



Lee Carl Sparkman

October 13, 1946 - May 20, 2026

A man of few words but great presence, Lee Carl Sparkman was called home on May 20, 2026, at the age of 79, leaving behind a silence deeply felt by all who loved him. Lee of Mangum, Oklahoma, married the love of his life and best friend, Rose Gallagher Meeks, on April 1, 1988. Together they built a life centered around love, family, hard work and simple joys. Rose remained his constant companion and greatest blessing throughout his life. He graduated from Mangum in 1964 and continued his education at Southwestern State University, receiving his Bachelor's in 1968. Not suited for idle leisure, vacations during his corporate life as an accountant for Weyerhaeuser were usually spent doing garden projects and home improvements — working with his hands and “playing in the dirt.” Peace and satisfaction were found outside, in a job well done, a fence well hung or a plant well sprung. His retirement plan was always to come home and run cows, just like his father. He did, but also applied his business acumen to the greater good by serving as a director for the Harmon Electric Association, the Greer County Excise Board and the Greer County Conservation Board for many years. Lee — also known as Pops and PopPop — loved driving large farm equipment, tinkering at a workbench and spending time with a rotating pack of dogs. In recent years, he was especially fond of Goose, a black Lab, who followed his every footstep. Nothing mattered more to him than the people he loved. Lee will be remembered as a devoted husband, father and loyal friend whose strength, steady presence and caring heart touched many lives. The only son of

industrious parents Vernon Lee and Maxine (Hopkins) Sparkman, Lee is survived by his loving wife, Rose Sparkman, of the home; two sons, Worth Sparkman and wife Ronie of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Brent Gates and wife Heather of Selbyville, Delaware; four grandchildren, Blayne Gates and wife Morgan, Gavin Gates, Shane Sparkman, and Gray Sparkman; and his lifelong best friend, Danny Avery. He was preceded in death by his parents Vernon and Maxine Sparkman, and mother-in-law Kelly Meeks. A slow eater — and an even slower storyteller — Lee is missed today and will be forever by those who loved him. The family finds comfort in the memories, laughter and love he leaves behind. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the family he cherished.

Services for Lee are set for Saturday, May 23, 2026, 11:00 A.M., Red River Cowboy Church with Pastor Darrell Coffman officiating. Interment will follow in Riverside Cemetery.

Public viewing for Lee will begin Friday, May 22, 2025, 2:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M., with family present to receive friends from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., at People's Funeral Home, located at 1400 West Main, Lone Wolf, 580-846-9018.

Online condolences for Lee can be made by visiting www.peoplescooperativeneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

Mangum, OK

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY **22**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

People's Funeral Home
1400 W. Main
P.O. Box 146
Lone Wolf, OK 73655
pcfh@sbcglobal.net
<http://peoplescooperatifuneralhome.com>

Family Present To Receive Friends

MAY **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

People's Funeral Home
1400 W. Main
P.O. Box 146
Lone Wolf, OK 73655
pcfh@sbcglobal.net
<http://peoplescooperatifuneralhome.com>

Church Service

MAY **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Red River Cowboy Church
1001 N. Byers Ave.
Mangum, OK 73554

Tribute Wall

MT

“ My condolences to Rose and the rest of Lee's loved ones. In memory of my cousin, I arranged via the flower company to have a "grove" of three trees planted in a forest through the Arbor Day Foundation. In my mind, there is a tree for Lee, a tree for his mother Maxine, and a tree for "Sparky" his father. This gives me and I hope, others, a bit of solace.

Michael Thomas - May 22 at 06:08 PM

MT

“ Michael T. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lee Carl Sparkman.

Michael T. - May 22 at 06:00 PM

BS

“ Lee has always been one of our favorite folks. We loved visiting with Lee and Rose. Our prayers of comfort are with Rose and family.

Barbie Stover - May 22 at 12:12 PM

LN

“ Logan and Taylor Nelson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lee Carl Sparkman.



Logan and Taylor Nelson - May 22 at 11:06 AM

SC

“ Lee! There was only one of you 😊. I was working at Tamarack Retirement Center in Altus when we gave him and his mama, Maxine a tour of the place and she decided to move in. It was a joy having Maxine as a part of the Tamarack family and it was a greater joy seeing Lee stepping into the building and that smile along with his kindness was very True ! I would run into him in Mangum and it was always a joy to talk to him. Rose was the budding flower in his life!



Sandra Callins - May 22 at 08:58 AM

EN

“ Ed and Liz Norman purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Lee Carl Sparkman.



Ed and Liz Norman - May 22 at 07:39 AM

CP

“ Carla and Nelson Pickrell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lee Carl Sparkman.



Carla and Nelson Pickrell - May 21 at 12:47 PM