



## Lee Clarence Gochenour

August 14, 2014

Lee Clarence Gochenour, 94, of Woodstock, VA passed from this life to his heavenly home on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital. Lee was born December 4, 1919 and was the son of Clarence Lee & Minnie Mae Wetzel Gochenour, who preceded him in death. He leaves his loving wife Louise Fox Gochenour, whom he married on June 6, 1947. He was a veteran having been drafted in 1942 and served as a Pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. Lee joined the Air Force Reserves in the 1950s, and later organized the reserves in Virginia. Lee shared, ""I've always like the government; I've always liked the military."" Lee remained in the Reserves for 23 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Lee was the Commander of the Air Reserves in Richmond, VA until his death. Lee lived in Richmond, VA for 38 years, working as the Director of IT for The Richfood Corporation, Southern States, and Farm Bureau before taking a job with Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Lee retired after 19 years of civil services at the age of 77. Lee and his brother-in-law, Gilbert Bushong founded Sunset Memorial Gardens in Woodstock 1969 and changed ownership in 1989. Lee returned to his home town of Woodstock in 1999, and became very active in his community. Lee was appointed by the Woodstock Town Manager to become the only chairman of Woodstock Economic Development Authority which he helped form in 2003. In addition to his wife, Lee is survived by his brother Linden F Gochenour and wife Mildred, and sister-in-law Marvene Gochenour. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Raymond W, and Elwood C. Gochenour.

He is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, and cousins. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 pm Saturday, August 16 at Dellinger Funeral Home in Woodstock. A Masonic Service will begin at 6 pm. A Celebration of Life service will be held at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Woodstock, VA where he was an active member, on Sunday, August 17, at 1:30 pm. Pastors Nathan Robinson and Hardy Lutz officiating. Pallbearers will be Larry Gochenour, Gerald Gochenour, Nathan Gochenour, Travis Franklin, C.M. Fox, and John Richman, Jr. Masonic Lodge 142 and Masonic Lodge 125 will gather as honorary pallbearers. Interment will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens with military rites conducted by the American Legion Post 199.

# Tribute Wall

BF

“ It is with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of Lee Gochenour. I was Director of the Computer Center at the Defense General Supply Center about 10 Miles south of Richmond, Virginia. We had recently been consolidated into Regional Computer Centers by the Defense Logistics Agency. We were tasked with adding a Security Officer to our staff. We recruited for a Security Officer and Lee Gochenour applied. He showed up in my office with his application in hand. I was quickly impressed with his attitude, energy and enthusiasm. His energy and experience as a B-17 Pilot in World War II quickly convinced me he was the right person and had the right stuff for the job. I selected him for the job. I was quickly called to the Commanding General's office. He challenged my selection of Lee and told me: "He will give us the minimum of three years and retire." My response was "So what if he does, look at the experience and quality that we will get." He repeated he did not think we should hire him. I asked if it was still my decision? He said yes and I said: He is hired, Sir! Lee did not stay the minimum three years, he stayed 19 years! He was a hard, diligent and enthusiastic worker. He will be missed. We are a little poorer for his absence and heaven is a richer place and will never be the same. God bless you Lee Gochenour. May you rest in peace with the Lord. Bill and JoAnn Finefield

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**Bill & JoAnn Finefield** - September 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ My deepest sympathy to the family, I just learned of his death yesterday and I am so sorry. He was a fine man, a good Masonic and Eastern Star Brother and he will be missed. He will sit high in the big Masonic Temple above now. God Bless with peace and comfort. Sandra Engle PM Spurmont # 64 and WM Front Royal # 6 OES

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**Sandra Engle** - August 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ Louise, Linden and family, please accept our sincere condolences. Lee was a gentleman , unsung her0, and a great American patriot. Lee will always be in our memories for all the great things we know he has done and especially for just being Lee. Sorry we could not attend the services as we were out of town. May he rest in peace and may God bless him.

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**Erma & Jessie Granier** - August 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Our deepest condolences to Louise and Lee's family. I met Lee Gochenour shortly after I married his cousin the late Treva Wetzel Cretcher of Clayton, Ohio in 1948. There was a strong bond between the Wetzels of Ohio and the Gochenours and Wetzels of Virginia for many decades. In our later years, we have broke bread with Lee and Louise for many years when they stopped on their way to Florida or back. In addition, our trips to Woodstock or meeting them in the Smokey Mountains. For almost the last twenty years, I have looked forward to receiving a weekly telephone call from Lee or called him. Lee, you will never be forgotten.

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**Paul J (Joe) Cretcher and Family** - August 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Linden, Louise and family: I remember Lee as a true gentleman. Please accept our deepest condolences.

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**Allan & Pam Rickard** - August 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Lee was a great man and wonderful friend to me and I will never forget him.

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**Jay Hepner** - August 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ I met Lee when he was working at the Defense Logistics Agency's Supply Center in Richmond in the OTIS ( Office of Telecommunications and Information Services) and I was at headquarters. He quickly stood out as a "can do guy" and I relied heavily on his experience and knack for finding us excess computer equipment we obtained from other Federal Agencies for pennies on the dollar or totally free. Not only did Lee do the finding of these great deals, he also got involved in the physical transporting of the computers and supporting equipment as well as their installation. Lee's great work ethic, knowledge of computers and positive attitude were always evident in whatever he was doing and certainly made him a very productive employee. I know Lee also got involved outside of work with many organizations that were involved in civic betterment and so they also benefitted from his vast experience and positive approach to getting things done. Although Lee is now physically gone, he will always remain in my and many other's thoughts and memories. I am sure that Louise will have many great memories of Lee to help carry her through this tough time. My most sincere condolences to Louise and the rest of Lee's family on the loss of this wonderful man.

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**Tom Knapp** - August 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Louise, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Kirk & Norma Sheap

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**Kirk & Norma Sheap** - August 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

IH

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Lee was a first cousin. Lee flew B-17s during WWII and I was a navigator on a B-17 in the Pacific, so we had something in common. Unable to attend due to medical reasons.

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**Irving Hottle** - August 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *My wife and I both worked with Lee for 13 years and he was the most amazing man I ever knew. I am glad we kept in touch over the years.*

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**Charlie Hall** - August 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ *I first met Lee in 1997 when he and I both retired from DLA, we became instant friends and we both later worked together for DSTI/STG, a Defense Contractor Co, serving the DoD. We also vacationed together with our wives, Marcella and Louise in Florida and they became very good friends also. Both Marcella and I will miss Lee and his frequent calls that we received from him, our thoughts and prayers are with both Lee and Louise in this time of sorrow .*

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**Karl Ralston** - August 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM