



Haynes Lee

October 14, 1932 - October 29, 2025

Haynes Lee, patriarch of a loving family and a man of many talents and interests, died on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. He was 93.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 65 years, Marge Lee, and his children Sandi (Chip) Towns, Steve (Sandy) Lee, and Scott (Jeanie) Lee. Also surviving are six grandchildren - Tina (Brett) Ewing, Katie (David) Bunker, Bethanne (Patrick) McCarty, Austin Lee, Becky Towns and Trevor (Elissa) Lee - and 10 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by one granddaughter and one great-grandson.

Haynes was a glass scientist, a boater, an avid bridge player, a tax preparer, and a community volunteer.

He died while walking down the hall to play bridge at Ohio Living Swan Creek, where he and Marge had lived since 2022.

Haynes Alexander Lee, Jr., was born October 14, 1932, in Johnson City, Tenn. He was the son of Haynes Alexander Lee and Pauline Elizabeth Cooke, who divorced when he was about 4. Haynes lived with his mother until she died when he was 7. After that he was raised by his father and his paternal grandmother, Jetta Boyer Lee.

These were tumultuous years, with Haynes having three stepmothers and changing schools frequently - including four high schools in four years. He was an only child, but he sometimes had step-siblings for a few years. He spent 11th grade at Columbia (Tenn.) Military Academy, where he was on the baseball team and played saxophone in the band, which marched in the Mardi

Gras parade in New Orleans. He graduated from Bazine (Kansas) High School in 1950.

His third stepmother made him leave home when he graduated, so he hitchhiked to his paternal grandmother's home in Newport, Tenn. She agreed to help finance his college expenses, and he chose Emory and Henry College in Emory, Va. He was a member of Beta Lambda Zeta fraternity, played saxophone in the band and learned to play bridge.

He graduated with a degree in mathematics in 1954 and joined the Army so he could qualify for the GI Bill. He served in the Army Security Agency in Germany and was able to travel all over Europe before being discharged in 1957.

He decided to get a master's degree at Alfred University in Alfred, NY, because he was told it was "the best Glass Technology department in the world."

While standing in line to enroll, he noticed an attractive woman also waiting in line and started talking to her. He and Marge married a year later after she promised she would learn to play bridge.

After graduating in 1961, he went to work for Thatcher Glass in Elmira, NY. In 1963, he moved to Toledo to work as a glass scientist at Owens-Illinois. He and Marge bought a house in Sylvania and joined Epworth United Methodist Church, where Haynes spent many years serving on committees and in leadership positions.

Haynes and Marge became very involved in the boating community. Haynes served two terms as Commander of the Toledo Power Squadron in 2000 and 2004, where he also served as treasurer, taught courses, and conducted vessel-safety checks. He also piloted a tour boat on Swan Creek and the Maumee, and for six years he operated the water taxi that shuttled people from downtown Toledo to the restaurants at The Docks.

One April, he was working on his wooden boat at Bay View Yacht Club and fell from the scaffolding, breaking three vertebrae and six ribs. Nobody was around to help him, so he drove himself to the hospital.

He earned his pilot's license and was a member of a club in which members shared a single-engine plane. Later, he got his instrument license and flew the family to visit relatives in New York, Kansas, and elsewhere.

He was elected to the Sylvania School Board in 1978 but became disillusioned with the process and did not run for re-election.

At Owens-Illinois, he was president of an O-I employee club, the Technical Center Onized Club in 1967. In 1970, he became Chief Laser Scientist in the Consumer and Technical Products Group. He later became General Manager of Laser Products and General Manager of Optical Products. His group worked on glass used in ceramic stovetops, giant telescopes, and classified products for the U.S. government. He was the holder of eight patents on glass laser and luminescent compositions.

In 1981, Haynes resigned from O-I and became general manager of the Laser Institute of America, establishing its offices in Sylvania. He served on - and was chairman of - the Area Council for Technology.

After leaving the Laser Institute in 1988, he earned his captain's license and delivered boats to and from Florida, the east coast and around the Great Lakes, with Marge often serving as his first mate. In the winter, he prepared tax returns, which he enjoyed doing into his 90s. He spent two years as the comptroller for a local construction company, was treasurer and president of his condo association, and devoted lots of time and energy to the Western Lake Erie Historical Society.

When he no longer felt comfortable captaining his own boat, he and Marge started going on cruises. He didn't get to pilot the boat, but on most of the ships there were daily bridge games.

He organized bridge games at the Sylvania Senior Center for many years. He also served as treasurer, vice president, and president of the center's participants council. In 2022, the senior center planted a tree in his honor. In recent years, he played bridge three days a week - at Swan Creek, the Maumee Senior Center and the Toledo Bridge Center.

And for the last few decades, he used the scientific part of his brain to perfect a recipe for chocolate fudge, which his children looked forward to receiving at Christmas each year.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Marge Lee STEM Scholarship at the University of Toledo. Checks can be made out to UT Foundation and mailed to Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo OH 43614.

A visitation will be held from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Road, with a Power Squadron ceremony and sharing of memories starting at 7 p.m.

Visitation will continue at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, at Epworth United Methodist Church with a memorial service beginning at noon.

Interment will be private.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 12. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Sharing of Memories

NOV 12. 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Visitation

NOV 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Epworth United Methodist
4855 W Central Ave
Toledo, OH 43615

Memorial Service

NOV 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

Epworth United Methodist
4855 W Central Ave
Toledo, OH 43615

Tribute Wall

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - November 11, 2025 at 02:15 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Haynes Lee.



November 03, 2025 at 01:31 PM

KR

“ I met Haynes at Eleanor Kahle Senior Center twenty five years ago. We played many hands of bridge. He was always soft spoken and kind. A real gentleman...

Karin Raber - November 01, 2025 at 04:18 PM