



Robert Lee

NOV 21, 1925 - SEP 1, 2014



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On September 1, 2014, Bob Lee passed away with loving family at his side in San Mateo, California. Bob was born in Pennsylvania in 1925 then moved to China as a child. He returned from China when he was 14 years old traveling by ship. This was a long journey for a boy. He grew up in the Washington DC area where he waited on tables in a restaurant that his father owned. He learned that solid work was rewarded with more than compensation. He attended college at George Washington University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. His first job was a draftsman for the Department of the Navy. He liked the white collar work for a change. Later he worked on submarine noise control which led to his 40+ year career. Bob happily dedicated 40+ years of his life engineering solutions to reduce jet engine noise for General Electric. Although family was very important to him, his passion for his work was a big element in his life. He made numerous breakthroughs utilizing his intellect, creativity and enthusiasm. Soon in his career he became an Engineering Manager for a group of 50 unit managers, engineers and technicians. Bob was an accomplished professional and leader. Bob met his first wife Theresa in a church function. She was attractive, and he said he was lucky to get her phone number. They dated, married and eventually had two sons John and Jason. Married with a wonderful family life they lived in Boston and later moved to Cincinnati. He enjoyed chess, ping pong, tennis, cards, board games, bowling and billiards with his boys. The family enjoyed vacationing in Cape Cod, especially eating at the clam shacks along the beach. Bob was always there for the family and there were no worries. He helped create a safe home. The marriage lasted over 30 years until Theresa sadly passed away in 1990 unexpectedly but peacefully. Bob met his second wife Jane Chung and married her in 1993. They took care of each other and it was a good marriage. He especially liked her marvelous cooking. They moved to a home with a golf course view and enjoyed the retirement life. They traveled to many places



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including Paris, Rome and China. Later in 1999 they moved to the San Francisco Bay area and continued their happy life that included visits from her sons Michael and Johnny. In 2000, Bob's younger son Jason moved from Michigan to a home just 5 minutes away from him. That was an ideal arrangement for Jason, his wife Debbie, sons Nathan and Brandon to spend time with Bob for the next 14 years. He enjoyed dinner with the family every weekend for the last 8 years. Bob's son John and his family visited from Utah as often as they could. In 2009, Bob's second wife Jane unfortunately passed away. Bob's health started to decline in 2006 so he needed the daily assistance of a professional caregiver. Merlin Velasquez took exceptional care of his daily physical needs for 8 years at his home. She and Bob had a fondness for each other. Bob enjoyed her bubbly, humorous and spunky personality. Merlin became part of the entire Lee family and will forever be in the hearts of Bob and his family. Throughout his life, Bob especially enjoyed chess, history, philosophy, classical music, intellectual conversations, politics and world events. He also enjoyed good food that included authentic Chinese, steak, prime rib and lobster. His favorite desserts were anything sweet, particularly pecan pie, cheese cake and butter pecan ice cream. Bob was survived by his older brother Tom; older sister Alice; older cousin Helen; sons John and Jason; niece Susie; niece Linda; nephew Philip; daughter-in-law Debbie; daughter-in-law Caroline; grandsons Michael, Nathan and Brandon. Bob was from the greatest generation where integrity, honesty and fairness were highly valued. He practiced this his entire life at work and at home. He was known for his kindness and generosity. Bob was a gentleman and had a nice warm smile. He was a good man, son, brother, cousin, husband, father, grandfather, colleague and friend. He will be dearly missed. May he enjoy heaven for all that he has given others. Amen.



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JS

John S. Lee posted:

