



## Donald L. "Lee" Hackle

September 24, 1961 - June 19, 2020

Donald L. "Lee" Hackle, US Army, Retired, age 58 of Collinsville, IL, died Friday, June 19, 2020, at Evelyn's House in Creve Coeur, MO.

He was born on Sunday, September 24, 1961, in Jacksonville, FL, the son of Donald and Linda (nee Garris) Hackle.

On Friday, March 28, 2008, he married Janet M. Schumacher Hackle (nee Byrnes) at Edwardsville, IL, who survives.

Born at Jacksonville, FL; grew up in the Macon, GA area and graduated from Central High School, Macon, GA. He graduated from the University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, GA, in 1983, (BA in History) and was the commander of the Blue Ridge Rifles (college drill team), and a member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and the Scabbard & Blade military fraternity. He later received a Master Degree in Political Science from Troy State University, AL.

In 1983 he served active duty with the US Army, he was a graduate of, Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course, Ft. Benning, GA and Army Aviation School, Ft. Rucker, GA. He was active service in Desert Storm with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment; later Battalion Commander at Ft. Knox, KY and retired after 22 years as a Lt Col.

He worked at Ft. Leavenworth, KS and later at Scott Air Force Base, IL, as an analyst. He enjoyed reading, blogging, Batman, baseball, running marathons, and being engaged in politics.

Survivors include:

Wife - Janet M. Schumacher Hackle (nee Byrnes), Collinsville, IL

Son - Michael E. Hackle, Smyrna, GA

Son - Aaron M. (Jessica) Schumacher, Saint Jacob, IL

Son - Evan L. (Katie) Schumacher, Jefferson City, MO

Grandchild - Jack Donald Schumacher, Saint Jacob, IL

Brother - Martin (Amy) Hackle, Goldsboro, NC

Sister - Robin (Paul) Lindblad, Durham, NC

Former Wife - Kathleen C. (Jeffrey) Flanger (nee Cowart), Carrollton, GA

Mother In-Law - Cheryl J. Byrnes, Saint Jacob, IL.

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Donald G. Hackle

Mother - Linda M. Hackle (nee Garris)

Father In-Law - Garrett J. Byrnes.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Evelyn's House, Creve Coeur, Missouri.

Private Visitation and Funeral Service will be at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Private Interment Service at Highland City Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Full Military Honors at the graveside service by the Lee Iten Post 439-American Legion and VFW Post 5694, Highland, IL.

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Lee's passing. I worked with him at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas as a member of a Military Exercise Planning Team. Lee was smart, hard working and funny (all the traits you want in a team mate). He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go to Lee's family.

Joe Pace

Joe Pace - August 18, 2020 at 07:59 AM

KC

“ Rest well, my friend and neighbor. I hope you and "Teddy" can enjoy an easy chair in Heaven. Our deepest condolences to Janet, Michael, and all of Lee's family. Your next door neighbors in Leavenworth. Ken and Sandra Church

Kenneth J. Church - June 26, 2020 at 10:25 AM

HC

“ I knew Lee as my neighbor and friend in Leavenworth, Kansas. Janet and I quickly became friends and the three of us could talk about gardening, our dogs, our families, and just about anything together. Lee was always so kind to me and he and Janet encouraged me as I returned to work and to a university program after experiencing some health issues. Lee would take the time to ask about my life changes and decisions, which I appreciated.  
Lee's accomplished career in the military demonstrated his hard work ethic, discipline, and certainly his love for his country which he proudly served. I will miss him and was saddened to hear of his passing. My love and prayers go out to Janet, to Michael, and to all of Lee's family.  
Hannah Church

Hannah Church - June 25, 2020 at 11:37 PM

SU

“ We are devastated of Lee's passing this week. We understood that Lee was getting better and that's why he relocated away from KUMC. Lee was a funny and knowledgeable mentor who always provided for his Soldiers. I knew Lee for three years from Northrup Grumman, but we became great friends because of our similar circumstances with family/Army/work/health. He'll be missed by the Updike Family. We'd send flowers or provide a contribution to ALA/AKF/ACS but I truly believe Lee would say provide to the Soldiers. We will provide a healthy contribution to the USO and AER in his memory. RIP brother. Sustinendum Victoriam!

