



# Lee Liles

FEB 8, 1950 - MAY 11, 2018



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## Lee Liles

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Lee Liles, of Sulphur, Oklahoma, passed away on May 11th, 2018. Born February 8, 1950 to Williams D. Liles and Burnett P. Liles in Crockett County, Tennessee, Lee was reared in Holly Springs, Mississippi. At fifteen, he began his horseshoeing career, often skipping school to shoe his own teachers' horses. He left school to pursue horseshoeing apprenticeship full time but in 1969 he was drafted to serve his nation in the Army. After two years of service in Vietnam, he returned and set back to work with horseshoeing. Before long, he made a name for himself in the world of Tennessee Walking Horses, where he found fame with his innovative approach to shoeing, as well as his quick fixes in the ring. Specializing in therapeutic shoeing methods, he traveled the country speaking at clinics and sharing his knowledge. He went on to become the official farrier for four world championship horse shows for three different breeds – the American Quarter Horse Association, the Tennessee Walking Horse Association, and the American Paint Horse Association. Lee married Alma McCool on December 27, 1986 in Memphis, Tennessee. Their daughter, Samantha, was born in 1993 and a few years after, they relocated to Sulphur, Oklahoma. Lee and Alma brought Carrousel Farms to Sulphur, and continued to be very active in the Quarter Horse community where Lee won several world championships for calf roping and heading and heeling. In 1997, Lee started expanding his collection of horseshoeing memorabilia to what would soon become his legacy, The National Museum of Horseshoeing Tools and Hall of Honor. In 1999, the city of Sulphur presented him with the Key to the City at the official opening ceremony to the public. The museum is now the most comprehensive collection of shoeing, blacksmithing, and farrier history in the world. To honor his contributions to the practice, Lee was inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame in 2004, located at the Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY. He is preceded in death by his parents, Williams and Burnett. He is survived by his wife, Alma Liles of



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Sulphur OK, daughter Samantha Liles Frank (Andrew Frank) of Dallas, TX; three siblings, Bill Liles, Danny Liles, and Tonie Rayburn; two aunts, Blondell Pearson and Mary Lynwood Liles Slankard; along with many nieces and nephews. A celebration of life was held at the National Museum of Horseshoeing Tools on Wednesday, May 16th officiated by Pastor Jerry Lemley; a Memphis ceremony will be held Sunday, May 20th at 2 p.m. at Memorial Park Cemetery. If desired, friends may make memorial contributions to St. Jude's hospital in Memphis, TN in lieu of flowers.



## Tribute Wall

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LM

**Larry McMullen** posted:

Lee was such a loyal friend with a oversized heart,I was a amateur exhibitor when Lee and I became friends he would shoe my horses and give me his old cowboy boots when I couldn't afford any.I later became a professional equine photographer and Lee and I would travel to shows together,he would be the show farrier and I was the photographer.I was contacted by Red Pyrdam from Howell Saddlery asking me if Lee and I were close friends.I said yes and he asked me to call Lee and tell him the Tenn. Walking Horse Celebration wants him as their official farrier.It was such an honor,he was a true friend.

October 25 at 6:49 AM

LJ

**Laverne Jones** posted:

I am sorry for your loss. Please accept my condolences. We can look forward to the time when all sickness, suffering, and death will be gone forever. Isaiah 33:24; 25:8

May 19 at 6:09 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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