



# Joseph Thurman Lees

AUG 28, 1953 - JAN 25, 2011



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## **Joseph Thurman Lees**

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**N**EW SALISBURY, INDIANA - Joseph Thurman Lees, 57, passed away Tuesday, January 25, 2011, of a heart attack, at his home near Corydon, Indiana.

Joe was born on August 28, 1953, in Newark, Ohio. He was raised on the family farm on Canyon Road in Hebron, Ohio; and was a 1972 graduate of Granville High School. While growing up Joe was an active member of the Heath Church of Christ. He united with the church as a result of his baptism on November 17, 1964, during a revival meeting with the late Ira Brandon, the guest speaker, and Ray Linn as host minister. He was particularly involved in youth group activities and was especially known for achievements in local Bible League and national Bible Bowl competitions. Having accepted the call to the ministry at the early age of 10, he studied at the Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary (now Cincinnati Christian University) from 1972-1976. Ordained into the ministry on March 14, 1976, at the Heath Church of Christ, Joe held located ministries in Kentucky, Wyoming, and Indiana. At his death, Joe was a self employed building contractor, and a member and Elder of First Capital Christian Church, in Corydon, Indiana. He also was given membership into the prestigious Order of Kentucky Colonels by then Governor Julian M. Carroll.

Surviving are his wife, Lori Jean Haley Lees of Corydon, Indiana; a daughter, Rebecca Ann Lees Yeary, and her husband, Damon, of Louisville, Kentucky; a son, Joshua Thurman Lees of Winchester, Virginia; his parents, Bennett Ora and Ethel Ruth Warner Lees of Heath, Ohio; three brothers, Kenneth William Lees, and his wife, Diane, of Hebron, Ohio; Charles Denzill Lees, and his wife, Millie, of Lexington, KY; and Raymond Matthew Lees, and his partner, Matthew, of Worthington, Ohio; and a sister, Linda Ruth Lees Billenstein, and her husband, Mark, of Prospect, Ohio. Over 100 aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces, and cousins also survive, along with countless friends.

Joe was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Denzill Oren and Blanche Claggett Lees; his maternal grandparents, Thurman Gilmore (T.G.) and Josephine Woodward Warner; a brother, Bennett Dean Lees, having passed on January 18, 2010; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.



## Obituary

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Burial was held Friday, January 28, 2011, at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Corydon, Indiana, following a funeral service at Corydon's First Capital Christian Church.

A memorial service in celebration of the life of Joseph Thurman Lees will be 1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 5, 2011 at the Heath Church of Christ, 1331 Chapel Way, Heath, Ohio, with the eulogy being delivered by Ray Linn, minister, retired.

Brief prepared remarks will be delivered by Raymond Lees, Linda Lees Billenstein, Kenny Lees, Rick Brown, Carole Wright, Don Blackburn, Lucy Reid, and Carol Mansfield.



## Tribute Wall

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KF

**Kim(Miller) Fleming** posted:

To the Lees family,Your entire family was part of my church family growing up and nothing can shake your faith because you truly define faith"ful". Linda, God will take care of those precious memories and times that you yearn to have Joe back on earth, but what a rejoicing to know where he is now!

February 8 at 6:31 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Ben, Ruth, and family. We were so sorry to hear about your loss. Joe has always had a special place in our hearts as you know. If Joe and Carol Baker Mansfield had not made that last call 40 years ago, who knows where our lives would be. Just know that you are all in our prayers. God is watching over you.Don and Linda BlackburnSunbury OH

February 8 at 3:11 AM

JF

**Jacque Keith (On Behalf Of The Entire Keith Family)** posted:

Dear Lees Family,We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May peace be with you all.

February 7 at 7:04 AM

HB

**Herb Bayles** posted:

My thoughts and prayers to all the family and friends of Joe.

February 6 at 1:16 AM

KD

**Kay Saling, Jean Rine's Daughter** posted:

Ben and Ruth, so very sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Thoughts and prayers are with you. May he rest in peace. God Bless.

February 5 at 4:23 PM

JR

**Jean Rine** posted:

Ruth and Ben, my sincerest condolences on Joe's passing. May he rest in peace. God Bless.

February 5 at 4:18 PM



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JW

**Judy And Carl Williamson** posted:

Ben Ruth and Family; So sorry to hear of Joe's untimely death. Know that your friends are near. Didn't know Joe, but We do know he leaves quite a legacy. God Bless you and your family as you go through this time.

February 5 at 3:24 PM

DA

**Donna Ackerman** posted:

I graduated with Joe from Granville class of 72. My prayers are with his family.

February 5 at 5:21 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Ruth, Ben and your other children. I was just shocked to hear about Joe. I have watched all of your children grow into fine adults and you can be proud of all of them. You probably will get through the loss of Joe but you will never get over it. I know you will draw strength from the other children. If we can do any thing for any of you, please let us know. May God bless you all. Shirley and Chuck Krafft

February 5 at 5:02 AM

DS

**David & Sharon Showman** posted:

Dear Lees Family, We are so sorry to hear about Joe. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

February 4 at 2:45 PM

RB

**Rick Byrd** posted:

Dear Ben And Ruth, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. You are in my Thoughts and Prayers. Wish I could be there for comfort but I am with you in the Lord's Spirit. God Bless You Rick Byrd Hartford, Alabama

February 4 at 9:40 AM

DB

**Dan Bullman** posted:

Ben and Ruth, "Sorry to hear of Joe's passing, you are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time, God Bless" Donna and Dan Bullman (Heath, Ohio)

February 4 at 3:39 AM



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KC

**Karla Carson** posted:

To the Lees Family: When I heard of Joe's passing, I immediately remembered the days when the school bus seats were filled with the Lees, the Showmans and the Carsons. Joe was a sweet kid & teenager; I am sure he grew into a sweet man. Please take comfort in knowing Joe had a special relationship with God for his entire life and that will continue forever and ever. He will be hugging his wife and kids from heaven.

February 3 at 2:09 PM

BP

**Betty L Porter** posted:

Ruth and Ben I am sorry to read of your loss. God give you comfort at this very difficult time. Betty (Wilkin)Porter

February 3 at 7:50 AM

BL

**Beverly Lees** posted:

Sorry to here about the loss of your loved one. May god be with your family at this time of need.

February 3 at 6:59 AM

JG

**Jim & Brenda Gentry** posted:

Becca, We am sorry for your loss. You and family are in our prayers. Just rremember If he brought you to it he will walk you through it. Friends of Chuck & Millie

February 1 at 1:00 PM

AY

**Alice & Carl Yeager** posted:

Joe was a very special person. He touched many people, & everyone loved his compassionate love. He was a "gentle giant" of this time. His absence will leave a big void. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all.

January 29 at 5:33 AM



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LW

**Laverne Woodard** posted:

Becca was so sadden to hear about your dad. Your family is in my prayers. Just remember there is peace, peace, sweet peace that surpasses all understanding.

January 28 at 5:48 AM

AS

**Angela Stewart** posted:

Becca, I am sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers. I know you loved him, but God loved him best. Trust that God will carry you through this. Love you.

January 27 at 5:29 AM

TM

**Tom Mason** posted:

Becca, So Sorry to hear about your dad. Please know that my family's prayers are with you and your family. "Surly goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord, forever." - Ps 23

January 27 at 2:52 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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