



## Member Lee Holsey

March 16, 1940 - May 17, 2025

Member Lee Holsey was the third child born to Charlie and Mamie (Wallace) Holsey in Albany, Georgia, March 15, 1940. Lee was affectionately called “Baby Lee” by his siblings. Lee worked on a farm from the time he was nine years old until he finished high school. Despite hard work from driving a tractor and other farm jobs, when he finished high school he entered the marines for a short while, then he resigned from the marines and joined the Army where he spent the next 27 years and completed two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was in the engineering division and built roads across the war zone. He became a rare commodity on board a Navy warship, the Corpus Christi, where he was one of two heat treaters who assisted in the repair and return to duty of damaged helicopters that flew in Vietnam. If that was not rare enough, in his off time, he was the “ship’s barber.” He also did two tours in Germany with family in tow, and Alaska. Lee was credited with developing a course for the heavy equipment operation, used in the building of roads in Vietnam. He often bragged about the course he developed for the “combat Dozier,” which when taken on a tour of a military base, I discovered that it was “just a bulldozer”, but for him and the Army, the use of that piece of equipment was far more important than its name. His theory was that the piece of equipment and its driver had done its job, which could be determined by “the touch, the feel and the sound” of the equipment. The importance of this instruction is notated somewhere in the Army’s library. Along the way he also served as a “Fire Chief”. Until recently he never allowed the clothes dryer to

be turned on if leaving the house or used at night after bedtime because of the danger of a fire starting.

Early in his life, Lee met and fell in love with Forrestine Johnson and became the father of her three-year-old daughter Lynette and two-year-old son Alvin. They added to their family three children of their own, Donna, Gwendolyn, and Ronald Anthony. The Holsey family traveled to military bases in several states in the United States, did his two tours in Germany with him, and in Alaska. Lee remained married to Forrestine for 58 years until her death in May of 2018.

Upon retiring from the army, with the rank of “1st Sergeant E8 promotable”, Lee continued his love for the military by creating and teaching an ROTC program at Lynwood High School in Lynwood, California. He gave his cadets as much exposure as was possible, in parades across the country and other military events, including a trip to what would become his future home, Pahrump NV. The cadet’s admiration and love for their instructor is evident today by the presence of several of those ROTC cadets.

Upon his retirement from the instructor’s position, Lee and Forrestine settled in their Pahrump residence to enjoy retired life, where they lived until her death in May of 2018.

In preparation for this occasion, when children, relatives and siblings were asked about childhood memories, baby sister Catherine remembered his sense of humor and immediately recalled that whenever they passed a cemetery, and the question was asked “I wonder how many people are buried there?” Lee’s answer was always “all of them.” As he aged, he kept that same sense of humor or had a smart remark when least expected.

In late April 2019, Lee decided to start up his RV lifestyle again, with grandson Donovan in tow, at a rare outing in Pahrump, where The Original Las Vegas Rolling Wheels RV Club was having one of their monthly outings. he was introduced to their President, Dr. Anne Steele. An RV trip across country followed late in the summer where he was introduced to her family and friends

and she to his. In July of 2020 amid Covid, they decided on the hottest day of the month to get married. The date was July 12, the temperature was 112. They chose the Drive Through Window at A Little White Chapel. Lee had his first visit to the "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign on the Boulevard, where they posed in the take pictures.

The following four and a half years have included thousands of miles covered in their RV and towing his Jeep to Regional and National Rallies of The National African American RVer's Association, Inc. Lee visited for the first time, the San Francisco Bay area and They added to their fun several cruises to Alaska, Canada. Mexico and Hawaii. The cruise ships gave Lee a shock because he had only been on a Navy War Ship! although lee protested loudly about joining a club. I knew he had not only enjoyed becoming a part of the rolling wheels but that he had also fallen in love with Naarva when he was seen sweeping the streets at the national rally in Hemet California. In November of 2022 Lee recovered on time, as predicted by the Surgeon, from triple bypass surgery to add to his cruising miles, in January of 2023 to enjoy a new type of music, provided by the "Smooth Jazz Cruise". On board ship he met relatives of Anne's from Denver CO, Frank, and Janice turner. A Mediterranean Cruise had to be cancelled for April 26. 2024 after his hospitalization which occurred on Nov 4th.

