



Dennis H. Lee

August 24, 1956 - November 19, 2018

Dennis H. "Smoke" Lee, 62, of Aurora, Wisconsin, died after a long battle with Small Cell Carcinoma.

Dennis led a very active and productive life. He lived his first 18 years of life in Wisconsin and graduated from Ladysmith High School. He fished the Flambeau River every chance he could and also camped with his family traveling to all parts of the US. Dennis put in almost 40 years on the rail and had to retire due to his illness with severe Rheumatoid Arthritis. He started working for the Soo Line Railroad in 1976. He then worked for Wisconsin Central and Canadian National Railroad on the Engineering gang and loved every minute of it. He was a trackman and operated Tamper #2 for decades and was sent all over the Midwest as he was one of the best. He worked on the same series of tracks in 6 states hence the 3 railroads buying each other out. His job took him all over the Midwest and saw beautiful landscapes that we all wish we could see via rail system. He fished a lot and it was his very favorite thing to do. Every weekend Dennis traveled to Canada in his station wagon along with his boat and dog, Buford in his single years.

Dennis married Kathy Higgins in 1984 and had three amazing children, Jacob, Kaitlin and Elliott. Though Kathy and Dennis parted ways after 10 years of marriage, he remained close to his own 3 children along with two of Kathy's other four children, Tony Higgins and Kelly White. In 2001 he met Laurie Mae Massicotte (Lammi) and they wed in 2005 in the hills of the Sequoia

Mountains in California. They were married by Dennis' sister, Christine Ralph and honeymooned in their favorite place on Earth, Yosemite, California. He added one more amazing child, Valerie Massicotte to his list of wonderful children. Dennis and Laurie made a beautiful home and yard over the decades together for family and friends to gather at along the Menominee River and spent a lot of time on it fishing and simply enjoying nature together.

Dennis also loved football; He played it in high school and loved to watch it (all teams), followed it, but his heart was always with the Green Bay Packers and chose them as his favorite from a very young age. Bird hunting was another sport Dennis loved. It was dear to his heart, and he loved taking Gunnar (his treasured and favorite dog ever) into the woods for partridge. He bred English Springer Spaniels for a while. Classic rock was his favorite music; going to many, many rock concerts with Laurie. He also loved U.S. old west history, crime stories and shows. Dennis was a proud and direct descendant of George Soule (11th Great Grandfather) and Francis Cooke also (11th Great Grandfather) of the Mayflower through his mother, Betty's maternal side of the family. His spirit was contagious, his sense of humor priceless, his love never ending and is going to be missed immensely by all who got to know him and love him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harvey Amundsen Lee and Betty Mae (Schultz) Lee; infant sister, Cindy Belle; brother, Terry; brother-in-law, Walter Ralph; sister-in-law, Denise Parins; and brother-in-law, Peter Lammi.

Dennis is survived by his loving wife & best friend, Laurie; His children, Jacob (Sasha White) Lee of Greenville, WI, Kaitlin (Joshua) Corwin of Gladstone, MI, Elliott Lee of Green Bay, WI; stepchildren, Valerie Massicotte of Kingsford, MI, Tony Higgins of Stoughton, WI and Kelly & Ed White of Bakersfield, CA; grandchildren, Avril, Cassandra, Cannon (due in Dec), Dawson, Ed Jr., Anna

Lee, Harper, Jensen, Lylah, Sammy and Tanner; ex-spouse, Kathy (Don) Johnson of Amberg, WI; Father-in-law and Mother-in-law, Everett and Marian Lammi of Menasha; sister, Christine Ralph of Porterfield, CA; sisters-in-law, Eugie Lee of Ladysmith, WI, Tina (Dale) Schinderle of Clayton, WI, and Vicki Krans of Kingsford, MI; nieces, Juliet, Ginger, Stacy, Ashley, Brittany and a nephew, Rory.

Private family services will be held. Burial will be in the spring at Quinnesec Cemetery. Keep your tail up in Heaven Smoke. We love you!

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Dennis "Smoke" Lee online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Quinnesec Cemetery

Menominee Street
Quinnesec, MI 49876

Tribute Wall

MI

“ Sorry for the loss of smoke. We had many good times on the rails in the 70"s. Many great camping and fishing trips to Canada while we "gandydanced" all over the Midwest. Playing ping pong in the basement on Lake ave., rabbit hunting, pool league and rabbit hunting he was truly a great friend . We lost touch over the years but renewed our friendship a few months ago. Miss you Buddy. Keep the light shining on "moon rock".

