



Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee

October 12, 1935 - October 14, 2025

Lee, Mr. Clyde "Papa" - Age 90, passed away on October 14, 2025, at Willowbrook Manor. Family hour 10:00 AM Saturday, November 8, 2025, from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., with funeral service commencing at 10:30 AM, Colonel D. Lee, officiating. Interment, Lovedale Memorial Cemetery, 5175 E. Bristol Rd., Burton. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the funeral home 10:00 AM Saturday. Mr. "Papa" Lee will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd. and may be viewed from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friday, November 7, 2025, with family present from 4:00PM - 6:00PM.

Clyde Wilton Lee Sr. "Papa Lee" was born October 12, 1935, in Texarkana, Texas. The son of Colonel Lee Sr. And Eliza Handley Lee.

Clyde "Papa" Lee Sr. moved to Flint when he was eight years old and went to Flint Public Schools. As an adult, he worked for General Motors and Chrysler, and he even opened his own Bump and Paint shop on Grand River Blvd. in Detroit, where he ran the business for over twenty years. For more than fifteen years, he began each day at 6 a.m. with prayer, a reflection of his deep faith and discipline.

Papa Lee started making music when he was in middle school. He began by playing the drums—first on his mother's pots and pans until his father bought

him a real drum set! His brother, Billy Lee, joined in too. He became a drummer in the Elks youth marching band in Flint's St. John Street community. Later, he learned to play the harmonica, keyboard, and lead guitar.

In the 1960s, Papa Lee performed at the famous Paradise Club in Idlewild, Michigan. He recorded with big names from the 1970s, like the Detroit Emeralds and the Motown Review. In Detroit, he played at famous clubs like the Rusty Nail, and Nesters Club with Knoxy and the Willie George Band. He also spent time in Hamtramck with the Butler Twins. He also played on Sundays for several churches throughout the city of Detroit. Back in Flint, he played with the Jim Taylor Trio at the Motor City and the 50 Grand. He also played RG Club located on St. John Street. In the 1980s, he often performed at Shay Lake, a Black resort in southeast Michigan.

Papa Lee's musical career was full of amazing collaborations. He played with local legends like Sherwood Pea, Earl Hughes, John Lee Hooker, Bobo Jenkins, Washboard Willie, Chicago Pete, Eddie Burns, Calvin Frazier, Willie D. Warren, Mr. Bo, Little Mac Collins, Uncle Jessie White, and many others. He was also a regular performer at the Eastern Market in Detroit, the Flint Blues Festival, and the Detroit Public Library.

In 2010, he recorded "Papa Lee You Never Had the Blues", co-produced by Clyde Lee Jr. All the songs were written and performed by Papa Lee. The recording has four tracks—"Bin Laden Bin Laden," "You Never Had the Blues," "911," and "Bad Boy Blues"—featuring harmonica by Little Arthur, piano by Kevin Williams, bass by Walt Coleman, guitar by Gary Cales, drums by Earl Barron, saxophone by Jermi Lumpkin, and trumpet by Bruce Sechrest. Special guest Billie Davis sang on "Bad Boy Blues."

In 2015, for Black History Month, he was honored with a three-foot display at Elias Big Boys restaurant in Detroit. In his later years, Papa Lee and the Body Shop Blues Band often performed at nursing homes around Detroit, sharing

music with the community. In 2018, Papa Lee was featured in the documentary “Paradise Boogie,” which celebrated Detroit’s early Blues musicians and the neighborhoods of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley that shaped the music. He was also involved with “Flint Tunes At Noon”, “Willie George Band” and “Choaker Campbell & The Super Sounds.”

Papa Lee also shared his love of music with his family. He gifted his instruments to his great-grandkids so they could carry on his musical legacy into the future.

Clyde Wilton Lee Sr. “Papa Lee” leaves to cherish his memory: 5 children, 2 daughters and 3 sons, Clyde Wilton Lee Jr. of South Orange, NJ, Florenda (Eric) Hall of Flint Twp., MI, Lionel Craig (Roxie) Lee of Pemberton, NJ, Taleshia Ford, Las Vegas, NV and Collis Lee Sr. of Kansas City, MO; 4 step-children, Trea Ford of Mt. Morris, MI, Tania Ford of Huntsville, AL, Crystal Richardson of Sterling Heights, MI and Delano Smith Jr. of Louisville, KY; god-daughter, Dr. Dawn Hinton of Saginaw, MI; sisters-in-law, Ada Lee and Alzada Gipson; grandchildren, Idris L. Lee, Clyde (Jennifer) Lee III, Lionel (Shalesse) Lee Jr, Dionte Lee, Chevelle Lee, Shatarian (Isaiah) Oliver, Latoya (Jason) Barnett, Tykeshia Ford, Collis Lee Jr., Devin Stucky, Darious Stucky, and Ashley Simmons; great-grandchildren, Eric Lundy, Rianni Lee, Davon Lee Sr, Ashiah Roan Lee, Zaiyah Oliver, Carrington Oliver, Chelyn Oliver, Isaiah Oliver II, Autumn Lee, Lionel Lee III, Clyde Lee IV, Hayes Lee, Dean Lee, Kendall Lee, Collier Lee, Violet Barrett, Ledgen Barrett, Aminah Simmons, Amiyah, Simmons, and Bryson Hughes; great-great-grandchildren, Angel Fisher, Davon Lee II, and DeArie McPherson; siblings, Colonel Lee Jr. of Flint, Joseph (Dorothy) Lee of Flushing, MI Eugene (Cathis) Lee, Grand Blanc, MI, Ida Johnson of Flint Twp, MI and Anthony Lee of Detroit, MI; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends including special friends, Winona Hinton, Carla Lee, Howard Dombrowski, Mighty Mike, Billy Davis, Little Arthur

