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Dennis William Lee

June 4, 1962 - Nov. 18, 2026

Dennis William Lee was born on June 4, 1962, in Chicago, Illinois. For the past 35 years, he proudly called Morganton, North Carolina, home. While his life took him many places, it was the people he loved, the memories he made, and the family he built that meant more to him than anything in the world.

Dennis leaves behind his loving wife and best friend, Patty Lee; his four children, who were the greatest pride of his life, Jeremy Willis, Joey Belanger (Kristin), Kaitlyn Martinez (Nesto), and Abby Lee; and his seven adored and beloved grandchildren, Lacey Belanger, Nathan Willis, Ryan Belanger, Sarah Willis, Jaycee Blevin, Derek Martinez, and Peyton Martinez. He is now reunited with his cherished parents, Bob and Gerry Lee, and two very special people who held a treasured place in his heart, Esther and Paul Whisnant.

Dennis was a man of remarkable intellect, dedication, and passion. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Hampden-Sydney College, where some of his most cherished memories were made on the lacrosse field. It was there, playing the game he loved, that his light truly shined. Dennis was awarded the Gammon Cup in 1984, the highest honor for a graduating student-athlete, recognizing character, scholarship and athletic ability. His love for lacrosse remained a part of who he was throughout his life. He went on to earn his Master's Degree in Psychology from the

throughout his life. He went on to earn his Master's Degree in Psychology from the University of Virginia and later completed his MBA at Wake Forest University.

For 35 years, Dennis, better known as “Mr. Lee”, dedicated his professional life to leading the team at Morganton Eye Physicians as Business Manager. His commitment, leadership, and vision helped grow the practice into what it is today.

But to Dennis, it was never simply a job. The people he worked alongside became family, and the relationships he built over those decades were among the many things he treasured. He was a mentor, a steady presence, a thoughtful listener, and someone whose guidance and kindness left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

But above every accomplishment, every title, and every professional success, Dennis’ greatest pride and most important role was being Dad and Grandpa.

He loved his family with his whole heart. Nothing brought him greater happiness than having everyone together, sharing stories, laughing, and making memories. He had a way of being the center of any room without ever needing to be the center of attention. His humor was unmatched, his wit was effortless, and his ability to make everyone around him laugh was simply one of his greatest gifts. He was, without question, one of the most humble and genuine people you could ever meet.

Dennis found happiness in life's simplest moments. He loved history, lacrosse, and taking on just about any project he could find. He loved a good adventure, a new challenge, and always having something to work on. Some of his most treasured moments, however, were the quiet drives to the mountains with his soulmate, Patty, sharing a cup of coffee and enjoying the beauty of the day together.

And then there were the grandchildren. Nothing brought him quite the same joy as making memories with them, whether it was playing flashlight tag, throwing the baseball, or simply finding another reason to laugh and spend time together. He was the kind of Grandpa who made every moment an adventure, who made his grandchildren feel so special, and who created memories they will carry in their hearts forever. Those moments, both big and small, were the very best parts of his life.

Dennis was a giver in every sense of the word. He gave his time, his wisdom, his

Dennis was a giver in every sense of the word. He gave his time, his wisdom, his laughter, his encouragement, and his heart. He showed up for the people he loved, listened without judgment, offered guidance without expectation, and made others feel valued simply by being himself. He never needed recognition or praise. His greatest joy came from making others happy.

To know Dennis was to love him. He was the kind of person who made life a little lighter, a little funnier, and a whole lot better. His kindness was genuine, his heart was generous, and his presence was a gift. The stories, laughter, lessons, and love he leaves behind will forever be woven into the lives of those who were lucky enough to call him family and friend.

While our hearts are broken by his absence, we find comfort in knowing that a life so full of love never truly ends. It lives on in the family he cherished, the people he inspired, the friendships he nurtured, and the countless memories that will be shared for generations to come.

Dennis, you were the best Dad, the proudest Grandpa, the most devoted husband, and one of the greatest gifts our family could ever have been given. Thank you for the laughter, the lessons, the unconditional love, and for being exactly who you were. We will carry you with us in everything we do. You will forever be our favorite storyteller, our biggest source of laughter, and the heart of our family.

We love you more than words could ever express. You are missed beyond measure, and you will never, ever be forgotten.

Services will be announced at a later date.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



—Anonymous



—Anonymous



—Anonymous