



Tsali Eugene Lee

October 9, 1967 - March 16, 2026

Tsali Eugene Lee, age 58, of Gardendale, Alabama, passed away March 16th, 2026.

Tsali was born October 9th, 1967.

Tsali was a loving and devoted husband and step-father. His favorite times were spent with family - laughing, sharing meals, playing poker, telling stories, and rooting for Alabama football. He was dearly loved, and will be forever missed and remembered by all his family.

Tsali graduated from Mortimer Jordan High School. He proudly served his country in the Air National Guard. Tsali was hardworking, and practiced many trades through his civilian career before retiring from the Birmingham Board of Education in 2025.

He was a man of many words, and loved to entertain with his stories - many tall, some

true. He loved learning and had many hobbies and interests: fishing, martial arts,
motorcycle riding, grilling out, gardening, aquariums, playing poker, and most recently
- electric guitar. He was an accomplished tomato grower, a shark at the poker table,
and a joy to anyone that knew him.

Tsali loved animals, and cherished his pets throughout his life: Major, Porkchop, Snickers, and Shelby.

Tsali was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Eugene Lee and Lois Eleanor Tolerson, as well as a sister, Teena Elaine Lee-Bridges.

Tsali is survived by his loving wife of thirty-two years, Kristin Douglas Lee; his step-son, Keith Martin; mother-in-law, Gladys Hebson Douglas; sisters-in-law, Rhonda Douglas Baur (Chris) and Elizabeth Douglas DeArmond (Ryan); nieces Kandies St. John (Justin), Kim Jones (Johnny), Stephanie Baur; nephew, Austin Baur; and a host of great nieces and nephews, "Balin" Virgil Mack St. John, Williams "Blaize" St. John, Benjamin "Bricen" St. John, Isabella Moore, and Hunter Moore.

The family has chosen to celebrate Tsali's life privately.

Tribute Wall

DG

“ I am so sorry to hear about Tsali’s passing. My heart goes out to his wife and family. Tsali was one of my very best friends. We worked at TSA Birmingham Airport for years together. We rode motorcycles together and I took him to a Nascar race once, pit pass, garage pass and all. We pretended to be foreigners from Italy trying to meet Danica Patrick. So many laughs together. He was a good man and a good friend. I’ll miss you buddy.”

Dennis Gantt - March 27 at 12:27 AM

RB

“ The last time I seen Tsali was in jury duty downtown B’Ham a few years ago. It was a nice surprise to have a familiar face to converse with. Tsali and I went to MJH together. I remember Tsali as always very kind, smiling and pleasant to talk to. So glad our paths crossed. Gone way too soon. Godspeed my friend!.....Riley- Eph. 4:32

Riley Blackmon - March 20 at 12:23 PM

CC

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. May God give you the comfort that only He can give. Yours in Christ; Doyle and Cyndi Creel

Cyndi Creel - March 20 at 09:08 AM

SC

“ I had the privilege of meeting Tsali somewhat recently, and even more privileged to sit across from him at the poker table. He had the rare gift of raking in your chips, giving a sly smile, and charming you instantly. I was always happy to lose a hand to him.

He was warm, pleasant to chat with, and wore an eagerness to earn your friendship. He had mine. He'll be missed at every poker table he ever sat down at.

Sam Cole - March 19 at 07:15 PM

AB

“ My Uncle Tsali loved people. He saw the best in others and was always eager to help anyone in every way he could. He was curious about the world and full of wonder. He found a lot of joy in picking up new hobbies and interests. He loved sharing them with my sister and me. He loved us and was always eager to hang out with us at every opportunity. Famously, he drove all the way to Atlanta just to play poker with us. In fact, I believe the last meaningful time I spent with Uncle Tsali, he absolutely mopped the floor with me in poker and took all my chips! I'll miss our poker games dearly. We loved you so much, Uncle Tsali.

Love, Austin



Austin Baur - March 18 at 02:48 PM

JB

This is such a wonderful picture of Tsali and Austin. You will be greatly missed by all you loved you so much.

Janice Baur - March 19 at 12:09 PM

CB

“ *Tsali was joy and love without pretense. Whether raising hot peppers, tending his aquarium, painting his truck, grilling on the griddle, or honing his poker face, he threw childlike enthusiasm into every endeavor. He was my fishing buddy, my home repair colleague, and my main source for silly jokes.*

As compatriots marrying into a family of close sisters, we shared a special bond. He was a man who loved life and loved his family above all. He was kind to animals and understanding of people facing struggle. He grew up poor but knew more of life's richness than most will experience. He could be counted on for any task or any need. He was many things to the people who knew him. Most of all, he was my real and true friend.

Chris Baur

Chris Baur - March 18 at 02:46 PM

JB

Chirs said this so well. What a wonderful man.

Janice Baur - March 19 at 08:13 AM

ED

“ *5 files added to the tribute wall*



Elizabeth DeArmond - March 18 at 02:05 PM

CB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Chris Baur - March 18 at 02:03 PM

AB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Austin Baur - March 18 at 01:59 PM

JB

I love this! A wonderful, beautiful couple.

Janice Baur - March 19 at 08:12 AM

DG

I am so sorry to hear about Tsali's passing. My heart goes out to his wife and family. Tsali was one of my very best friends. We worked at TSA Birmingham Airport for years together. We rode motorcycles together and I took him to a Nascar race once, pit pass, garage pass and all. We pretended to be foreigners from Italy trying to meet Danica Patrick. So many laughs together. He was a good man and a good friend. I'll miss you buddy."

Dennis Gantt - March 27 at 12:22 AM

NB

I just found out today (April 24) that Tsali had died. I loved Tsali as a co-worker and good friend and am so sad to know he is gone. My love to his wife and family.

Nelda Basenberg - April 24 at 02:46 PM