



Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier

February 1, 1921 - April 17, 2017

Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier was born on February 1, 1921, in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, to Joseph and Josephine Gauthier as the fourth of nine children. He spent his childhood living on both sides of the border, moving between New York State and Canada. He became a US citizen in 1953 and lived in many parts of the US, including Boston, MA; Tonawanda, NY; Fairfax, VA; Sarasota and Bradenton, FL; and Centreville, MD.

He was a mathematical physicist, graduating second in his class with his Bachelor's degree in Engineering and Physics from McGill University in 1947. He earned a Master's degree and completed doctoral studies (opting not to write his dissertation) at New York State University. Always honoring education, he established in 2009 the HGI Watson Memorial Prize at McGill for an undergraduate student in Engineering and Physics. He worked on development of the microwave oven, radar, and missile guidance. He was owner and CEO of the engineering and architectural design consulting firm Gauthier Alvarado & Associates in Washington, DC which performed work in many areas of the world.

In his later years, Lee taught computer classes in the national SeniorNet organization chapter in Sarasota, and with his wife Jean enjoyed lots of social activity with the Country Club, French Club, Dancing Club, etc. Together they traveled to numerous foreign countries around the world, and he maintained

ties to the French communities in the USA and Canada carrying on the tradition started by his ancestors who arrived in New France in the 1650's from Normandy and Brittany. Lee often surprised his family by embarking on new adventures including equestrian and sailing activities; he was a grand story-teller and enjoyed a good glass of Bordeaux wine -- entertaining us often during his ever-popular happy hour.

He married Jean Alison Christie in 1944, his wife of 66 years, and was a loving and devoted companion with her throughout his life. He is predeceased by his wife, Jean, and is survived by his five children, Paul, Sharon, Catherine, Raymond, Lauren; his seven grandchildren, Brandon, Nathan, Autumn, Shea, Devin, Collin and Kendra, and his five great-grandchildren, Ansel, Coraline, Huxley, Maggie, and Madeleine. He took great pride in the success, accomplishments, and independence of the entire family.

He was a marvelous companion to his wife and will now join her to travel the byways of the Great Forever – Together as always. May they rest together in peace.

Family remembrance service will be held on Friday, April 21.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Sending our heartfelt sorrow to the Gauthier family. We will be praying for your family.*

*Love and Prayers,
Kenneth and Shirley Harms*

Shirley Harms - April 25, 2017 at 10:30 AM



“ *Uncle Lee, was a gentle kind caring man who loved family. He will truly be missed by us. Our memories of him are fond and will always have a special place in our hearts. Our sincere condolences,
Cindy Brzezowski & Jean Riley*

Cindy & Jean - April 20, 2017 at 06:16 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.



April 20, 2017 at 04:05 PM



“ *The Jevne family purchased the Joyful Memory* for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.



The Jevne family - April 20, 2017 at 01:53 PM



“ *The Paul Gauthier Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray* for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.



The Paul Gauthier Family - April 20, 2017 at 08:03 AM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.



April 20, 2017 at 05:26 AM

HS

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Gauthier family, with the passing of Lee.*

I still and always will remember how he and Jean helped me (us) to build a new life here in the US.

Their wonderful hospitality and nurturing support was so genuine and always made me feel accepted and at home.

This counts for the entire Gauthier Family who managed to introduce me to "the American Way" with a side of French, Irish and Canadian flavors. I still remember that mint jelly is not a condiment for Thanksgiving dinner.

The opportunities he created to get me launched on a professional career path shaped my life here and I'm very thankful for that.

I remember our dinner conversations to always have a higher intellectual level.

He would be able to approach topics from very different angles and be an advocate for keeping an open mind and avoid prejudice thinking.

He also amazed me that he could watch a little ball, indiscernibly and seemingly endlessly flying across a blue, or worse, cloudy sky to disappear in the grass in some far distance. His enjoyment for watching golf did not rub off.

Au revoir en heel hartelijk dank,

Henk Sterenberg

Henk Sterenberg - April 20, 2017 at 05:02 AM

JR

“ Uncle Lee, intelligent, articulate and elegant in demeanor , could have been rather intimidating to me, his shy niece, when I was a child. But he was so easy to talk with and always listened to whatever I had to say with careful attention. I will always be indebted to him for steering me away from a poor career choice as a young adult.

I remember fondly a visit my husband Dan and I made to see Uncle Lee and Aunt Jean in Florida in 2005. He was the ever gracious host, conversing easily on many different topics all the while grilling steaks for dinner. Uncle Larry, Cathy and Guy were there that evening too and I have some very nice photos to help me remember that very enjoyable evening.

He was a wonderful big brother to my mom who enjoyed their phone calls immensely, but particularly later in life when they were a great comfort to her.

Lee had a wonderful smile and an enviable joie de vivre throughout his long life.

Patti Riley

I have always thought of Uncle Lee as the patriarch of the family after Père passed. He was the “glue” that kept the larger Gauthier family together. Uncle Lee was very proud of his heritage and his immediate and extended family. Despite his many accomplishments, he was humble and comfortable in any setting. Uncle Lee took a sincere interest in his many nephews and nieces – he once told me to never apologize for being ambitious, that I had come from a long line of strong and independent women. To this day he applauded my work as a nurse and that it was meeting a definite need.

I will miss our phone conversations and his absolute zest for life and all it offers. I will remember him every day when I pour myself “un petit coup”.

Jean Riley





Jean & Patti Riley - April 19, 2017 at 03:03 PM

EF

“ *Edwina (Gauthier) Plasse and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.*



Edwina (Gauthier) Plasse and Family - April 19, 2017 at 12:05 PM

EP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Edwina Plasse - April 18, 2017 at 07:31 PM

EP

“ *With deepest condolences from Edwina (Gauthier) Plasse and family.*



Edwina Plasse - April 18, 2017 at 07:31 PM

RM

“ Rob & Robin Morris purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.



Rob & Robin Morris - April 18, 2017 at 06:31 PM

VN

“ Vanderpool, Frostick & Nishanian purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.



Vanderpool, Frostick & Nishanian - April 18, 2017 at 03:10 PM

FF

“ From the late Joseph Edward Gauthier family. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.



From the late Joseph Edward Gauthier family. - April 18, 2017 at 02:47 PM

JG

“ Joseph & Regina Gauthier purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.



Joseph & Regina Gauthier - April 18, 2017 at 01:15 PM

GT

“ *Gauthier Family in Texas purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.*



Gauthier Family in Texas - April 18, 2017 at 01:06 PM

GI

“ *Gauthier, Alvarado & Associates, Inc. purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.*



Gauthier, Alvarado & Associates, Inc. - April 18, 2017 at 10:14 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph LéoPaul Gauthier.*



April 18, 2017 at 08:23 AM

EA

“ Lee was irrepensible. Irrepensible in learning, teaching, entrepreneurship, fellowship and love of family. He was in constant search of knowledge for betterment. For all those qualities, it was that he was a mentor to so many persons, some of which he may not have known that he had a profound influence on. And to all, the lessons were always delivered with great comradeship and good humor.

His believe of the contribution of family to the whole person extended to younger associates' families, and there was no better example than that of his own family. A family that he and his beloved Jean raised to be exceptional individuals with exemplary accomplishments of their own.

Lee's favorite song was "La Vie en Rose". He, however, did not view life through rose-colored glasses, for he saw issues to address, work to be done, problems to solve, friends to cultivate, fun to be had, and more. And to each he provided an elegant solution.

Ed Alvarado

ed alvarado - April 17, 2017 at 08:28 PM