



John Thomas Lee

December 4, 1959 - October 24, 2020

John Thomas Lee lived a wonderfully obnoxious 60 years on this earth before leaving us suddenly on October 24, 2020. He blessed us all with lasting, precious memories of his foolish debauchery. Little Johnny Tom Tom was born in Marietta, Ohio on December 4, 1959, the second child of Shirley (n?e Wallace) and Wilmer Lee. Even though his parents always told him that he was sh*t out by a crow and they found him on a fence post and took pity on him, he was always lovingly referred to as “the meat in the sandwich.” His older sister, Jo Ann (John Edwards), just 15 months old at the time of his birth, had no idea of the lifetime of shenanigans in store for her. John’s younger brother, Wil (Kyla Lee), was born 11 years later and thus missed out on years of playful torment. Although, John did work hard at making up for this. The family grew up in Lower Salem where John wore tape-repaired glasses and drove the tractor every day to check the mail (even though the shed that housed the tractor was further away from the house than the mailbox itself). John spent his childhood days with his siblings and gaggle of cousins, making ridiculous memories that he loved to laugh and reminisce about. Oh, did this man love to laugh (and be laughed at). His laugh was infectious and anyone who knew him can hear it clearly in their minds with just the mention of it. After graduating from Marietta High School in 1978, John enlisted in the Navy, where he was stationed on the USS Brewton, homeported in Pearl Harbor, for 4 years. He was rightfully proud of this accomplishment, as he followed in the footsteps of his father and uncles as a serviceman. He also enjoyed bragging

about how awesome it was to live in Hawaii. After the Navy, he spent his life traveling near and far for his trade as an expert machinist. He eventually made his home with a network of fun loving people in Little River, South Carolina. While on the job, he often sent messages to his family and friends about the too-cold weather or the too-high rig he had to climb up. To which, most would reply, "Stop being such a baby." He also made time to visit his family if he was close by on his travels or gift his airline miles to help a loved one in need. He looked forward to family reunions each summer where every cousin would attest to his ornery nature, and he took pride in preserving family history. Yes, John had tremendous love for his family and friends. Most times he showed his love by way of relentless teasing and mocking. If you were being picked on by John, you knew it was because he loved you. John enjoyed causing mischief, like sending glitter in Christmas cards (raise your hand if you still have glitter in your kitchen from John), then would plead innocence when questioned about such things. John also loved children very much but was never blessed with his own. This led him to take his job as uncle and great-uncle especially to heart. He always remembered birthdays and Christmases (see glitter reference above), he always gave big hugs and very unsolicited opinions, he always made an effort to stay in touch and tell us that he loved us, and he always tormented us just enough to make sure we weren't raised to be too delicate or too sensitive. In addition to his beloved siblings, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins, John is also survived by the love of his life. His Harley. He enjoyed meeting new people because of his bike and relished the freedom it provided for him when he had the time to take it for a cruise. John is preceded in death by his greatly adored parents and by his dear cousin, Jay Harper, who was his life-long partner in crime. Lord only knows what they'll be up to in the afterlife. Services are planned for a celebration of life ceremony at the Mt Ephraim homecoming in Lower Salem, Ohio in July 2021. In the meantime, please leave your favorite John story here, as we would like to read them for one last laugh at his expense while we're settling his affairs together. John would also want

everyone to know that a burial at sea, courtesy of the United States Navy, is in the works; complete with a letter from the President of the United States, thanking us for his service. Even in death, he's still the ultimate one-upper. If you're reading this, we sincerely hope that this will remind you that none of us are promised tomorrow. We hope you'll remember to be more like John Boy. (Well, maybe just dialed back a little.) Buy a slime kit and permanent marker set for your niece on her birthday. Call your sister to ask for your mom's jam recipe and then take the time to make it and share it with your neighbors. Seize the opportunity to make your brother laugh by sending him an inappropriate joke. Chase your cousins with boogers. Take a dang limo to the airport on your next business trip. Laugh and find joy in the people who love you. "Drive fast and take chances" (not literally, of course). Just don't mail any glitter.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Thomas Lee*

