



## Lee Edward Price

March 24, 1957 - August 2, 2017

Lee Edward Price died August 2, 2017, at his home southwest of Pierce City, Missouri, on the banks of Capps Creek and the mill pond of historic Jolly Mill. Lee was a lifelong resident of southwest Missouri, including Pierce City, Buffalo, and Springfield. He was well known as an appraiser of farms, ranches, and businesses throughout the Ozarks, and he counted among his clients many banks large and small throughout the region. Lee was an avid outdoorsman and a devoted family man. He was 60 years old.

Lee was born March 24, 1957, the second of three children of Billy Lee and Jeanne Lancaster Price. Lee grew up on the family farm just south of Buffalo that had been assembled in the late 1800s by Lee's great-grandfather, William Tucker. Lee was the descendant of seven generations of Dallas County farmers and stockmen. One of his ancestors, Andrew McPheeters, fought in the Revolutionary War and was one of the county's early residents.

Lee had a successful career as a real estate appraiser. He began his professional life at O'Bannon Banking Company in Buffalo, which started his association with the region's banking industry. While at O'Bannon, Lee began inspecting and valuing farms pledged as loan collateral. After a time, Lee left O'Bannon to set up his own appraisal firm, Price Appraisals, which he operated with his wife Piper until shortly before his death. Lee specialized in appraising farms, businesses, and commercial buildings throughout southwest

and central Missouri. Attorneys and judges often called on Lee to present expert testimony about real estate values.

In 1988, Lee married Piper Johnson, and they lived for several years in Springfield. Lee's interest in fly fishing led him to Capp's Creek and Jolly Mill, and in the year 2000 Lee, Piper, and their family moved to the banks of the Jolly Mill pond, where they built a home and became active members of the regional community. They were immediately embraced by many new friends, who quickly became family.

Lee enjoyed tying his own flies and taking his family and friends fishing to places such as Yellowstone National Park, Bennett Springs and Roaring River State Parks in Missouri, the White River in Arkansas, and many others. Lee was an active member of Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers, Tri Lakes Fly Fishers, and Trout Unlimited. Lee also enjoyed hunting upland birds such as quail, chukar, pheasants, and doves. He loved riding historic tractors and tilling the dirt on the family farm and restoring game habitat there. Lee was an early member and regular supporter of the Buffalo Bob Chapter of the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, as well as a member of Quail Forever, Pheasants Forever, and Ducks Unlimited, among others.

Lee was a long-time member and president of the board of directors of Jolly Mill Park Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that supports the private Jolly Mill Park and restored Jolly Mill. Lee enjoyed arranging for Santa Claus to visit Jolly Mill during the mill's annual Christmas event and receive the local children's wish lists. Sources report that Lee sometimes substituted for Santa Claus, although that has not been confirmed and calls to the North Pole were not returned.

Lee graduated from Buffalo High School in 1975, where he was a member of the successful Bison football teams of that era. Lee played on the offensive

and defensive lines, receiving All-Conference and All-State honors. The Bison yearbook staff named Lee the Bison king of his senior class.

Lee received his undergraduate degree in business from Missouri State University. He received a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Drury University in 1989.

Even after moving to Springfield and Pierce City, Lee continued to be an active member of the Buffalo community, returning regularly to see family, friends, and business colleagues, and to tend to matters at the family farm. Based on Lee's historical research and application, the farm was recognized in 2015 as a Missouri Century Farm for continuous ownership within the same family for more than 100 years. An article about the farm in the Buffalo Reflex in 2016 quoted Lee extensively.

Lee was a member of the Buffalo First Baptist Church until he moved from Buffalo, and he was baptized there. He and Piper became members of the Schweitzer United Methodist Church in Springfield and later transferred their memberships to the Monett United Methodist Church.

Lee is survived by his wife, Piper; two sons, Aaron Price and Joshua Price; and one step-daughter, Summer Bonebrake. Lee is also survived by their spouses, Jade Price, Gabrielle Price, and Zach Bonebrake, respectively; grandchildren Tucker Price, Christopher Price, Mickey Price, Ella Price, Davis Bonebrake, and John Henry Bonebrake; brother Jim Price and his wife Fran Warkow; sister Sue Dyle; nieces and nephews Rachel Record, Stephen Dyle, Michael Dyle, and Ashley Price; and their families.

Lee's death followed a long bout with cancer. Despite his illness and its difficulties, Lee maintained to the end a strong will, positive outlook, and his

trademark sense of humor. He and Piper received an outpouring of support from their Springfield, Buffalo, and Pierce City area colleagues. Lee's family would like to thank all of the devoted family, friends, supporters, and medical providers who provided such valuable support and assistance during this time.

Services are under the direction of the Cantlon Otterness Funeral Home of Buffalo. The family plans no public memorial service but will hold two events for friends and family to celebrate Lee's life: (i) Saturday, August 12, at 2:00 p.m. at Cantlon Otterness Funeral Home, 931 West Main Street, Buffalo, MO; and (ii) Sunday, August 13 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jolly Mill Park Pavilion, 31630 Jolly Mill Drive, Pierce City, MO. Attire for both will be casual. The family requests no flowers but suggests instead contributions to the Jolly Mill Park Foundation, 5932 Lawrence 2240 Road, Monett, Missouri, 65708.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **12**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Buffalo

931 W. Main St.

P.O. Box 993

Buffalo, MO 65622

(417) 345-2211

[info@cantlonotterness.com](mailto:info@cantlonotterness.com)

<https://www.cantlonotterness.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lee Edward Price*

October 09, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ *Lee Edward Price*

October 09, 2023 at 04:09 AM



“ *Lee Edward Price*

October 05, 2023 at 11:14 PM



“ *Lee Edward Price*

October 05, 2023 at 05:41 PM



“ *Lee Edward Price*

December 20, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ *Worked a summer for Lee hauling hay. Great guy! RIP*

**Steve Lindsey** - November 04, 2017 at 09:59 PM