



## Vernon Paul Lee

May 26, 1945 - October 9, 2022

Vernon Paul Lee, 77 years old, of Ironton, Missouri, passed away suddenly on Sunday, October 9, 2022, of a heart attack at his home.

Vernon lived his life as a steadfast Christian, telling others the good news that the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his resurrection freed mankind from death as the penalty for violating God's law. Vernon worked to follow Christ's exhortation to "love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself."

He was born in Chicago on May 26, 1945, to Alice and Leslie Lee. As a child, his family moved to Reynolds, Missouri where Vernon attended Coridon-Reynolds two-room schoolhouse for grades 2-5. His family returned to Chicago and Vernon graduated from Harper High School in 1963. He graduated from Chicago State University with a degree in elementary education in 1966. Later he completed his Master's degree in Education Administration from Concordia University.

In 1969, Vernon married Lorelei (Hoelzel) Lee at Oak Lawn Bible Chapel. Vernon and Lorelei were blessed with two daughters, Kristen (Lee) Stevenson and Bethany Lee. The family lived for years in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

At about that time, Vernon began his lifelong work as a teacher and administrator at Midwestern Christian Academy (MCA), a Christian

elementary school in Chicago. There, Vernon influenced the lives of hundreds of young people, teaching them both academic subjects and the truths of the Christian faith. In all, Vernon served at MCA for 44 years, first as a sixth-grade teacher, and then as assistant principal, principal, and school administrator.

In 2012, Vernon retired from MCA, and in 2013, he and Lorelei moved to a home on Lake Killarney near Ironton, returning to his Missouri roots. Vernon never slowed down during retirement. He enjoyed reading the Bible, studying Bible commentaries, and reading books from the library. He also loved to do gardening and landscaping and to work on home improvement projects. Recently, he built 32 bookcases for the Ozark Regional Library when the library needed shelf space in their new annex.

In so many ways, Vernon's life was a life of service. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church of Ironton, a board member of the Ozark Regional Library, a member of the Library Foundation Board, the vice president of the Killarney

Shores Association (the homeowners group), and a member of the Killarney Shores Wagner Lodge beautification committee.

Vernon was predeceased by his father, Leslie Lee; his mother, Alice Lee; his brother Eugene Lee; and his brother Wayne Lee. He is survived by his sister Sharon Weber and her husband Wayne, of Lemont, Illinois; and his sister Carole Canton, of Thousand Oaks, California.

He is also survived by his wife Lorelei; his daughter Bethany Lee, of Baltimore,

Maryland; his daughter Kristen Stevenson and her husband Jim, of Orland Park, Illinois; and his eight wonderful grandchildren: Hope, Heather, Grace, Courtney, Caleb, Kelsey, Kara, and Anna. Vernon also had many nieces, nephews, and friends who will miss him greatly.

Services will be held at the First Baptist Church of Ironton on Friday, October 14, at noon. Visitation will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Interment will be at Arcadia Valley Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, friends may wish to make donations to Midwestern Christian Academy, 3465 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60641.

# Cemetery Details

## Arcadia Valley Memorial Park

Russellville Road  
Ironton, MO 63650

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 14. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
Ironton, MO 63650

## Celebration of Life

OCT 14. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
Ironton, MO 63650

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ My heart felt sympathy goes out to your lovely family. Mr. Lee was my principal at MCA in the '70s. He drove the station wagon "school bus" to take me and my schoolmates to & from school. What a ride! He was also my substitute gym teacher when there wasn't one. I can still see him having us make circles with our arms extended outwards. He believed in exercise! He was always very kind to me and my own children, who also had him as their principal many years later. I have so many fond childhood & adult memories that include Mr. Lee. In the early 2000's, I remember dropping my girls off at school, and there he was in the MCA parking lot cleaning up trash that was blowing around. I have been a public school teacher for over 30 years now and have never come across a principal as selfless and giving as my own principal-Mr. Lee. He was not only a great person, but a wonderful christian testimony to all who ever came across his path. I feel blessed to have known him. I am sure he is hearing "Well done ye good & faithful servant." My he rest easy, safe in the arms of his precious savior Jesus Christ. I pray that God will give you comfort at this difficult time.  
Love in Christ, Carol (Strzala) Brammer

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**Carol Brammer** - October 13, 2022 at 10:13 PM



“ 50 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Cole Family Funeral Home** - October 12, 2022 at 03:37 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Vernon Paul Lee*.



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October 12, 2022 at 08:08 AM