January 25, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ *I was very sorry to hear of Johns passing. I worked with him for a few years at Chalmers and Kubeck and there was never a shortage of completely inappropriate (but always right on time) jokes with him. We bonded over our love of pickles and would usually share jars of pickles in the work fridge (last I knew both of our favorites were the spicy maple bourbon pickles from Walmart). I was also the victim of one of his glitter conspiracies... he always kept the shop fun when he was there. During this pandemic, I was looking for some cleaning stuff that was impossible to find and John offered to tell me where his house key was so I could run by his house and grab it while he was out of town. He would give you the shirt off of his back if you needed it. People like John are few, and far between. He (and his terribly embarrassing memes that you'd open in public on your phone) will be so missed. This obituary tribute to John has done him justice, it brought me to tears reading it. Much love to his family. You all are in my prayers.*

Tabitha Potter Sriram - November 06, 2020 at 03:03 PM



“ *Worked with john for several years we would talk a couple of times a month just to inform each other of our current goings on. He would start the conversation with "Hey you Bloody Limey, what are you doing?". We would make time to get together for a beer when he was working in Indiana will miss him.*

Jeff Hibbert - November 01, 2020 at 11:48 AM

JE

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jo Edwards - October 30, 2020 at 06:58 PM

JE

Curious of Johns friend Jeff 😊

Jo Edwards - October 30, 2020 at 06:59 PM

RS

“ *Again, where to start. I loved John. He was loud, obnoxious, and had a heart as big as the moon. I think my favorite memory is of him (5 years old, I think) and my brother Tim (who would have been 4 then) deciding they wanted to come see their siblings at the elementary school. Didn't matter that we lived 2 miles away on a dirt road. They went cross country anyway, through the strip mines. I believe that the Sheriff was involved. Thank god they made it through that.*

John would say or do something totally obnoxious, be totally oblivious of it, and then say "What" in that injured way he had.

One time at my grandmother's house after the homecoming, probably 6 years ago, we decided stupidly to do some shots of tequila. He came up with the idea to mix the tequila half and half with hot sauce. Things were a little warm the next day. Not the brightest thing we ever did. But with John, it was always fun! (at the time, anyway).

I will miss him a lot.

RONALD SMITH - October 28, 2020 at 06:36 PM

JE

I had scotch coladas with him 🤔

Jo Edwards - October 28, 2020 at 08:16 PM

JE

I remember you and your brothers chasing him after he shot you in the butt with a BB gun! 😱😭

Jo Edwards - October 29, 2020 at 09:02 AM

 Emily Hagreen

"Whaaaaaat?" 😱😭

Emily Hagreen - October 29, 2020 at 12:54 PM

 Emily Hagreen

“ My waistline was blessed with two grandmothers who made all of my favorite foods from scratch, seemingly from memory. When Nanny Shirley passed away, everyone assumed that uncle John had taken possession of her coveted recipes. These recipes unlocked secrets to all of our childhoods and I (and lots of other people) desperately wanted them to compile a cook book. A few years ago, uncle John called me and told me that he had put a recipe book together and was sending it to me. I was so excited! Imagine my disappointment when I opened a 3 ring binder FULL of recipes printed from the internet of food he thought “looked really good.” He hadn’t even made any of them! Lol I’m sure he was hoping that I would make some and send them to him. Typical John! Loved him so ❤️

Emily Hagreen - October 28, 2020 at 12:46 PM

JE

😂😂😂

Jo Edwards - October 28, 2020 at 08:19 PM

MB

There are plenty of shenanigans but by far one of the best by far was the first time we tried to deep fry a turkey.so as the story goes from my end,our cousin jay (Harper)heard that deep frying turkey was the best way to cook it.so him and uncle John decided to make the fryer because they thought it be aloof cooler than buying one. Now mind you at the time there social media wasn't very big and the internet was still more of tool for research papers,so no exploding turkey videos that where viral yet.so that being said the green light to go was on.jay and uncle john and my self go outside and uncle john set this crazy contraption together and light it up.man did ever sound scary like jet engine and then looks at me says what temperature should we cook this bird at?i was like man I have no idea and jay looks at him says 350 degrees.so I don't how or why but they set it up inside the garage and at the last minute they decided to set up outside.which I sure am half they did because the thing happened was crazy.no one told is to Thaw out the turkey,so with jet engine going we dropped that bird down in oil.the next thing we all know the bird took flight and sounded like a bomb going off.jay got the hose and I went inside to se if had anything to put out grease fire with and luckily nanny had a huge bag of baking soda.no one got hurt but we never used the homemade fryer again.i will always love you uncle john and miss you everyday and I will see you again.