Steve and Heidi Updike - June 23, 2020 at 09:13 PM

CA

“ It was sometime in late 1995, Giebelstadt, Germany when I received a call from the brigade headquarters that they had a Major inbound and they wanted to assign him as my executive officer, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, V Corps. I wanted my own Soldier, hand picked to take the position, but I was overruled by the Brigade Commander. The new Major was Donald L. Hackle.

*Was I ever wrong! Lee and I became fast friends and he was immediately recognized for his management skills, staff coordination talent, discipline, honor, integrity, and total loyalty to the organization and the Army. Lee was one of the best Soldier I ever served with in a thirty-nine year career. Army Aviation and the community of Soldiers from the past and present will miss him greatly.*

*I want Janet, Michael, Robin, and the rest of Lee's family and extended family to know that all who knew Lee will miss him greatly. Lee's passing is a great loss for not only the family but also for Army Aviation. Aim High and Rest in Peace Brother. We will miss you, but will never forget you. Donald L. Hackle was my friend.*

*Christopher Acker  
Colonel, Aviation (Retired)*

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**Christopher Acker** - June 23, 2020 at 12:52 PM

MW

“ Lee was the most even tempered, good-natured, funny guy I've ever worked with. He took everything in stride. His loss will be felt for quite a while by the people he worked with. I will miss seeing him. There is nothing that will ease his loss for his family, but I guess God decided it was time for him to come home. I am so sorry for your loss.

*"Mary Winger"*

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**Mary T Winger** - June 23, 2020 at 10:54 AM

RC

“ None of us of aviators associated with Northrop Grumman at Fort Leavenworth, KS, knew of Lee's serious illness or that he was under hospice care, so his death came as quite a shock to all of us.

*Our prayers are with all his family and friends, as we mourn his passing.  
Rod & Victoria CORDT*

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**Rod & Victoria CORDT** - June 23, 2020 at 06:07 AM

CA

“ Chris & Nicki Acker purchased the Healing & Hope Sympathy Basket for the family of Donald L. "Lee" Hackle.



Chris & Nicki Acker - June 22, 2020 at 10:04 PM

MT

“ Mission Assurance Team purchased the With Distinction for the family of Donald L. "Lee" Hackle.



Mission Assurance Team - June 22, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Donald L. "Lee" Hackle.



June 22, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald L. "Lee" Hackle.



June 22, 2020 at 12:42 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald L. "Lee" Hackle.



June 22, 2020 at 11:29 AM

JW

“ My sympathy to the family and loved ones. May God be with you at this difficult time <3

June Williams - June 22, 2020 at 11:00 AM

AJ

“ I'm still trying to process the news of Lee's death. He was such a great friend in college and I always enjoyed talking to him and laughing with him. I will always remember him like he was in those days! I hope Lee's family will realize how many lives he touched -- in college, he was always well-respected (except during the Pi Kap toga parties) and went out of his way to make others feel comfortable in difficult situations. As the commander of the Blue Ridge Rifles, he showed a tremendous of flexible leadership in dealing with a group of guys who could not afford to make a mistake in their performances. I am sure that these qualities extended far beyond college life and into his military career and family life. I pray that you will be comforted by many pleasant memories and remember this: we never really lose someone if we know where they are.



Allison Smith Jones - June 22, 2020 at 12:23 AM

SE

“ I always enjoyed time with the Hackle family. Grateful that Lee, Janet and Micheal joined our Schumacher float trips on the Black River in Lesterville, MO. Do you remember when Pete and his pet skunk held your "wedding ceremony." He was willing to go along with our fun. He always had a delightful charming story to share that made me laugh. I am sorry for your loss of this charming eloquent man with a beautiful smile. Prayers of comfort for your family. Love your niece, Shirley

Shirley Emerson - June 21, 2020 at 08:39 PM

GF

“ As a 14 year old high school sophomore, I relied heavily on upperclassman Junior Lee Hackle for JROTC leadership, mentor ship, and showing me the ropes. He did just that, all the while maintaining a superior level of coolness and just a slight hint of superiority. Like most teenagers of the era, he knew when could exercise it and when he shouldn't. But even back in those halcyon days of Junior ROTC, he seemed destined for The military- his blogs over the years indicated someone who perhaps wandered aimlessly at times, but I don't think that was the case. By his senior year, he had decided in North Ga College, had a job at the local Piggly Wiggly, and had his own automobile, an oil burning white Vega with Red and Blue pinstripes. He wore mirrored sunglasses and advised me how to get dates with girls. The confidence Lee exhibited obviously served him well through college as well as a lifelong Army career- certainly as an Army aviator God knows how all those guys and gals are!

