



Lee Merrill Mulder

November 29, 1946 - October 7, 2018

Racine – Lee Merrill Mulder, 71, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, October 7, 2018 at his residence.

Lee was born in Racine, WI on November 29, 1946 to Merrill and Jeanne (nee: Haumersen) Mulder. He attended Roosevelt Elementary, Washington Junior High and Horlick High School (class of 1964). He attended Wheaton College and upon graduation started working as an elementary school teacher for the Racine Unified School District until his retirement in 2009. He taught 4th and 5th grade at Giese and 4th grade at Olympia Brown.

Lee joined the United States Army Reserve in 1969. He was the head cook for the Racine Armored Division and rose to the rank of Master Sergeant until his honorable discharge in 1990.

Lee met his wife-to-be, Karen Petersen, at Racine Bible Church where their families attended. They married on July 7, 1973. As a member of Racine Bible he served as a Sunday School teacher and coordinator. He was heavily involved with the music ministry, writing and directing programs and singing in the choir for many years. He loved reading and he especially loved the Green Bay Packers. He was a passionate antique clock collector.

Lee often expressed how God blessed, guided, and directed him along his

life's journey. As an educator, he deeply cared for his students because he believed teaching was not just a job but his calling. God's greatest gifts to him were his loving wife of 45 years, his beloved daughter and three precious grandchildren. Lee is survived by his wife Karen, his daughter Rebecca (Jonathan) Krentel and his grandchildren Lara, Gretchen and Anders all of Vienna, VA. He is also survived by his siblings Carol (Howard) Brumback of Racine, John (Lynn) Mulder of Colorado Springs, CO, Anne (John) Ward of North Branch, MN, and Kaye Mulder of Minneapolis, MN; brother-in-law Dwight (Suzanne) Petersen of Princeton, MN, brother-in-law Jonathan (Beth) Petersen of Grand Rapids, MI and many beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service in honor of Lee will be held at Racine Bible Church, 12505 Spring Street, Sturtevant on Monday, October 15 at 4:30 p.m. with Pastor Spencer DeBurgh officiating. Relatives and friends may meet with the family from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. service time. Private interment will be at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Music Ministry at Racine Bible Church.

Cemetery Details

Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery

21731 Spring Street
Union Grove, WI 53182

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 15. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (CT)

Racine Bible Church
12505 Spring Street
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Memorial Service

OCT 15. 4:30 PM (CT)

Racine Bible Church
12505 Spring Street
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Tribute Wall

HH

“ I was lucky enough to have Mr. Mulder as my fourth grade teacher, but he was so much more than that to me. He was an excellent teacher, and I can still remember so much about his class, especially the giant tubs of now and laters. He went above and beyond for me and my family, and I am so incredibly thankful for that. In 5th grade my mother went through a divorce and we moved to a new house that put me out of the school district. Mr. Mulder saw me walking home (over a mile) and stopped me after school one day to ask if it would be ok if he gave me a ride home. He then continued to drive me home every single day for the entire year. And on days when he was busy or had an appointment, he always made sure that one of the other 4th or 5th grade teachers got me home safely. We had so many talks on those drives home that I remember so well. He talked me through the struggles going on in our family during that transition, he told me about his dog and his family, he supported me in whatever I needed. He also taught my older sister when she was in 4th grade, and years and years later when she was 16 she applied for her first job and needed a reference and didn't have anyone to ask and I dug his phone number out of my jewelry box that he told me to call if I ever needed anything. She called him out of the blue and he was more than willing to serve as her reference. He changed my life in so many ways over the two years that I got to spend with him, and I am eternally grateful to have had a teacher like him. This past May I graduated with a Master's degree in educational leadership and policy analysis, and in one class we had to write about a teacher we've had that has influenced us the most. Of course, I wrote about Mr. Mulder. He was the epitome of what an educator should be, and now, I am currently teaching my own class of students in Vietnam. He had been and always will be my role model, and I can only hope to help a student someday like he helped me.

Holly Harrington - December 19, 2018 at 04:46 AM

DM

“ Lee was a very special person with that soft-spoken and consistently relaxed temperament. He was a great listener, a skill only mastered by some. We taught together at Giese Elementary School, 1972-1978. Lee served his country in the Army Reserves as a senior Non Commissioned Officer (NCO). Over the last couple of years I was so blessed to sit across from Lee at each monthly Giese Elementary retiree breakfast. He shared with me his love for Karen, his daughter and her husband, and his grandchildren. I think anyone that knew Lee would want him as a brother, or one's neighbor. He just was so considerate with that very measured demeanor. Lee will be sorely missed by not only his family, but our entire community. Without question, Lee is someone that many respected for what he was, a good man by any measurement. He was a very professional teacher. In the classroom, he made a difference regardless of status, full-time or substitute teacher. May the Lord hold Lee's hand on his final journey. May the Lord watch over Lee for eternity. For he deserves a seat close to the Lord.

Dennis Malone - October 14, 2018 at 10:53 AM

HG

“ I was fortunate enough to get to know Lee through my job at the 4 mile post office which Lee frequented weekly often mailing packages & cards to his beloved daughter & grandchildren. We often shared news about our kids & he & Karen's frequent (always much anticipated) trips to VA to spend time with family. Always kind & engaged, it was a joy to know him. He will be greatly missed by many & I am personally saddened to know that I will no longer be able to chat with my friend Lee . My deepest condolences to Karen and all his family.

Heidi Grabiwski - October 13, 2018 at 11:08 AM

SM

“ I had Mr. Mulder for 4th and 5th grade at Guese school back in the 70's. He was one of 3 teachers, from all my school years, who I would go back to visit. He was an amazing teacher who impacted my life. I send my thoughts and prayers to his family. A very great teacher, I'm grateful to have had him. Take care.

Sam Mickelsen - October 12, 2018 at 02:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lee Merrill Mulder.



October 12, 2018 at 05:43 AM

HS

“ Mr Mulder was my children Kelsie and Tommy's 4th grade teacher at Olympia Brown . He was always so kind to us. After he retired I'd see him often shopping at piggly wiggly. He always asked about my children. I found out he was in the reserves with my dad. Our family will never forget him.

Heidi (Rannow) Stublaski - October 10, 2018 at 05:51 PM

BF

“ Bill and Anne O'Donnell and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lee Merrill Mulder.



Bill and Anne O'Donnell and family - October 10, 2018 at 11:38 AM

SU

“ I had a long thoughtful discussion with fellow-teacher Mr. Mulder about education and teaching and schools at Rebecca's home in Vienna. He was a very compassionate and insightful person.

Steve Klinck, Jonathan's uncle - October 10, 2018 at 10:11 AM

 Curtis
Bickham

“ Lee was my Sunday school teacher at RBC when I was a kid. He also took time out of his schedule to drive me to college because my mother didn't have a car. He put some money in my pocket and prayed for me once he dropped me off. He was a good man. I'm grieving in Ohio. My condolences to his family.

Curtis Bickham - October 10, 2018 at 07:46 AM