



Merlin Lee Eley

May 9, 1937 - June 13, 2024

Merlin L. "Lee" Eley, age 87 of Highland, IL, died Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Highland, IL.

He was born on Sunday, May 9, 1937, in Lakeview, OH, the son of Merlin and Mildred (nee Swonger) Eley.

On Saturday, February 13, 2021, he married Mary A. Pieck in Highland, Illinois, who survives.

He was a member of Masonic Lodge, Shriners, and Troy Methodist Club.

Lee grew up in Lakeview, Ohio area. He graduated from Ohio Northern College, and served in the U.S. Army in Germany with the tank crew. He worked for Van Horn Funeral Home at age 16, Air Stream for five years, and Dow Chemical for 30 years. He has lived in Ohio; Michigan; Buffalo, New York; and moved to Highland in 1973. He retired in 2007 as plant manager. In retirement, he would winter in a village in Florida. His hobbies included golfing at Carlyle Lake Golf Club, watching the Ohio State Buckeyes and St. Louis Cardinals Baseball, reading sports books, newspapers, novels and biographies. He loved having a good cigar, every now and again. He was great at captivating a large crowd with his jokes. He also had a collection of Ohio State memorabilia.

Survivors include:

Wife - Mary A. Harrington-Eley, nee Pieck

Daughter - Alisa N. Gunter, Highland, IL

Son - Alan L. (Fran) Eley, Highland, IL

Son - Andrew C. Eley, Highland, IL

Step Daughter - Elizabeth R. (Stan) Westjohn, Tuscaloosa, AL

Step Daughter - Laura C. (Jeff) Hettinger, Spring Hill, TN

Grandchild - Donny (Jill) Gunter

Grandchild - Catherine (Casey) Adolph

Grandchild - Lindsay (Joe) Belobraydic

Grandchild - Kymberly (Keith) Rakers

Step Grandchild - Max (Riley) Westjohn

Step Grandchild - Ford Westjohn

Step Grandchild - Olivia Hettinger

Great Grandchild - Destiny (Significant Other Gabby) Adolph

Great Grandchild - Maddison (Greg) Urbanc

Great Grandchild - Reagan Adolph

Great Grandchild - Landon Gunter

Great Grandchild - Alan Adolph

Great Grandchild - Olivia Adolph

Great Grandchild - Colton Snow

Great Grandchild - William Adolph

Great Grandchild - Luke Gunter

Great Grandchild - Michael Adolph

Great Grandchild - Rylie Gunter

Great Grandchild - Paislee Rakers

Step Great Grandchild - George Westjohn

Great Great Grandchild - Elliana Urbanc

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Merlin F. "Bus" Eley

Mother - Mildred L. Eley, nee Swonger

First Wife - Mary E. Eley, nee Kapp - Died 5/08/2007

Step Grandchild - Benjamin Harrington - Died 4/28/2020

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

A Celebration of Life will be held at Cedarhurst of Highland on Sunday, June 30, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Highland Area Christian Service Ministry or Metro East Humane Society.

Tribute Wall

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“ *RITA RINDERER lit a candle in memory of
Merlin Eley* ”



RITA RINDERER - June 14, 2024 at 02:31 PM