While I eventually caught up with Lee in the early 00s, and then daily via Social media, I became aware of his issues in life, none of which he tried to hide or run away from. Honest and forthright in all aspects, he and I spoke on the phone a couple of occasions , And he told it like he saw it. He welcomed any debate on nearly any topic. He had an opinion and he wasn't a bit timid in stating it. I saw this in high school and also years later. I don't think he really changed that much, but just gathered a lot more perspective. And somewhere along the way he became BATMAN. I had spoken to him on the phone twice in recent years, the most recent about 6 weeks ago when he wants to ask me about an upcoming security clearance interview. I told him regardless of any bumps in his road, he was not a threat to National Security but rather a credit to it. He was a cocky sometimes smartass who would do most anything for anybody. His friends family and fellow Soldiers Know what a positive influence he was in whatever capacity he served. He will be missed. I liked him a lot and he isn't someone who will be forgotten. For the record, I never took his advice regarding girls. I wish now that I did. Rest In Peace Lee Hackle.

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**george fisher** - June 21, 2020 at 07:26 PM

 Rusty Williams

“ I first met Lee when I was 17 at North Georgia College, in 1985. He was a great inspiration to me and helped to guide me to be the man I am today. I will forever regard Lee as a friend and look forward to our reunion in Heaven.

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**Rusty Williams** - June 21, 2020 at 07:04 PM

SB

“ I was Lee's step mom for 6 years. After his father and I divorced he would still call me to see how I was doing. He is so thoughtful, kind and compassionate. He had a brilliant mind. I loved him like my son and I am so sad to know he has passed away. He will be missed so much.. Love to Janet ,her family and Michael his handsome son as well as extended family and sons. Love to all Stella

Stella Blazier - June 21, 2020 at 06:18 PM

MB

“ Lee was a treasured friend, a soldier's soldier. He was loyal, witty & one of my "go to" people for his expertise on current events. I'll miss you Lee. Blue & Gray, All the Way! I led my congregation twice in prayer for him & your family during this season of sorrow.

Michael Bell - June 21, 2020 at 04:46 PM

MM

“ I met him on the afternoon of Sep. 23, 1982. He was a senior and I was a "FROG" - a freshman private - at North Georgia College. I doubt I shall ever forget that.

Mark McCall - June 21, 2020 at 02:07 PM

LW

“ Lee "Buddy" Hackle and I were Tapped in Spring of 1983 and went through the NGC Scabbard & Blade initiation together! Lee was my Buddy and we helped each other get through the honor of becoming a part of the Honorary Military Society at NGC! On the 5 Stars, Lee!  
CEFLO!  
Margaret and I were able to see Lee and Janet as they gave us a ride from the Kansas City Airport a few years ago. We had lunch together and it was a joy to meet and catch up on our lives. It was very nice to meet Janet and he was lucky to have her by his side for sure!  
I regret not staying in touch over the years, but I will always appreciate Lee and what he meant in my life. Gone Bless Lee, Janet and all of his family. ★★★★★  
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Laurence Brian WatsonSr - June 21, 2020 at 01:13 PM

LW

God Bless Lee and Janet.

Laurence Brian WatsonSr - June 22, 2020 at 11:44 PM

CS

“ Rest easy Col, we have the watch. We'll miss your insight and acerbic wit. The light of the world is dimmer for the loss of you.



Cille Shaner - June 21, 2020 at 11:36 AM

PS

“ It is with sadness that I read about Lee's passing. He was one of the "good guys. In college, as in the Army, Lee was such an enthusiastic leader. motivator, and overall good friend " I'll miss his views, but his memories are a lifetime. His posts will live on. May Lee now rest in peace without pain or suffering. Watch down on us and help protect America!

Pat Suggs - June 21, 2020 at 10:53 AM

RS

“ I got to know Lee a lot more these last few years than I knew him in school. Articulate and politically astute, and a pleasure to communicate with. His departure is our collective loss. RIP, my brother...

Rick Spearman - June 21, 2020 at 10:08 AM

DB

“ He and I were the last of The Sage Graybeards of Multiply. I'm going to truly miss his wit and humor. God Bless you Lee, and thank you so much for being my Friend. Love you Man!!

David Beswick - June 21, 2020 at 09:26 AM

Rose Beswick

“ Our thoughts & prayers to Janet & the family.



Rose Beswick - June 21, 2020 at 09:10 AM