Anderson, Earl Barron, Linda Mendelson, and Dorothy Tiggs.

Mr. Lee was preceded in death by his son, Colonel S. Lee; parents, Colonel Sr. & Eliza Handley Lee; brother, William Billy Lee; sisters, Eldoris Simmons, Rachel Silk, Maple Skinner, and Delores Vaughn; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Simmons Sr, William Vaught Sr, and Wilbur Johnson; nephews, Kenneth Simmons Jr, Reginald Lee, and Mark Burton; niece, Nicole D. Lee; ex wife, Romella Lee; and god-son, Cary Zander.

The family would like to express special thanks to, caregivers, Cheryl Coleman Willaims, Autumn Knowles, Shatarian Oliver, Amber Lee, Lucy Boulder, Krystal Johnson, Arie Johnson, Angela Vaughn, Troy Spaulding, Dr. Greta Rode, Hurley Medical Center (4th floor, ICU, CCU & PCU), Willowbrook Manor, Swan Hospice, Desiree from Pomroy, and Melonda.

Cemetery Details

Lovedale Memorial Cemetery

G-5175 E. Bristol Rd.
Burton, MI

Previous Events

Public Viewing

NOV 7. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Family hour

NOV 8. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Service

NOV 8. 10:30 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - November 08, 2025 at 08:16 AM

CB

“ *Carolyn Buckley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Carolyn Buckley - November 12, 2025 at 01:54 AM

SA

“ *Stephanie and Herman Anthony lit a candle in memory of Clyde Lee*



Stephanie and Herman Anthony - November 08, 2025 at 07:43 PM

CB

“ *Cassandra Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Cassandra Burks - November 07, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ *Phylize Oliver lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Phylize Oliver - November 06, 2025 at 10:05 PM

HA

“ *Herman & Stephanie Anthony lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Herman & Stephanie Anthony - November 06, 2025 at 06:16 PM

HA

“ *Sending our deepest condolences and prayers to the entire Lee Family. May the Heavenly Father guide you and comfort you during this time of great sorrow.*

Herman and Stephanie Anthony - November 06, 2025 at 06:11 PM

KR

“ *Kermit And Genell (Crain) Reeves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Kermit and Genell (Crain) Reeves - November 05, 2025 at 06:15 PM

MS

“ *Our condolences to the Lee family. Sorry for your loss. We will continue to keep the family in our PRAYERS.* 🙏🙏



Benny & Mae Vern Spence

Marietta GA.

Mae Vern Spence - November 05, 2025 at 01:13 PM

EQ

“ *EQC lit a candle in memory of Clyde Lee*



EQC - November 04, 2025 at 02:10 PM

TY

“ *Thank you for all your love. Im truly going to miss you rest in peace Grandad* 🕊️🕊️🕊️

tye - November 02, 2025 at 06:26 PM

CJ

“ To Nay and family you have my deepest condolences. Your dad loved you and I know you loved him.... Love Carmella and Family

Carmella Johnson - November 02, 2025 at 06:08 PM

RW

“ Rodney Waters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Rodney Waters - November 02, 2025 at 09:00 AM

DF

“ Dorothy Harvey and familys lit a candle in memory of Clyde Lee



Dorothy Harvey and familys - October 31, 2025 at 06:25 PM

ST

“ Sammie Turner lit a candle in memory of Clyde Lee



Sammie Turner - October 29, 2025 at 10:56 PM

LT

“ *Lawrence Townsel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee Sr.*



Lawrence Townsel - October 29, 2025 at 06:21 PM

EL

“ *You have our prayers & deepest sympathy*



Elder Michael and Phyllis Leslie - October 29, 2025 at 02:59 AM

PC

“ *my condolences to Tony Lee and family the first drum set i played on growing up was Clyde's set*

Pierre Copeland - October 27, 2025 at 12:46 AM

JH

“ *James (Jimmy) And Carolyn Hudson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



James (Jimmy) and Carolyn Hudson - October 26, 2025 at 11:58 PM

SS

“ *Sheila Summers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Sheila Summers - October 26, 2025 at 09:19 PM