Lee leaves to morn his passing his beloved and devoted wife of four and a half years,

Anne Steele-Holsey, daughters: Lynette (Everett) Sanders of Carrollton, TX, Donna (Tony)

of Pahrump, NV, Gwendolyn (James) Gonzalez of South Riding. VA, son Ronald Holsey of

Pahrump NV and stepson Michael Duckworth of Fayetteville GA; sister evangelist,

Dr. Carrie de Journette of Jacksonville FL, sister catherine h. stokes of Valdosta, GA

six grandchildren; five great grandchildren; two nephews, Daryl Holsey of Ga and Kenneth English of Colorado, Crystal English and connie English of ga; a host of other relatives and numerous friends. He was preceded by his three brothers: Charlie Jr, Johnson, Jerry, and sister Martha Bell. And in 2012, by his son Alvin Holsey.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 7. 12:00 PM (PT)

Thomas and Jones Funeral Home

2457 N Decatur Blvd

Las Vegas, NV 89108

(702) 384-7600

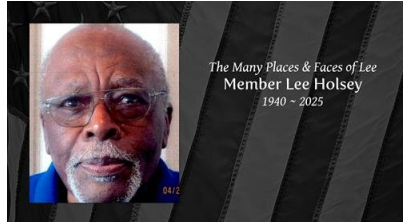
[trintion.holmes@dignitymemorial.com](mailto:trintion.holmes@dignitymemorial.com)

<https://www.thomasandjonesfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Thomas & Jones Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Member Lee Holsey



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**Thomas and Jones Funeral Home** - June 07, 2025 at 02:11 PM

BR

“ Sending prayers and peace to the family of “Uncle Lee” May you rest in eternal peace.  
With love your grand niece of Georgia, Brittany Bell.

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**Brittany** - June 07, 2025 at 12:59 PM

CW

“ We are going to miss you Lee. Your love for everyone you met, family and friends alike. Your hugh personality and generosity always preceded you. We will miss you along with all the lives you touched.  
We can meet up with Anne and continue to enjoy that RV life. God bless and keep you. 😊  
Cedric and Elizabeth Winton

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**Cedric abd Elizabeth Winton** - June 05, 2025 at 07:16 PM

CC

“ Hello, my name is Chardonney and i am the Granddaughter of Member Lee Holsey. I write this with great sadness, my Grandpa was like a second father to me and i miss him so much it is unexplainable. The last time i saw my grandpa was in stone mountain Georgia and i knew deep down inside it would be my last. Thank you everyone who will be at the funeral and everyone who took out the time to write something on his obituary page. I love you Big papa and will continue to make you proud from heaven.

Chardonney N Campbell - June 04, 2025 at 08:24 PM

MT

“ Mendoza family in Texas purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Member Lee Holsey.



Mendoza family in Texas - June 03, 2025 at 07:09 PM

LT

“ Lillie Howard, Ben, Kimberly, and Travis purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Member Lee Holsey.



Lillie Howard, Ben, Kimberly, and Travis - June 03, 2025 at 01:07 PM

LT

“ Lillie Howard, Ben, Kimberly, and Travis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Member Lee Holsey.

Lillie Howard, Ben, Kimberly, and Travis - June 03, 2025 at 01:07 PM

CE

“ *In memory of the strongest man I have ever known. Rest peacefully until we meet again.*

*Crystal English  
Ebony Messam  
Joseph Messam II  
Maurice Elliott*



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**Crystal English** - June 02, 2025 at 03:32 PM

JD

“ *As twilight falls upon our momentous journey through the seasons of life, we now offer these final words to affirm our admiration, love, and respect*

*Lee Holsey.*

*Whereas you know not what shall be tomorrow,  
For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a  
little time, and then vanishes away.*

*James 4:14*

*Today, we acknowledge the passing of our RV friend who will be  
with us as long as we remember.*

*Respectfully submitted, June 7, 2025.*

*James & Brenda Dorsett  
Tarpon Springs, Florida*

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**James& Brenda Dorsett** - June 01, 2025 at 08:57 PM

“ Honoring 1st Sgt Holsey



*It is with a heavy heart that I express my deepest condolences on the passing of 1st Sgt Holsey, a man whose presence and leadership shaped so many young lives, including mine.*

*In 1987, as a young ROTC cadet at Lynwood High School, I had the privilege of learning from a man who was firm, disciplined, and unwavering in his commitment to excellence. He wasn't just an instructor; he was a mentor, a father figure, and a guiding force who instilled in us the values of hard work, integrity, and perseverance. He taught us how to march with precision, to sing cadence with pride, and to carry ourselves as future leaders. No one did it like him!*

*One of my fondest memories was our trip to Vandenberg Air Force Base, where Sgt Holsey led us through reconnaissance training and taught us to march in battalion formation. His leadership was so inspiring that after the trip, 90% of our class considered enlisting in the armed forces. That was the power of his influence—he showed us how to strive for greatness.*

