



Leon Sabin Monroe II

August 30, 1936 - February 11, 2016

Leon “Lee” Sabin Monroe II, 79, passed from earthly paradise into eternal Heaven on February 11, 2016 due to a recent illness caused by severe pulmonary disease. Leon was born in Lansing, Michigan on August 30, 1936 the only child of Leon Sabin Monroe Sr. and Myrtle Rice Monroe. Lee grew up in East Lansing graduating from East Lansing High School in 1954. He attended the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Design for two years and transferred to Michigan State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1959 majoring in banking and finance. Lee was a member of Delta Chi Fraternity at MSU. He was a 1974 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Graduate School of Banking.

While at MSU, Lee earned a commission in the U S Army Reserve through ROTC. For two years he served on active duty as Assistant Adjutant General of the Military District of Washington in Alexandria, Virginia. Returning to Michigan, he began his 26 year career with Michigan National Bank in Lansing. He transferred to the Charlotte Office and attained the rank of Senior Vice President and Charlotte Director. He completed his banking career in the Lansing Office. Later, Lee was an employee of Eaton County for eight years, as Housing Grant Administrator, assisting low-income homeowners in making their homes more energy efficient.

Lee met and fell in love with Carol Baxter and they were married at First

Congregational Church in Charlotte on September 29, 1979. He has been active in the church having served as Treasurer and on several boards and committees.

Living in Charlotte for 45 years, Lee was active in many community affairs. For over 25 years he served on the Charlotte Planning Commission; was 1979 General Chairman of Charlotte Frontier Days; a Rotarian for 30 years and a Paul Harris Fellow. He was also involved in the formation of several not-for-profit organizations. He was a founding director and Treasurer of Eaton Community Hospice, now Eaton Community Palliative Care; a founding director and Past President of Housing Services for Eaton County, now Housing Services Mid-Michigan; and founding director and Treasurer of House of Ruth, a home for developmentally disabled men.

Lee was an active freemason and a Past Master and 50 year member of Charlotte Lodge #120 F&AM; Past Commander, Treasurer and life member of Lansing Commandery #25, Knights Templar. He was a long-standing member of the Commandery's Triennial Drill Team where the team won a national championship in 1982; the team also placed 2nd and 3rd several times in national competitions. He served the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan as Deputy Instructor General for six years. He was a 32nd degree mason, was a former officer and trustee of Dewitt Clinton Consistory -Scottish Rite, Shriner and member of the Royal Court of Jesters. Lee was also a proud member of Clan Munro Association and attended several Clan Munro gatherings in the United States and Scotland.

Carol and Lee wintered for a number of years outside of Tucson, Arizona where they had a home on the Sonoran Desert overlooking the Tucson Mountain range. A Church Home was of great importance and they became long-time active associate members of Church of the Painted Hills, UCC, where Lee had served as Clerk and trustee.

Leon is predeceased by his parents; father-in-law, Hubert Baxter; mother-in-law, Loretta Hofmann (Jake); several cousins, Patricia Monroe Carrigan, William (Suzanne) Monroe, Robert (Cathy) Graf, Richard (Madalyn) Greenburg, and Sharon (Wayne) Hoskins. He is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Carol; godchild and honorary daughter, Suzanne (Alan) Monroe-Young; brothers-in-law Ralph (Barbara) Baxter and James (Rose) Baxter, and sister-in-law Jane Farrer; aunt Joan Geise; nieces and nephews Audrey Baxter, Keith (Dawn) Baxter, Jeane (Matthew) Zimmie, Susan Baxter and James (Jenny) Baxter; and several great nieces and nephews; cousins, William (Sue) Monroe, Mary (Art) McCann, Barbara (John) McGinnis, and William Coleman.

A sincere note of gratitude to "T" for the special and wonderful care she gave to Lee during his illness.