I would just like to share my love and gratitude for my father. I know its kind of late and I felt bad but I just couldn't bring myself to write anything. I was dealing with the grief and the memories. I had a dream about my Dad last night where he and I was talking like having a father and son talk. He would always do that with me and I felt so happy that he was here in my dreams. I also had a dream about my mother. I am grateful that my Dad was so kind to spend what time that he had with me during his busy years at GE especially when I was growing up and spreading my wings. He always taught me not to talk about myself too much so I will try to tell how much he helped me. Dad would always work every day diligently at his desk and he would go to work everyday from 6 am to 5 pm to GE. He would come home and rest a bit and then work some more. I always remembered him shuffling papers, calculating numbers on the slide rule and writing his reports. His writing was very neat and distinctively clear. Then he would eat supper with us and my mother and Jason. He also love to watch the news like Frontline, CNN and other news talk TV and he also read the newspaper. He also loved to listen to classical music every day which he would sit by the stereo. My Dad was not an overly affectionate man but you knew he cared for you by his work and his giving of himself to you when you needed him. He never talk about himself so I had to find out about his achievements through a resume which he left on his desk after he retired. He worked on the SST, the Delta Stealth fighter, and many other projects. My Mom used to tell me that he invented a way to test jet engine noise in a swimming pool which he won a prize for. I was always proud of him for his achievements. I also remembered he had many aerospace magazines and engineering journals that he read. My Dad was also interested in the liberal arts and culture. He gave me a present of 53 volumes of the Great Books of the Western World which contained authors like Freud, Kant, and Plato. They were hard bound in nice cover. They were for my high school graduation from Sycamore High School. This was a gift that I could never forget. He also played chess with me. I could never beat him-I only won three chess games in all the games that I played with him which is more than a hundred. I would try the Sicilian, the Stonewall and other strategies but he would always demolish my strategies! He helped me go to Ohio State and to Brigham Young University to get my degrees in history. He also took care of my mother, Theresa, when I was young. My mother had some issues and he was always by her side and he was always a strength and a support to her. He was such a strength and a rock in our family. He also loved my step-mother Jane and was a support when she was sick. He helped my brother and step brothers with their lives. Dad, I hope that I can emulate your example as a kind, generous, compassionate and reflective but practical man. Thanks for everything. Love, John

September 28 at 5:36 AM



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AL

Albert Lee posted:

Bob will be greatly missed. I first met Bob in Washington, D.C. in 1953 at the CCYC (Chinese Christian Youth Conference of the East) reunion. We remain in contact all these years. We were in a China tour in 1992. Bob and I are small in stature. Friends often teased us on our heights. While visiting Teresa and Bob in Cincinnati in 1980, Teresa related the following humorous event: Bob, being an expert on acoustics, has authored many technical papers. He was scheduled to present a paper at an IEEE technical conference. As he was approaching the podium, he was stopped by the chairman of the meeting, asking him for identification! He thought Bob (being small, thin and youthful) can't possibly be the author of the highly technical paper which he was about to present. The audience broke out with a big laughter and applause. Albert C. Lee Susan S. Lee Cary, NC

September 12 at 9:43 AM

ME

Merlin posted:

Each day I wake to start a day that's normal as can be. Some cooking, cleaning, paperwork, as busy as a bee.... merlin

September 11 at 12:47 PM

IC

Ira Chin posted:

We were saddened to hear of Uncle Bob's passing. When I informed my mom, Agnes, she spoke very fondly of visiting the Lee family back in Boston and remembered how warm and welcoming Bob was; always a gentleman. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. With deepest sympathy, The Chin Family (Agnes, Vanessa, Ira and Vincent)

September 10 at 6:10 AM



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JL

Jason Lee posted:

Thanks for bringing me up from a baby to now a middle aged man with a family. As a parent, I know that was not easy. I was so glad that I had the opportunity to be near you the last 14 years so my wife Debbie and your grandsons Nathan and Brandon and I could know you better. Even though you were old school and did not express some things, I knew that you cared and loved me. You showed it in many ways. Thanks for your generosity including putting me through college. It paid off. Thanks for creating a safe home where we did not have big worries. When I was young like most kids, I did not appreciate your advice. As I grew older, I realized that you were right more than me. I am sorry I couldn't do anything more to make you live longer than 88. I was always so proud of your accomplishments at work. This is one main reason why I pursued your profession as an engineer. I enjoyed you teaching me Engineering concepts and strategies. I will try to carry your values for the rest of my life. When you get to Heaven say ?I love you? and give a big hug to Mom from Debbie, Nathan, Brandon and me. Enjoy it there. I heard you can have eat as much dessert as you'd like and not gain weight. You may want to double check that this is true. I love you Dad and you will always be near with my great memories of you.

September 10 at 4:55 AM

MC

Michael Chung posted:

Bob, you will be missed. A very peaceful, generous, content, and kind soul you are. Thanks for the many talks about your life, describing your childhood, chess matches, political discussions, etc. Many at GE appreciated your leadership and I know your sons, in-laws, and grandsons appreciated your presence.

September 10 at 2:34 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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