downtown El Fenix restaurant. For one of them, Lee gave me a ride from McKinney to Dallas and back; we had a good visit on that trip.

Lee and I also had a Tioga, Texas, connection. Lee moved to Tioga after he retired. My maternal grandfather, Ross Estes, had been (I think) Tioga's oldest living resident when he died in 1981 (at the age of 91).

I was sorry today when I finally learned of Lee's death and discovered his obituary online. He was an excellent artist and a great guy. I know that he had many friends at St. Regis and was well thought of there.

Belated, but sincere, condolences to the Byrd family.

--Jack Duncan
McKinney, TX
February 7, 2021

Robert Jack Duncan - February 07, 2021 at 02:08 PM

SH

“ I love you, Lee.

Sam Havens - May 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Mr byrd was a neighbor of my family on satsumavdrvin dallas tx for many years and was a great friend to my family .especialy my children ryan and katy.thanks for being there sir.

Mark Connatser - August 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Lee and family - my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Imelda

December 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Godspeed, Lee. "And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest"

Alice Byrd Shub - December 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ He was called himself a Good ol' Boy, but he was truly a great person. I will always treasure the discussions we shared on history and the kindness he showed me for 27 years. He touched my life in a very positive way that will never be forgotten. R.I.P.

Michael Kosten - December 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ An American Hero...Thank You For Your Service... Patriot Guard Rider
American Legion Rider

Charles Zikowsky - December 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Fly away home, Big Brother.Joe.

James Byrd - December 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm so very sorry Alice and all the Byrd family. My condolences.

Lisa Fletcher - December 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM