



## Flay "Lee" Ary

September 17, 1941 - February 17, 2020

Flay "Lee" Ary of St. James, Missouri passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer, at the age of 78. Lee was born in Thayer, Missouri on September 17, 1941 to the late Rufus and Mamie (Blackwell) Ary.

Lee married the love of his life Violet Radford on May 27, 1972, this union was joined with five children. Lee and Violet owned and operated Tiger Pizza in St. James, Missouri. They were very active in the community, sadly Violet passed away in 2000. Lee was very involved in the community and was a member of the St. James Fire Department, American Legion Post #607, lifetime member of the N.R.A., and the St. James Sports Club; he loved children and knew the importance of their role in our future, he was especially proud to be "Santa" for the Christmas activities within the St. James Sports Club. Lee was such a giver and loved to help those in need, he enjoyed tinkering with things in his shop and could fix just about anything, he always helped his friends and neighbors with things they needed fixed as well. He worked for Holsum Bakery for 11 years, and then went to work for the Chrysler Corporation where he joined the United Auto Workers of America union, he stayed at Chrysler until he retired. He was a jack of all trades, loved a good joke, loved animals, and wildlife in general, he had a strong belief and faith in God, always gave to the less fortunate, and loved St. Louis Cardinal baseball. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, neighbors, and the St. James community. Lee is survived by his children, Susan Wendling, of Fort Atkinson, WI, Mike

Ary of Janesville, WI, Judy Ary and wife Lori, of Greenfield, WI, and step-daughter, Tonya Burgess, of CO; sister, Carolee Ary of S.C.; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, a host of extended family, friends and caretakers, Mary Karnes, David Bell, Tammy Hendrix and family who gave him wonderful care in his final days.

In addition to his parents Rufus and Mamie Ary, and his wife of 28 years, Violet Ary, Lee was preceded in death by his step-son, Bobby Joe Smith; and other siblings.

Funeral service will be held on Friday, February 21, 2020 at the St. James Chapel of the James & Gahr Mortuary at 1:00 PM with Reverend Jerry Baumann officiating. Lee will be laid to rest along side of his late wife, Violet, at the St. James Cemetery. A visitation for family and friends will be held at the Chapel prior to the service from 11AM until service time. Memorials are suggested and greatly appreciated to the St. James Sports Club, cards are available at all James & Gahr locations. For online condolences please visit [www.jamesgahrmortuary.com](http://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com)

# Cemetery Details

**St. James Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

FEB 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - St. James  
117 Seymour St.  
St. James, MO 65559  
(573) 265-3232  
dcjames@fidnet.com  
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

### Service

FEB 21. 1:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - St. James  
117 Seymour St.  
St. James, MO 65559  
(573) 265-3232  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Flay "Lee" Ary*

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January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ *Flay "Lee" Ary*

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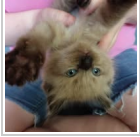
January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Flay "Lee". Fond memories of this entire family as we were neighbors growing up and enjoyed playing as well as working together. Sympathy to the Ary family.*

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**Garry Hoyt** - February 19, 2020 at 08:56 PM



“ Uncle Lee was the one Momma (Pat Or Aline) said was most like Grandpa Ary. Just barely a year apart, Momma shared stories of the two playing. Once while cutting wood Uncle Lee dated her to cut off her big toe. She said sure only if you'll do it first. He did through his shoe with the ax. He ran to his Mom & Dad, they poured kerosene into his shoe & sent him back to work. His toe was just barely attached. Momma said once she had been sick and lost her voice for a long time. They played going in and out under the edge of the huge tent the family lived in during the summer (Momma said it was huge like a circus tent). She said her voice came back and it scared both of them. They once ganged up on their Dad (who loved throwing rocks at the kids). The two caught him in the shop and would pepper him with rocks every time he would attempt to come out. Momma said they kept him in the shop untill lunch time. She loved her (I love you calls). He is one to remember



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Anne Paul Lyerly - February 18, 2020 at 07:44 PM

JA

Thank you for sharing such fun and fond memories

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Judy and Lori Ary - February 18, 2020 at 11:27 PM

RK

“ He was always there for my mom Aline and always the best uncle to us all when he and uncle Darrel was helping mom with the wood flooring they called Billy plan B so many memories and when we came up there on the bikes we were welcomed with open arms he will be greatly missed we love you and always will

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regina underwood kimbrel - February 18, 2020 at 03:31 PM

JA

*Glad they had a plan B. Thank for sharing.*

**Judy and Lori Ary** - February 18, 2020 at 11:28 PM

NW

“ You were more of a dad to me than an uncle I am going to miss those 1am and 3am phone calls that lasted til sunrise when you got a lot on your mind and can't sleep...the road trips we took going 80..90..visiting a few ditches..and the many stops by those cars with the special red/blue lights..most times leaving with just a warning but my heart just a pounding..you raised a bunch of Guineas for me, they squeaked and squawked for the 7 hour drive home just to all run away and not come back..we had so many adventures...there are no words to Express how much I am you going to miss you..but you will always be in my heart forever...Nannette

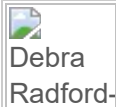


**Nannette Williams** - February 18, 2020 at 01:29 PM

JA

*We are so glad that you and your Uncle Lee had a very special bond. Thank you for sharing these memories.*

**Judy and Lori Ary** - February 18, 2020 at 11:31 PM



Debra Radford-

*Lee was married to my Cousin, Violet Radford... He was a wonderful husband and step father.. He sure is missed very much! I am looking for Tonya Smith his step daughter, and I know Bobby Smith, passed.. My email is DebraLynnRadford@gmail.com*

**Debra Radford-Boehmer** - April 26, 2024 at 05:10 PM