SC

“ *Sending my condolences and prayers to the Lee family.*
Shirley Cochran



Shirley Cochran - October 26, 2025 at 10:58 AM

SM

“ *To the Lee family, May God strengthen the family!!*



Shirley Miller - October 26, 2025 at 07:34 AM

KN

“ *Kenneth And Barbara Nesbitt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Kenneth and Barbara Nesbitt - October 23, 2025 at 09:28 PM

SC

“ *St. John Street Historical Committee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



St. John Street Historical Committee - October 22, 2025 at 12:05 PM

SN

“ *Sandy Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Sandy Neal - October 21, 2025 at 01:01 AM

GH

“ *Uncle im gonna miss you! Thanks for all the knowlege you gave me. Thanks for teaching me the Astrology, you went pretty deep with it! One hell of a self taught drummer which passed on to my brother Reggie. You were a philospher! The oldest son of 11 kids. You represented the Lee name real well and have left a legacy of Lee Men and Youngmen to carry your name! Rest Up Unc! Love u!*



Gail Lee Henry - October 20, 2025 at 09:25 PM

PC

“ *My deepest prayers and condolences to the family for the loss of Mr. Lee. So glad got to know him when I was his nurse. He was a nice patient. RIP*



Pamela Nelson Cook - October 20, 2025 at 05:18 PM

CP

“ *Cerese Pennington sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Cerese Pennington - October 20, 2025 at 11:27 AM

VB

“ *Vickie Broome lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Vickie Broome - October 20, 2025 at 09:52 AM

BT

“ *Betty Tipper lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Betty Tipper - October 20, 2025 at 09:28 AM

DM

“ *Deb Milling lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Deb Milling - October 20, 2025 at 08:44 AM

RA

“ *Rosia Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Rosia Anderson - October 20, 2025 at 12:37 AM

BP

“ *We've known Clyde since growing up across the street as kids, from them on Alabama St Remember him being the drummer. He was always nice & cool. LOL 90 yrs.what a blessing. To the family , our sincere condolences. The Chambry Family*

Betty Perkins - October 19, 2025 at 05:31 PM

LR

“ *sympathy and Love From The Frank Randall Family*



Lorene Randall - October 19, 2025 at 10:35 AM

TF

“ *The Pippins Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



The Pippins Family - October 19, 2025 at 09:00 AM

BF

“ *Sending Our Prayers and Love to The Lee Family'
Love the Billings Family*



Billings Family - October 19, 2025 at 07:28 AM

VT

“ *Valerie Toles sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Valerie Toles - October 19, 2025 at 06:26 AM

LM

“ *Lit a Candle in memory of Mr. Clyde Lee Sr. Sending my prayers and deepest sympathy to you and the entire Lee Family 🙏 Tasha Love*

Linda Mayfield - October 18, 2025 at 09:47 PM

MH

“ *Mary Haney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Mary Haney - October 18, 2025 at 09:26 PM

WS

“ *Wanda Stitt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Wanda Stitt - October 18, 2025 at 09:13 PM

LM

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde Lee Sr. Sending my prayers and condolences to Rennie, Clyde, Craig all the grandchildren and the entire Lee family sorry for your loss remembering that God makes no mistakes he will help y'all get through this difficult time. R.I.P. Mr.Lee gone but not forgotten you will truly be missed. Linda Mayfield and Family*



Linda Mayfield - October 18, 2025 at 06:11 PM

NB

“ *Nellie Bacon sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Nellie Bacon - October 18, 2025 at 02:55 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Aileen Spence - October 18, 2025 at 01:59 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Aileen Spence - October 18, 2025 at 01:58 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee*



Aileen Spence - October 18, 2025 at 01:58 PM

MM

“ Michael And Tawanna Morgan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Michael and Tawanna Morgan - October 18, 2025 at 01:16 PM

RS

“ Rosalind Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Rosalind Smith - October 18, 2025 at 12:15 PM

IG

“ Ira L Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Ira L Gilbert - October 18, 2025 at 09:55 AM

YC

“ Yolonda D Cross lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Yolonda D Cross - October 18, 2025 at 01:06 AM

DS

“ Dixie Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Dixie Smith - October 18, 2025 at 01:05 AM

DS

“ Dixie Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Dixie Smith - October 18, 2025 at 01:04 AM

PW

“ Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Pam Williams - October 17, 2025 at 11:29 PM

JK

“ Jesse Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clyde "Papa" Lee



Jesse Kirksey - October 17, 2025 at 05:56 PM

LM

A giant of a man, beloved "Papa Lee" has left us. We will not only miss his amazing musical skills, mentorship, but also his wisdom, compassion, insights, and genuine friendship. I know how much he loved his family and precious grandchildren. May his memory always be a blessing forever in our hearts. 💔🙏🕊️💖

Linda Mendelson - October 29, 2025 at 04:41 PM