



## Wilma Agnes Lee

August 27, 1922 - September 8, 2017

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She was born in Detroit, the youngest daughter of Frank and Elsie Staub, Wilma grew up on St. Louis Street and graduated from Pershing High School in 1941. She was adventurous and fun loving from the start and always had a love of travel-whether it was around the city or around the country. Her travels took her to New Haven, Michigan, where she met Harry Lyle Lee. They fell in love and were married in January, 1948. Wilma became mother to Harry's two boys, James (Jim) and Wayne. Soon Wilma and Harry's only child together, Karen, was born. Harry died in 1966. Wilma never remarried. Always strong and self-reliant, she went on to make a fantastic and full life for herself, first working in the Frank Lemmon Elementary School (New Haven) cafeteria and as a school bus driver and then for the U.S. Post Office, from which she retired in 1980. After retirement, Wilma purchased her dream home: a rustic log cabin nestled on 80 acres of forest "Up North" in Rhodes, Michigan. She cut her own firewood, plowed the snow with her tractor, surveyed "her 80" via three-wheeler ATV and fed the creatures of the forest. "Her deer" were her favorite. She fed them sugar beets and corn. The deer came to know it was feeding time when Wilma would bang two coffee cans together and call out to them. They would usually appear in the yard before Wilma would make it back from the garage to the house and were rarely disturbed by her presence among them. Living "Up North" encouraged her love of travel. She was known to drive hours to Traverse City just for a slice of cherry pie or to visit a casino.

She was ready to go whenever the mood struck her. She always had a bag packed and ready. Once she called Karen to let her know that she was going for a "little ride" with her sister, Ruth. A few days later, she called Karen again to let her know they were in Mount Pleasant. When Karen asked why she was calling just 40 miles from home, Wilma told Karen she was in Mount Pleasant, Texas. Other than her family, Wilma was most proud of having driven to 46 of the 48 contiguous states. In 2009, with Karen by her side, she added Washington and Oregon to the list (although they flew instead of driving). In 2011 she and Karen took a cruise to Alaska and in 2012, just before her 90th birthday and with Karen and son-in-law, Ron, by her side, she checked off the 50th state with a visit to Hawaii. Wilma also loved to visit her granddaughter, Melissa, her husband James, and their puppies in Maine, which reminded her of the woods up north. After travel became too difficult, she looked forward to Melissa's visits to Michigan and got an extra big smile when James was there too. Eventually Wilma realized that she shouldn't live alone on "her 80" anymore, and moved to the Village of East Harbor in Chesterfield where she was closer to Karen and Ron. Although it wasn't her woods, she was happy because she saw her daughter and son in-law every Sunday. While living at East Harbor, her "job," as she called it, was to go visit those in the nursing center of the community, where she got to know the other residents and staff. When the time came for her to move into that part of the community, it was made easier because of the friends she had made there. Wilma passed away peacefully at the Village of East Harbor on Friday, September 8th, 2017 just a few days after her 95th birthday. In addition to a legacy of strength, independence, a no nonsense attitude and abounding love, Wilma is survived by her daughter Karen (Ron) Current, daughter in-law Theresa Lee, grandchildren Melissa (James) Gerety, James Lee Jr, Susan (Jay) Elliott, Vicky (Matt) Abbott, special nephew and nieces Kerry (Donna) Kuhlow , Sharon (David) Couture, and Susan Kuhlow and eight great-grandchildren. Wilma was pre-deceased by her husband Harry; sons James Lee and Wayne Lee; granddaughter Deborah McNair; parents, Frank and Elsie Staub; and

siblings Melvin, Frank and Dale Staub and Ruth Kuhlow. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Contributions in memory of Wilma can be directed to the American Cancer Society or to the Benevolence Endowment at Presbyterian Villages of Michigan online at [pvmfoundation.org/donate](http://pvmfoundation.org/donate), by phone at 248.281.2040 or checks can be mailed to PVM Foundation, 26200 Lasher Rd., Southfield, MI 48033. In the memo area, note: Benevolence Endowment in memory of Wilma Lee. Arrangements by: Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road, Utica. Please share a memory with her family at: [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Cemetery Details

**Cremation**

# Tribute Wall

SR

“ Karen, I just learned of your Mothers passing, just now. I was “visiting “ my Mom and Dad at the New Haven cemetary, and decided to visit a few other friends that were there. Thats when I saw the headstone of your Mom and Dad. I’m so sorry I did not send my condolences last year. Growing up next door to you, I always felt like we were family. Our Dads worked together, your Mom was my “lunch” lady, and you were my big sister. I even remember the times we went “trick or treating together. I remember too, that my Mom always knew when I did not finish my lunch in elementary school. She told me a little bird always told her. I figured out that sometime later on, that the “little bird” was your Mom! I am so happy to hear that your Mom got to do her traveling, and lived up north with all of Gods beautiful nature, and animals around her. I know it was hard for you to lose your Dad when you did, only a month before you graduated high school. Not that it was any easier losing your Mom, even at the age of 95. I’m happy you and Ron got to travel with your Mom on some of her adventures. Know that you were a very good daughter, and Mom & Dad are finally together again. A friend always, Sally Reygaert (nee Hartwig)💕

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**Sally Reygaert** - October 07, 2018 at 05:54 PM

RO

“ Roxan & Rick Ostrowski purchased the Tears To Share for the family of Wilma Agnes Lee .



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**Roxan & Rick Ostrowski** - September 13, 2017 at 03:58 PM

RH

“ *your a wonderful lady and this greetings for you it is filled with best wishes too last out the year through it holds greatful thoughts special memories too but most of all it says thanks because we love and miss you.*

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**rod howard** - September 12, 2017 at 02:13 PM