



James Lee Salmans

October 13, 1935 - November 23, 2020

Memorials to the family for later designation.

James Levi Salmans was born on October 13, 1935, in Larned, Kansas. He never liked the Levi name and has always gone by “James Lee” or “Jimmy Lee” by his mother when he was in trouble. His parents were Lawrence and Mary Zecha Salmans of rural Belpre, Kansas.

He grew up on the family farm. He attended the rural Zook High School where he and his brothers played all sports. The boys all worked on the farm growing up. They also helped the neighbor farmers to earn extra money for college. Lee attended St. Mary’s of the Plains College in Dodge City, Kansas. Lee played football – the school was so small that everyone played. Lee played center. Lee was president of his class, on the Student Council, and always on the honor roll. He was active serving at mass. Lee graduated Magna Cum Lade in May 1957.

Growing up Lee was always close to his 3 sisters and two brothers. He looked out for them with unconditional love.

Lee met Joyce when he was a freshman in college, but he didn’t see her again until he was starting his senior year of college. Joyce was starting her senior year in high school. They wrote lots of letters and went to the movies on Sunday evening. He would then go to the farm, get up early, and go back the 60 miles from Larned to school in Dodge City. He worked nights in a

downtown café and would run the mile or two back to the dorm after they closed at 10:30 P.M. Lee graduated from college one night and Joyce graduated from high school the next night.

It wasn't long and Lee gave Joyce an engagement ring. They were married on September 3, 1957, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Larned, Kansas.

Sometime around the first of the year, Lee accepted a job in Manhattan, Kansas with MetLife Insurance. About that time, they found out their first child, Mark, was on the way. Lee was a wonderful Dad. He wanted a big family and soon Jim was born – then Mary, then Lorrie, then Shelly, then John, and finally Angie. Wow 7 kids.

Lee worked long hard hours. He found several jobs during the years. He worked retail credit for Robinson COOP in Robinson, Kansas, and for Hesston Corporation in Hesston, Kansas.

Lee always thought it was important to give back to your church and your community. As for church, he taught Catechism class, served on the Finance Committee, and he and Joyce worked Bingo in the church for 22 years. He also worked at the welcome desk for the school. Lee was in Lions Club for many years. He helped kids, whose family couldn't afford eye glasses, get them and get scholarships for college. He also worked on the clean-up of the highway between Elkhorn and Waterloo.

Lee thought education was very important. When the kids were all in school, he started back to school at Wichita State to get his Master's Degree. Lee accepted a job at Valmont Industries in December 1973. He also transferred to UNO and finally obtained his Master's Degree in Finance.

Lee started at the credit department at Valmont. He worked in insurance and served as Vice President and Secretary for the Board of Directors. He travelled the world but was always glad to be back to the USA and with his family.

Lee loved his 7 kids, 18 grandkids, and 13 great grandkids. He was always interested in what they were doing and encouraged them to work hard to get it.

This poem's unknown author measures Lee up pretty well –

A Good Man –

Is one whose warmth, and humor have earned him respect of his friends and family...someone who makes this world a better place in which to live.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery

Elkhorn, NE 68022

Previous Events

Funeral Ceremony

NOV **28**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home-Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of James Lee Salmans*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - November 23, 2020 at 03:08 PM

LH

My thoughts and prayers go out to Aunt Joyce and all my cousin 🌸🙏

Loretta Hitz - November 28, 2020 at 03:35 PM



“ *James Lee Salmans*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM

JS

“ Covid is keeping me physically away from the family during this sad time but they know I’m with them.

I’m Jim, the number two of the seven Salmans siblings. Today I woke up to a foggy day. The haze is thick. I know where I’ve come from but I’m not sure what’s in front of me.

I’m a devout Christian having been involved in several denominations over the years. Throughout these years I’ve heard my church leaders say in different ways that we don’t know what tomorrow holds but we know who holds tomorrow.

To make clarity out of this hazy day I believe that what I have in this life is nothing compared to what’s waiting for me when I too depart it. On my journey I have slipped and fallen but got up every time stronger than before, today I stand tall and strong. As John 3:16 states “For GOD so loved this world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in HIM shall not perish but have eternal life.” Give your life to Christ and you too will see what I see.

Dad was a believer in Christ. He is in Heaven and I believe I will see him again where he is young and full of laughter without suffering or need. I’ll hear him telling his bad jokes and laughing at them where others saw more humor watching his expressions. His quick turnaround quips were perfection. One joke that I remember him telling was when we were around taller people...someone asked him why he and his kids were all so short. He said without hesitation that when he was young he spit into the eye of a witch. She cursed him saying he would have small kids one day. I promptly said hey, what happened to me where quickly without hesitation he responded, you were adopted...and laughed, boy he laughed...then he hugged me.

Time goes by in the blink of an eye. See you soon Dad.

Jim Salmans - November 28, 2020 at 02:41 PM

RC

“ Renee & John Campbell purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of James Lee Salmans.



Renee & John Campbell - November 27, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ When I was a kid, I watched Lee do his exercises, and thought to myself that is something that I should be doing. Lee was always highly organized, and always kept his yard and home very nice. Over the years because of my admiration of him and his successes, I have tried to model myself to be like him. Lee nor Joyce have never knew this, but it is true. I am going to miss Lee, he and Joyce made a difference in my life. I will always love them in a very special way.

Troy Miller Williamson - November 27, 2020 at 11:06 AM

AF

“ Aunt Joyce and all of my beautiful cousins, Loretta just told me about Uncle Lee. My heart aches for you all and prayers of strength are sent!! Love, hugs & kisses from Arizona ~ Amy Jo



AJ Felker - November 26, 2020 at 06:46 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of James Lee Salmans.*



November 25, 2020 at 10:24 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Lee Salmans.*



November 25, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Lee Salmans.*



November 25, 2020 at 01:06 PM



“ *Shelly, my deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

Ingrid Borghoff - November 24, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ *Mark, I'm so sorry to hear about your dad. My condolences to you and your family.*

Doug Fleetwood

Doug Fleetwood - November 24, 2020 at 12:59 PM

MS

Thank you Doug. I hope all is well with your family.

Mark Salmans - November 26, 2020 at 05:45 PM

BS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Brenda Salmans - November 23, 2020 at 06:51 PM

EW

He was a good brother and a great person. He was also one of the smartest people I knew.

Elizabeth Winkler - November 24, 2020 at 09:54 AM

BR

Sending thoughts and prayers to the Salmans family. So sorry for your loss.

Beth Rogers - November 24, 2020 at 05:28 PM

LM

So sorry to hear of your loss. Thinking of you at this time.

Lori Mesenbrink - November 25, 2020 at 06:02 PM



I am sending my prayers and thoughts for Uncle Lee and Aunt Joyce, they are really good people, and my cousins. I wish them all love and peace through this difficult time. I love you all.

Troy Miller Williamson - November 27, 2020 at 11:01 AM