



Lee Araps

July 20, 1935 - April 6, 2021

Lee Araps, 85, of Mooresville, NC, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, April 6th surrounded by the love of his family.

Son to Frank and Thekla Araps, Lee was the youngest of five. He graduated from Asbury Park High School, where he played center for the varsity football team, served as class treasurer and was voted Class Optimist / Best Natured. It was during these years that Lee developed his culinary skills at the family beachfront restaurant and recognized his love of fishing and gardening.

He embarked on a 34-year distinguished career in telecommunications with New Jersey Bell. He started as a Splicer/Lineman, while attending night school at Rutgers University. He was promoted into management and progressed through leadership roles in Operations, Labor Relations, and Finance during his tenure with the company.

Lee married Meryl in 1960, and most recently they celebrated a lifetime of love and dedication with their 60th wedding anniversary. Together they raised four children in Monmouth County, NJ. In the late sixties, they discovered the beauty of central Maine, where together he and Meryl built a cabin on a lake. For Lee, it was a true joy to share this little slice of heaven with close friends and family.

Lee and Meryl moved to North Carolina for their retirement years and no matter where they were, it was always home. During these years, they enjoyed golfing, traveling, and spending time with their grandchildren. These years allowed Lee to dive into his woodworking hobby, leaving his family with many handcrafted treasures to cherish.

Lee served as a model of integrity, commitment, and passion for every endeavor he undertook. Through his example, he taught his children and grandchildren that anything is possible with vision and hard work. Lee leaves a legacy of a bonded loving family, rich traditions, a strong work ethic, a generous heart, and a life truly well lived.

Lee is predeceased by his parents; his brothers Thomas Araps and George Araps; his sisters Irene Peterson and Anastasia Petrow. He is survived by his beloved wife Meryl Araps; his children Stephen Araps and wife Eileen, Diane Araps, Lauren Spatig and George Araps; his grandchildren Samantha Lenz and husband David Lenz, Alexandra Barteldt, Michael Araps, Andrea Spatig, and Emma Spatig; and his loving extended family of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 6 - 8 PM, Friday, April 16th, 2021, at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville. Funeral services will be held at 10 AM, Saturday, April 17th, 2021, at St Luke Greek Orthodox Church, 134 Talbert Pointe Dr, Mooresville, NC 28117.

Burial will follow the service at Glenwood Memorial Park, Mooresville.

For those who are unable to attend the church service, you may go to <https://www.facebook.com/stlukemoorerville/>

For those who are unable to attend the graveside, you may go to the following link for the live stream <https://www.facebook.com/CavinCookFuneralHomeServices/>

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Protection of the Holy Virgin Monastery, 2343 County Road 403; PO Box 416; Lake George, CO 80827.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the Araps family.
Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Glenwood Memorial Park

273 Glenwood Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

APR 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Funeral Service

APR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church
134 Talbert Pointe Dr.
Mooresville, NC 28117

Tribute Wall

VS

“ *My earliest and fondest memories are the backyard barbecues at Uncle Lee’s house. Whether first cousins, or first cousins- all cousins, Greek style! I loved the feeling of belonging. Hearing stories of relatives that were before my time, I felt like I knew them myself! Uncle Lee, always with Aunt Meryl by his side, were at many of my violin performances growing up. Whether it meant a trip to Flemington NJ, or to Juilliard in New York City, there he was! His smiling face and twinkling eyes are very clear in my mind’s eye. May his memory be eternal!* ”

Virginia Barnes (Ginny Sorrentino) - April 17, 2021 at 09:45 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Lee Araps.* ”



April 16, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lee Araps.* ”



April 15, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lee Araps.* ”



April 14, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ *Steve's Work Team purchased the Tranquil Seas for the family of Lee Araps.* ”



Steve's Work Team - April 14, 2021 at 12:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lee Araps.* ”



April 13, 2021 at 11:07 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lee Araps.* ”



April 11, 2021 at 03:25 PM

KS

“ Dear Araps Family,

We are so very sorry for your loss but are fortunate to have had a lifetime of great memories with your dad and your entire family. We like to remember him doing the things that he loved - watching the kids in Maine go water skiing, riding his Kubota around the woods and tending to one of the best vegetable gardens on the lake. He is already missed!!

Love to you all!

The Schwab Family



Kathy Schwab - April 10, 2021 at 07:08 PM

MM

Dear Steve and Araps family. My brother Mike Poppre passed on your Dad's obituary. Prayers said for all of you. Such fond memories growing up on Fulton Place Shark River Hills. Love to you all. Mary Poppre Billman

Mary Billman. Me - April 10, 2021 at 08:40 PM

EW

Lee was so very special to me and I'm very grateful to have had the opportunities to talk with him over the past few years when he shared with me memories of my Dad and Mom. You are such a beautiful family. Seeing how you have all surrounded your Dad and Mom with so much love and caring during these past difficult months has touched me deeply. May God bring you comfort as you always carry precious memories of him in your hearts.

Evie Pakas Williams

Evie Pakas Williams - April 13, 2021 at 07:08 PM

PC

Steve, we did not know your father but we know you. You are a tribute and an extension of that great man that walked before you. We are truly sorry for such a great loss in your family and pray that you all will find peace and solace in the fact that Lee is at rest with no more pain and no more sorrow. May God bless you and your family. -Steve's Work Team at Customs & Border Protection.

Pamela Chamblin - April 14, 2021 at 12:46 PM