*Love always
Michael Aaron*

michael aaron buck - October 29, 2020 at 12:49 PM

 Emily Hagreen

This made me literally laugh out loud!! 😂😂

Emily Hagreen - October 29, 2020 at 12:56 PM

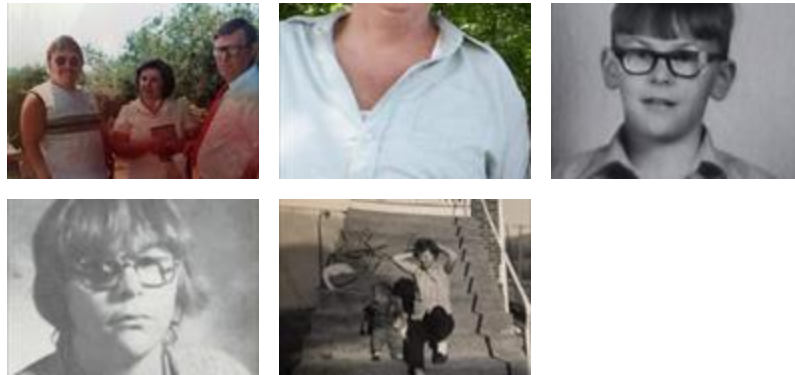
JE

I can TOTALLY see this happening! 😂

Jo Edwards - October 30, 2020 at 10:48 AM

DO

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Don - October 28, 2020 at 12:32 PM

JE

“ Holy moly! Where to start! A couple of the shenanigans mentioned...
John poured lighter fluid in my pop without me knowing and I drank it!

He pushed me out of the car while still moving (still have scar on my leg).

He chopped me in the toe with an ax (again-scar).

Yep...he loved me a lot!😂

Stay tuned for more John stories!

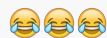
Jo Edwards - October 28, 2020 at 11:57 AM

DO

Let's not forget that he locked you in the freezer! And, he loved you more than any living person.

Don - October 28, 2020 at 12:33 PM

Jo N Edwards



Jo N Edwards - October 28, 2020 at 12:39 PM



Yes, the freezer. Little “twerp” 😂

Emily Hagreeen - October 28, 2020 at 01:40 PM

AS

“ Way, way too early, John. You have given to me fond memories of your big-hearted bull-in-a-china-shop way. Your laugh, your joie de vivre, chicago pizza, family photos, and the stuff you collected, your big temp puppy, stories on the screen porch, an eternally filled roadie, ridiculous bidding and auction items, practical jokes, bars and eating out, your bike, your loyalty to those you love, and your innate kindness underlying it all. Good to have known you, John. With love, Anne Smith

Anne Smith - October 28, 2020 at 11:07 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Thomas Lee.



October 27, 2020 at 10:46 PM

JG

“ John, I only got to see you for the first time in years at the Homecoming. It was great being around you and getting to know you again. I moved to Arizona when you were very young. Just keep those good times rolling with your Mom while you are together again. She was a laugh a minute. RIP John. Your Second Cousin, Jean Buchanan Goujon

Jean Goujon - October 27, 2020 at 08:40 PM

CS

“ I remember playing with John at the house on Gun Club Rd. When we were in school. We always had fun and getting in trouble too. A couple of years ago John contacted me on Facebook. We had a good visit and would talk sometime. I'm in shock hearing about his passing.

Curt Shaw - October 27, 2020 at 07:42 PM

TB

I am just learning of this and I am shocked and so hurt and so are my children who he wanted to adopt. I loved him.

Tamara Bechtel - April 10, 2022 at 08:45 PM

EM

“ 1 file added to the album Family Pictures



emily.hagreen - October 27, 2020 at 07:00 PM

WH

“ Our Sincere Condolences



Wilcox Family Funeral Home - October 27, 2020 at 06:18 PM