*But Sgt Holsey's impact wasn't just in the drills or the discipline. It was in the way he truly cared for us. When I found myself in one of the most vulnerable moments of my life—young, pregnant, and ashamed—I feared I had disappointed the man who believed in me the most. But Sgt Holsey showed me the kind of leadership that transcends uniform and rank. He came to my hospital bedside at St. Francis, wiped away my tears, and reassured me that I was not the first, nor would I be the last. His words lifted a weight from my heart. He encouraged me to be the best mother I could be, reminding me that even in unexpected circumstances, my future was still mine to claim. He showed me that there was still a path forward, that I could still enlist if I chose to, and above all, that I was never alone.*

*I never forgot him. I always admired him. And I always will.*

*Sgt Holsey was more than a leader—he was a lifeline for so many of us. He pushed us to believe in ourselves, to take pride in what we could become, and to never let obstacles define us. His legacy will live on in every life he touched, every lesson he taught, and every moment where his encouragement carried us through.*

*Rest in peace, 1st Sgt Holsey. You will never be forgotten.*

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**Neoshi Sharp** - May 31, 2025 at 08:13 PM

RR

“ *Rafael Ramirez lit a candle in memory of Member Lee Holsey*



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**Rafael Ramirez** - May 31, 2025 at 02:41 PM

RR

“ *"Drill Sgt" Lee Hosley it was an honor having you as a teacher and friend . The legacy you leave behind will keep your memories alive until our last day. May perpetual light shine upon you always. Ramirez & your Cadets*



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**Rafael Ramirez** - May 31, 2025 at 02:35 PM

LC

“ Love, Phil, Lynn and Curtis purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Member Lee Holsey.



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**Love, Phil, Lynn and Curtis** - May 31, 2025 at 12:04 PM

EL

“ TO LATE MEMBER LEE HOLSEY FAMILY MY HEART FELT SMPATHY FOR YOUR LOSS MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU HIS PEACE DURING THIS TIME EARTH HAS KNOW SORROW THAT GOD CANNOT HEAL.

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**Eleen Lewis** - May 27, 2025 at 10:40 PM

C(

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Catherine Stokes (Sister)** - May 26, 2025 at 02:08 PM

JO

*My deepest sympathy to the family. May God bless you all, give you strength and peace. Love to you all.*

*Janet and Taliesin O'Neal*

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**Janet O'Neal** - May 29, 2025 at 08:56 PM

AC

*Sending condolences and love to Mama Anne and the Holsey family. I only knew Mr Lee for the time he was with Mama Anne ( who was married to my dad Tony) and he always treated me with respect and kindness. He had a lot of energy and motivation and i'm so glad he brought happiness to her in the time they were together. He was here in Ohio the last time I saw him and i will miss the birthday shout-outs he gave me. May he rest in heaven. Love and blessings to you all.*

antoinette curtis - June 07, 2025 at 01:15 PM

C(

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Catherine Stokes (Sister) - May 23, 2025 at 09:01 PM

LV

*Evangelist, D. Carrie Dejournett, my heartfelt sympathy and condolences are with you and the family. Your service as National Alumni Chaplain of the Edward Waters College/ University has been greatly appreciated. We love you, Former National Alumni Association President, Lillie M. Vereen. May God continue to Bless you and your family. ❤️✝️*

Lillie M Vereen - May 28, 2025 at 03:53 PM

ED

“ *WHILE your family will help carry you through these difficult days, we hope the caring of others will comfort you, too, and remind you how special you are to so many.*

*"Remembering you in Prayer" God will continue to support you!*

*Deacon Eddie & Ethel Hillsman  
Shiloh MBC D/T District # 29  
1118 West Beaver Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32209*

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**Evangelist Dr. Carrie C. DeJournett** - May 23, 2025 at 08:17 PM

ED

“ *Lee, as I called you. The Lord is no stranger to Sorrow, He saw your PAIN, He was COVERING you and kept you in HIS care until this present time. You have fought a good fight, you have finish your course, and you kept the faith.....2nd Timothy 4:7 Now Lee, you were the last of the four (4) brothers in the family. Rest In The Lord and CELEBTATE!!!*

*Your Oldest Sister and the Oldest of Seven (7)  
Evangelist Dr. Carrie C. DeJournett Amen*

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**Evangelist Dr. Carrie C. DeJournetttt** - May 23, 2025 at 05:29 PM

ED

“ *Evangelist Dr. Carrie C. DeJournetttt lit a candle in memory of Member Lee Holsey*



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**Evangelist Dr. Carrie C. DeJournetttt** - May 23, 2025 at 04:36 PM

C(

“ To my last living Brother and Family: I thank God for blessing us with your presence. You have given us many wonderful, beautiful, precious and lasting memories. I look forward to seeing you again in our Heavenly Home. "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple."--- Psalm 27:4

May God be with us all. Amen

Catherine Stokes (Sister) & Brittany Bell (Grand Neice)

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**Catherine Stokes (Sister)** - May 23, 2025 at 03:28 PM