



Lee Harrison Gardner

November 18, 1950 - July 10, 2021

Lee Harrison Gardner, of Traverse City passed away peacefully on July 10, 2021, surrounded by his wife and children. He was born on November 18, 1950 to the late Polly Isabel (Harrison) and Stephen Vandergrift Gardner.

Wife Candy (Smith) has been the love of his life for over 45 years.

Their family includes son Hunter Gardner, wife Maggie, and their children Hazel and Harrison of Traverse City; daughter Hilary Gessner, husband John, and their children Huxley and Declan of Traverse City; and son Hayden Gardner, wife Skye, and their child Olee of Steamboat Springs.

Lee's professional career focused on the business of professional golf and motorsports events, including the world's largest motorsport event, along with leadership roles in privately held entrepreneurial business enterprises.

Lee is a founding member of the Northern Michigan Angels, and held positions on Old Mission Peninsula Education Foundation Board, Peninsula Township Parks Commission and Leelanau Conservancy Board.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Leelanau Conservancy or Northern Michigan College Water Studies.

Cemetery

Peninsula Township Cemetery

Seven Hills Road

Traverse City, MI, 49686

Comments



“ Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Lee Harrison Gardner. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)

Send Flowers - July 12 at 11:44 AM



“ I was fortunate enough to get to know Lee through his work with the northern Michigan Angels. He was always thoughtful, supportive, optimistic and warm. Our community was blessed to have him and he is missed.

Bill Myers - 3 hours ago



“ Lee was a such a bright star in our lives and will forever remain in our hearts. He leaves so many special memories and a legacy of love. We will miss his wonderful smile and kind soul. Mahalo dear friend, you will be sincerely missed.

Marianne & Robert Steffens

Marianne & Robert Steffens - July 15 at 09:39 PM



“ Lee was always with a smile and celebratory attitude everyday and with every conversation. Such a sharp reminder that here is now and tomorrow is a promise - celebrate the now. You will be missed dear friend.

Brad Bickle and Ted Schweitzer

Brad Bickle - July 14 at 10:01 AM



“ I first met Lee when he engaged us to assist with marketing services for NMA. His knowledge and creativity were unmatched. Everywhere he went, he made a friend. I am honored to call him a friend. He will be greatly missed.
Marsha Stratton

marsha stratton - July 13 at 02:11 PM



“ For me, Lee is already much missed. I have many terrific memories of engaging with him. Consistently, without fail or interruption, Lee was Positive! This adds up and has an impact on everyone. Bravo Lee!! You are missed but also cherished.
Casey Cowell

Casey Cowell - July 13 at 11:39 AM