A celebration of life service will be held at First Congregational Church of Charlotte, UCC, 106 S. Bostwick Street, Charlotte on February 15, 2016 with Rev. Phil Hobson officiating. Visitation will be at Pray Funeral Home, 401 W. Seminary Street, Charlotte on Sunday, February 14, 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm and at the Church one hour before the service. In lieu of flowers, Leon wishes that you consider supporting Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center, 135 S. Washington Street, Charlotte, MI 48813; First Congregational Church of Charlotte; House of Ruth, 625 Tirrell Rd, Charlotte, MI 48813, or the charity of your choice. The family is being served by Pray Funeral Home. Please share memories of Leon on his tribute page at www.PrayFuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Charlotte
106 S. Bostwick
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

FEB **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Charlotte
106 S. Bostwick
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Our hearts break with the news of Lee's passing and finding the words to express our sadness is impossible. Still, we have so many wonderful memories of joy, laughter and celebration that it reminds us in this darkness that we are so grateful to have shared much time together. We - my brother Steve McNiven, my sister Christine Daniels and myself Joan Helson - were so blessed to have the family of choosing in Lee and Carol Monroe, long time friends of my parents. Many visits to our parents' home in Halifax, Nova Scotia, especially for Christmas holidays, will always be among the fondest memories for us. How could we forget the time Carol and Lee flew from Charlotte to Halifax wearing elf hats, greeting us at the door with festive apparel that received so many smiles en route to our house. We remember always rearranging the Christmas decorations that spelled out "NOEL", because they were supposed to spell "LEON". We would laugh and laugh. There were so many conversations over coffee (Lee had an uncanny gift for making the best coffee). We named Carol and Lee "honorary grandparents" to our children, and the love those babies felt in the arms of our family of choosing has blessed those young hearts with a deeper understanding of what it means to give unconditionally. Perhaps my favorite memory, though, is of sitting on the patio of Carol and Lee's Tucson home, the brilliant glory of the sun setting and the sounds of the birds singing praises of the beauty of the day. In the quiet moments there, I am sure I heard Heaven say to me, "You know how lucky you are to have found these friends with hearts wider than this evening Arizona sky?". "Yes, I do." I remember saying in my soul. We are truly, truly blessed to have known Lee and to have been embraced as family. I am truly thankful for the years of friendship shared with my parents, for including us in that friendship circle, and for showing us all what unconditional love and being in the service of others means. Heaven is richer now. Though our hearts are broken, our hearts are also stronger and better for being in your presence. I know we never left a visit with Lee and Carol without the biggest hugs in the history of hugs. This is what holds us closely now. Lee you will be deeply missed by all of us. We love you.

Sincerely,

Joan Helson, Steve McNiven and Christine Daniels (children of Jane and James McNiven)

Joan Helson - February 14, 2016 at 06:12 PM

LP

“ *We are so sorry about Lee's passing. Although we haven 't been in contact recently, we will always value the friendship we had with Lee (and Carol, too). He was truly a genuine friend whom we respected greatly. Leonard valued Lee's wisdom in his capacity as a director within Eaton County government. Marilyn will be forever grateful for Lee's special friendship to her brother, Dan Goff. Lee did much to make this world as better place. We both sent our most sincere condolences.*

Leonard and Marilyn Peters

Leonard & Marilyn Peters - February 14, 2016 at 03:48 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leon Sabin Monroe II.*



February 13, 2016 at 08:36 AM

JM

“ We were very saddened by the news about Lee. He and Carol have been great friends of ours for many decades. We shared a lot of laughs and experiences together. Lee was a very special person, kind and always positive. Many know that he had great financial expertise and used his talent in the service of many different charitable organizations. We had great times together in Boston and New York City, as well as in Arizona.

There are few people who leave this world having the reputation for all-around goodness. Lee is one of them, which is why so many of us who knew him will miss him so very much.

Jane and Jim McNiven

Halifax NS, Canada

Jane and Jim McNiven - February 12, 2016 at 09:03 PM

HS

“ *Housing Services Mid Michigan Board of Directors and Staff purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Leon Sabin Monroe II.*



Housing Services Mid Michigan Board of Directors and Staff
- February 12, 2016 at 02:59 PM