

Leland Joseph Jepson

March 19, 1931 - July 3, 2024

Resident of San Jose

Leland Joseph Jepson passed away on July 3, 2024 in his home in San Jose, California. He was

93. Born in San Jose to Vivian DiSalvo and Marinus Jepson, Lee met Theresa, the love of his life,

at the age of 15 while attending SJ High School. There, his physical prowess as an undefeated

wrestler for two years, earned him the nicknames “Cowboy” and “Iron-Man Jepson.”

He earned all-county honors as a TE and DE for the Bulldogs, proudly stating, “no one ever got

past me.” Not defined by sports alone, Lee joined the Milpitas Ramblers, a four-man singing

group known for entertaining the student body with their renditions of popular tunes of the

day. Thanks to his genuine nature and quick sense of humor, Lee made many lifelong friends at

SJHS. Although recruited by Cal Poly, he decided to stay close to home, and Lee and Tree

were married in 1951. After attending San Mateo Junior college, he worked at Kilpatrick’s

Bakery, before channeling his baking talents to found his own business, Dutch

Girl Donuts. He then moved to Wonder Bread Bakery, where he worked as a route salesman until his retirement. Lee had a nickname for every family member, was a prolific source of original puns, and played a mean game of Pedro. A man of many interests, Lee was an avid 49ers and boxing fan. He loved brisk walks through his Evergreen neighborhood, and travel with friends and family, including cross-country road trips. As a teenager, listening to the radio, Lee developed a love of classical music which brought him joy throughout his life. He loved poetry, classic literature, and collecting rare books, and enjoyed searching for art treasures at local antique and thrift shops. Leland is survived by his wife of 73 years, Theresa Jepson; his sister, Joyce Hettiger; his daughters, Terry Hicks (Michael) and Diane Bullis (Charles); his sons, David Jepson (Stacey), Thomas Jepson, and Daniel Jepson; his grandchildren, Kari Hicks, Colton Jepson, Michael Hicks, Kayla Ivory (Zach), Amanda Bullis, Johnathan Bullis, Laci Jepson, and Lauren Jepson; his great grandchildren, Robbie, Christian, and Charlotte Ivory; as well as loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers Stanley Jepson and Dale Jepson. Leland was a very humble man who didn't realize his greatness; a man of wisdom and wit.

Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Mrs. Hicks - I never met your father, but after reading about him I realize where you inherited your wonderful qualities. You were a great teacher to Michaela, so patient & inspired her educational journey. Our thoughts & prayers are with you and the rest of your family. May your memories provide comfort. Carlene Carpenter*

Carlene Carpenter - September 02, 2024 at 12:23 PM

DB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Diane Bullis - August 31, 2024 at 09:33 PM

SO

Lee with his lifelong friend Don O'Brien. Lee and his family have always been an important part of of our lifes. The O'Brien family sends their love to all the Jepsons.

Sherry Lee O'Brien - September 03, 2024 at 01:21 PM

DB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Diane Bullis - August 31, 2024 at 09:15 PM

SO

Lee and Don O'Brien were life long friends and this poem is dedicated to their life together of shared experiences.

Sherry Lee O'Brien - September 03, 2024 at 01:26 PM

DB

“ 2 files added to the album Leland Through the Years



Diane Bullis - August 31, 2024 at 08:12 PM

KH

“ Grandpa gave the best hugs! ❤️ Hiccups



Kari Hicks - August 29, 2024 at 02:00 PM

TE

“ A Loving and Playful Grandpa



Terry - August 29, 2024 at 01:06 PM

DB

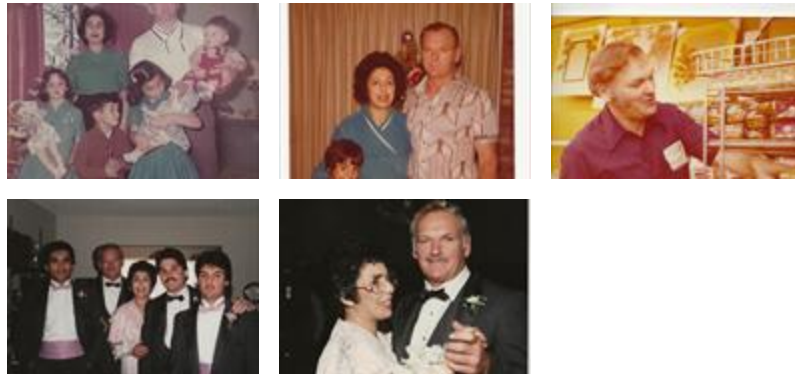
“ 2 files added to the album *Grandpa Lee*



Diane Bullis - August 24, 2024 at 11:49 PM

DB

“ 17 files added to the album *Leland Through the Years*



Diane Bullis - August 23, 2024 at 06:18 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the *tribute wall*



Diane Bullis - August 22, 2024 at 05:03 PM

DB

“ 6 files added to the album *Leland Through the Years*



Diane Bullis - August 22, 2024 at 04:30 PM

DB

“ 2 files added to the album *Leland Through the Years*



Diane Bullis - August 21, 2024 at 05:19 PM