

Charles Reynold Lee, Sr

Charles Reynold Lee was born on January 23rd, 1928 in Texarkana, Texas. He is the youngest son of Arthur Walter Lee, Sr. and Rosa A. Walton Lee and the brother of Walter Lee (deceased).

As a young boy growing up he enjoyed fun times in the neighborhood of Sunset in Texarkana and recalls fond times visiting his grandmother and other family members in Jefferson and Linden, Texas. He was known as the class "jokester" in high school and could be seen riding his bicycle "backwards" as he traveled to and fro. Upon graduation from high school, he wanted to see the world rather than go to college. His mother "said no" time and time again, however, after much conversation decided to "let him go" on one condition. Go ahead and go, but upon return home, he had to promise to go to college. And that's exactly what Charles did.

He joined the merchant marines and traveled around the world to many far away places. His fondest memories were recalled in Venice, Italy and the Panama Canal. If you have a chance, give him a call sometimes and let him tell you all about his adventures. When he returned to the states, he attended the Pittsburg Teaching School in Pittsburg, Kansas. While in college, he met the love of his life, Eloise Brooks, in Manhattan, Kansas. Both Charles and Eloise were native Texans who had travelled far away from home to pursue their dreams. Upon graduation, they returned to Texas, married in Nacogdoches and after a few years, relocated to Tyler, Texas. They have two children, Regina (Jim Newsome) and Charlie (Mary) and two grandchildren, Jami and Reggie Newsome who all reside in Houston, Texas.

Charles' taught school at Emmett J. Scott and Robert E. Lee High in Tyler for over 30 years. He acquired the nickname of "Chief Lee" from his students and many recall working on projects in the "shop" with chief in charge! Charles wore a multitude of hats at home and in the community -- from husband, to father, to grandfather, to brother, to uncle, ... from industrial arts teacher, to electrician, to plumber, to sprinkler system installer, to gadget inventor, ... from BBQ king, to housekeeper, to financial manager, to bookkeeper ..., from deacon, to male chorus baritone singer, to church administrator, ..., from philosopher, to wisdom sharer, to good listener, to email writer. You name it and Charles has been there and done that. Without a doubt, his kindness, generosity, caring spirit, and service to others makes him **"very special"** -----**truly a Trailblazer, truly a Renaissance Man - truly our Hero!**