



## Joe Lee French

July 30, 1938 - December 5, 2021

Joseph Lee French, 83, of Saint Albans WV, passed away Sunday December 5, 2021 at Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice, Huntington WV.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents: Samuel Clyde and Hope Reighner French; four brothers: Tom, Bobby, Sam, and Bill; one sister: Joyce; and a grandson: Zaine Nelson.

Joe served our country in the WV Air National Guard and retired as Deputy Chief with the 130th Airlift Wing Fire Department after 27 years of service. He retired as a Captain with St. Albans Fire Dept. after 22 years on the job, where he also served as Fire Chief for the City of St. Albans. He was an adjunct instructor for WV University Fire Service and WV State University.

He survived by his daughters: Misi (Rob) Savage and Paige (Shawn) Johnson; six grandchildren: Kaleb French, Taylor (Cody) Forbes, Kaitlyn Savage, Austin Savage, Brennan (Allison Maynard) Nelson, and Cooper Nelson; and three great grandchildren.

In Lieu of flowers, family asked that memorial donations be made in Joe's late Grandson's memory through: Zaine's Room at Cabell Huntington Hospital NICU, CHHE Federal Credit Union, 1204 Hal Greer Blvd., Huntington, WV 25701 please ensure that the memo line reads: Zaine's Fund acct 6071.

A Celebration of Life, will be 1:00pm Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021 at Humphreys Memorial United Methodist Church, 7799 Coal River Road, Tornado WV 25202.

Anyone wishing to leave an online condolence may do so by visiting his tribute page at:

[www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com).

Chapman Funeral Home, 3941 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane WV is honored to handle Joe's arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Humphreys Memorial United Methodist Church  
Tornado, WV

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joe Lee French*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *I worked with Joe many years, hated to hear about his passing. I am unable to attend services, my condolences to the family.*

**Mark Beane** - December 11, 2021 at 01:33 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joe Lee French.*



December 10, 2021 at 01:30 PM



“ *My husband and I met him through the Moose club, he was alot of fun and will be missed greatly at the veterans breakfasts. So sorry for the family's loss*

**Vivian Binford** - December 09, 2021 at 06:07 PM



“ *Jeremy French purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Joe Lee French.*



**Jeremy French** - December 09, 2021 at 09:41 AM



“ Misi, Paige, all of the wonderful grand kids, family and friends of Joe Lee French. Milly and I send our most heart felt condolences and love to the entire Family of such a Magnanimous man, sterling and honorable example for others to follow. Although he has departed the earth and has ascended to heaven, his lessons, smile and memories will ensure that our hearts are full of goodness and fond memories. May you all find strength, peace and comfort in the loving faith & warmth of God, community, and Family.

w/sincere love,  
Jeremy T., Milly, Stephanie & Carolina French

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**Jeremy French** - December 09, 2021 at 09:22 AM

RP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. It was a pleasure to have met “Mr. Joe” over the years. Love and Prayers for peace and comfort in the days ahead.  
Len and Robyn Picha

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**Robyn Picha** - December 08, 2021 at 08:54 PM

CE

“ Joe and I went way back. We went to school together and when our graduating class had reunions he was always helping put them together. If anyone didn't pay their fee, he would let them know at the reunion. We had mutual friends. We always looked for him at Summer Fest in SC as he was always there. I'm saying goodbye for two of our friends that have passed along, Betty and Ralph Cottrell as we did so many things together.  
I'll miss you Joe...already do.  
Carolyn Kapp Ewart

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**Carolyn Kapp Ewart** - December 08, 2021 at 11:19 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,  
  
May your memories of Joseph Lee French, give you peace, comfort and strength...  
  
Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.  
My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....  
  
US Air National Guard Veteran, Joseph Lee French, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†  
  
† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - December 08, 2021 at 03:03 AM

LC

“ *Brother Joe was a great man. I enjoyed the times that we had at West Virginia State University and our many deployments with the 130th Airlift Wing Fire Department. Joe loved the Fire Service and dedicated many hours of his time traveling to teach classes to fire departments. Joe and I played a lot of golf on our many deployments and anytime that he would lose a golf ball he would come get one out of my golf bag. I loved razzing him about it and he would just laugh.  
Brother Joe will be sadly missed by his Fire Service Brothers and Sisters. My heartfelt condolences to Misi, Paige and families. Till we meet on the other side God Be With You Brother 🙏🙏❤️*

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**Larry “Bo” Cox** - December 07, 2021 at 10:08 PM

LC

“ Thought the world of Brother Joe. Had many good times at West Virginia State University, and on our many deployments with the 130th Airlift Wing.  
Loved playing golf with Joe. Anytime that we played and he would lose a ball he would come get one out of my golf bag. Loved riding him over that. Joe will be sorely missed by his Fire Service Brothers and Sisters. My deepest condolences to Misi, Paige and families.  
Till we meet again Brother 🙏🙏

Larry “Bo” Cox - December 07, 2021 at 09:09 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joe Lee French.



December 07, 2021 at 01:36 PM

JR

“ OH MY I AM SO VERY SORRY, I DID NOT KNOW JOE HAD BEEN SICK, A GREAT GUY AND HELPED ME A LOT WITH THE WVU MOUNTAINEER CLASSIC RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS AND ALSO VOLUNTEERING-PRAYERS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS-HE WILL BE MISSED, MAY HE REST IN PEACE

JUDY ROMANO - December 07, 2021 at 11:24 AM

BS

“ I am so blessed to have had you as a friend. We sure had some great times on the hill playing softball together. I can still hear you every time I was at the plate hollering, c'mon Bobby. Nappy, you are sure going to be missed but how grateful I am to have known you. God bless my friend.

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**Bobby Sparks** - December 07, 2021 at 10:24 AM

JC

You always had a special place in my heart Uncle Joe Lee! You will be greatly missed! Love you always and forever!

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**Judy Cain** - December 07, 2021 at 07:50 PM

TF

Misi, Paige and families: sincere condolences in the passing of your dad.

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**The Hypes Family** - December 08, 2021 at 12:09 PM

SH

“ So very sorry for your family's loss.  
Love and blessings,  
Shannon and Scott

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**Shannon** - December 07, 2021 at 10:08 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joe Lee French.



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December 07, 2021 at 07:52 AM

DA

“ Joe was our across the street neighbor for over 40 years. My dad and joe razzed each other at every turn. His nickname for my dad was “chrome dome”, he had a great sense of humor and was always good for a laugh or two. He will be missed. Prayers for Misi and Paige at this most difficult time.

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**darla** - December 07, 2021 at 05:54 AM

BM

“ Joe was a great leader, teacher, mentor and friend! Had a great time with on the hill, at camps and was always a pleasure running into him out and about. Rest easy Chief.



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**Blaine Means** - December 06, 2021 at 11:10 PM