Michael - November 22, 2018 at 10:50 AM

 Josh
Corwin

“ I still cant believe your gone my heart hurts every day you were a great father,husband,grandfather,friend, you were just overall a great man, anyone who knew you were lucky and truly blessed. I have so many memories with you it's to hard to just pick one out because every single one means the world to me and I will always remember all of them mainly the ones of us going back and fourth on who had the better team lol SKOL VIKES, you never judged me Dennis and gave me a chance with Kaitlin even though I was older and I am extremely grateful for your blessing. It's been an honor to call you my father in law and spend 13 years of my life with you, you were always someone I looked up to and wished I could only be half the man you were, i love you like a father and you will always be in my heart. Your daughter will always be in good hands and I will love her with no end and make you proud,until we meet again I love you and may you rest in peace Dennis
P.s no pulling strings up there for this sundays game lol and enjoy watching it with my grandpa who was even a bigger vikings fan than me, love always your favorite Vikings fan and favorite son in law

Josh Corwin - November 22, 2018 at 10:44 AM

KH

“ We only shared a few memories, but the love of our Springer Spaniels was one. Prayers to family, and fur baby Gunnar.

kathy hopp - November 21, 2018 at 10:57 AM

DK

“ Debbie Kutzera lit a candle in memory of Dennis H. Lee



Debbie Kutzera - November 21, 2018 at 09:02 AM

DK

I am so sorry for your loss Dennis was a great guy. I am so happy I had the pleasure to meet him and have him in my sons life. He was family and I will never forget him. Love You Dennis may you rest in peace and say hi to my mom and dad . Enjoy the game Sunday with my Dad lol.

Debbie Kutzera - November 21, 2018 at 08:09 AM

DD

Lost touch with Dennis over the years. Went our separate ways after High School. Wish I had a nickel for every game of pool we played together at Al and Bernice's. (basement of Pla-Mor Lanes). He could shoot a good game of pool. He was always alot of fun to be around and had an infectious laugh. Spent a lot of time hanging out at his house. Harvey and Betty were good people. I thing me and Smoke may have "borrowed" a couple of bottles of Harvey's homemade wine from under the basement stairs. Boy did we get sick!! Wished we could have kept in touch through the years. He was a good friend and I'm sure he will be missed by all who knew him. God Bless and may you rest in peace Smoke.

Don Doughty

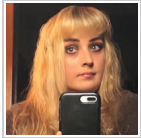
Don Doughty - November 27, 2018 at 08:20 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis H. Lee.



November 21, 2018 at 08:40 AM



“ Gosh, Deary I miss you already. We sure went through quite the journey together and there were moments of laughter along the way despite all of this and moments of hope.

You were tough, brave and patient through this whole process.

There is no more worrying, suffering and you are free to run the

tamper # 2 if you want to go see the lines you worked

Free to camp and fish anytime you want. You can use Buford for

hunting until Gunny comes and joins you. You can visit with the RR

pals who have crossed over and visit with your Mom and Dad and

your Aunt Arlene, Uncles and Grandparents and great friends like

Bobby Starr.

You will be constantly in my thoughts and please come to me in my

dreams to let me know you are ok and settled in within the stars and

heaven above and don't lose contact with me, I mean it.

I love you Dennis," even though" as you told me and "Keep your tail

up" as Grandpa Schultz always said. You still are my soulmate and

the best friend I ever had. I think were were lucky that somehow we

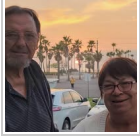
found each other on earth and save me a spot on the other side. I

am proud to call you my husband and again I am going to miss you

terribly until we are together again.



Laurie Lee - November 21, 2018 at 06:15 AM



“ *Smoke was a dear friend to us. We loved his crazy laugh. So sorry for your loss. We lost contact years ago, but remember him fondly. Fly high Smoke!!*

*Monte and Char Klund
Golden Eagle Bar
Ladysmith*

Charlene Klund - November 20, 2018 at 05:22 PM

KS

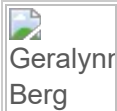
So sorry for your loss. Sending thoughts and prayers. I graduated with Smoke! One heck of a guy!

Karen Geier Schneiderwent - November 20, 2018 at 10:38 PM

TL

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

Teresa Louys - November 21, 2018 at 10:34 AM



GERALYNN BERG

Sending my thoughts and prayers. I was in school with Smoke and we all thought he was a great guy!

Gerallynne Berg - November 21, 2018 at 01:07 PM

DW

Sorry for your loss Laurie and family. I am lucky to be one of the many railroaders who was privileged to know "Smoke". Rest In Peace brother.

Dennis Wotchko - November 22, 2018 at 06:04 PM

EA

Sorry for your loss, I enjoyed working with Smoke!

Eric Augustin - November 23, 2018 at 07:59 PM



Smoke came on the ballast gang a year after me, and we worked together for a couple of seasons. Never heard a cross word from him, quick to laugh and share a story with, a good companion. He left the world a better place. God Speed!

Cato Cuff - April 20, 2023 at 10:01 AM