



Robert "Lee" Horton

November 6, 1949 - July 3, 2012

Robert Lee Horton, age 62 of Topeka, passed away Tuesday, July 3, 2012 after he lost his battle with cancer. He was born November 6, 1949 and was preceded in death by his parents; Harold and Juanita Horton, and a sister; Susan Montgomery. Lee lived in Arkansas and Mississippi until joining the United States Army in 1968. He served in the Vietnam War with Bravo Company, 11th Infantry Brigade from 1968-1969, and was awarded numerous medals and honors for his bravery and service. After returning from Vietnam Lee started his own roofing company in Missouri. Lee is survived by his wife Deborah of 17 years, and their loving dog, Heaven; sons, Chad Holthaus and his wife Jen of Topeka; Wes Holthaus and Dylan Bane of Topeka, grandchildren; Chance, Caden, Avery and Beckhman Holthaus, a brother; Bruce (Danita) Buckingham, sisters; Carolyn (Ron) Miller, Jeanette Sumners, and many nieces and nephews. Lee loved his country and fellow service men and women. He became an advocate for Veterans and their families. In 2001, he created the U.S. National Patrol 2nd Responder Volunteers to Assist and Serve, a national organization in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In 2006, Lee organized the "Big Bad Bravo" reunion in St. Charles, Mo., bringing together more than 300 surviving members of Bravo Company for the first time since the war. They continue to meet every two years. In 2007, he created the Military Advanced Stress Awareness Program at Fort Riley where he counseled military families on what to expect when their soldiers returned from combat and what stressors might trigger flashbacks. In 2011, Lee led

efforts to dedicate the monument at Gage Park for soldiers who have been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and was currently the commander. In 2012, Lee was honored with the Bruce Award by a group of active duty soldiers for his volunteer work with veteran's organizations. At the time of his death, Lee was working on raising funds for the "Homage" Statue Memorial which will be placed at the Gage Park Veterans Memorial. He was a member of the ALR riders of Legion Post 421 and enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson. Lee loved God, his family and his country and will be deeply missed. Lee will lie in state Friday, from 2 to 7:30 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd., Topeka KS 66614. Family will greet friends from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday at 10 a.m. at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St., Topeka Ks 66618. Memorial contributions are suggested to Homage Statue Memorial Fund and Post 421 American Legion building fund sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ Robert "Lee" Horton

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Deb, I know this is so long over due. I was asking my Doc Sam today how Lee was doing because I hadn't heard from him. He then told me of his passing. He was such a great Man and helped me in many ways with my PTSD. It was an honor to know him and I won't forget him.....May you Rest in Peace Brother!!

SGT Dustin Roberts
US Army (Retired)
Iraq Combat Vet '04-'05

Dusty Roberts - December 10, 2012 at 08:01 PM



“ Deb, I just heard about Lee's passing and I am so sorry you have to experience this. Lee was a great man and I will always hold him near and dear to my heart. I wish I lived closer so I could give you a great big hug and a shoulder to cry on. You guys were like family to me. I'm saddened to know he is no longer with us. Love you always.

Jenn Barr - July 13, 2012 at 04:17 PM

TS

“ *Deb, Robert will surely not be forgotten, I really appreciate all the efforts that Lee put forth for all of us. I am one of the BBB brothers that he helped bring together with Brovo Company after 40 plus years. There are so many BBB brothers like myself that are so grateful for his leadership in putting us all together. May God bless you and your family, and thanks for sharing Lee with all of us.*

Tony Stayer - July 10, 2012 at 09:53 PM

ML

“ *As a combat veteran, I salute your service, Lee. God Bless, Rest in Peace.*

M. Lancaster - July 06, 2012 at 07:42 PM

DH

“ *Deb,
So sorry to hear of the passing of your husband.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Sincerely,
Max, Diane and Brianna Hermesch*

Diane (Krotzinger) Hermesch - July 06, 2012 at 12:04 PM

GW

“ *Deb, We (my wife Sandy and I) met Lee at the 2007 "planning" mini-reunion in Gatlinburg (or maybe the 2008 reunion in St Louis/St Charles, MO). He's the one responsible for so many of us BBB'ers forming a brotherhood that can't be matched! I served in the mortar platoon from Oct '70 to Jan '71...one of the late comers, so I didn't know him from the field, but only later as a "brother-in-arms" at the reunions.*

May God bless and comfort you in these difficult times.

Gene Wroble - July 06, 2012 at 11:49 AM

RS

“ *Deb,
So sorry of Robert's passing. Robert helped me get my name on a Topeka veteran's monument. I am a BBB brother and I'm sure you find peace at this time. God Bless*

Ron Schramm - July 06, 2012 at 11:22 AM

JJ

“ *We are very sad to hear of Lee's passing. I can not even begin to say what he meant to Jason and I. He touched our lives in many ways and will always hold a special place in our hearts and in our family. He was the type of person many strive to be...caring, motivated, patriotic and selfless. Deb, Chad and family, you are in our thoughts and prayers! Please call if you need anything!*

Jason and Amber Judd - July 06, 2012 at 10:15 AM

HB

“ *I would like to send my condolences to the family of Lee Horton. I served with 1st platoon of Bravo Company during 1969. I did not personally know Lee, but I appreciate his service and bravery for his country and also his efforts to get us back together starting in 2006. It has meant a lot to me. Let us be thankful for his life; the world is a better place because he lived. WE ask that god the Father find a place in his House for Lee, where he will always be loved and never be alone. Amen.*

Hugh Butler

Hugh Butler - July 06, 2012 at 08:08 AM

SE

“ *I'm saddened to hear of Lee's passing. I am one of his Vietnam Brothers that has benefited so much from his efforts to reunite us as a BBB family!*

Sam Ellis - July 05, 2012 at 10:06 PM

JC

“ *Deb, So sorry to hear of Robert's passing. He was an amazing person with a great story! I am honored to have known him and to have met you. I pray you find peace in this difficult time.*

Jen Clark - July 05, 2012 at 11:22 AM

MS

“ *Gone but not forgotten! A real American Hero,thank you for your service to our Nation.
May God bless the Robert "Lee" Horton family.*

Mike Simmons - July 04, 2012 at 08:08 PM

SS

“ *Deb-*

Bob and I are very sorry for your loss. Lee was a very kind and caring person and we will really miss him. God Bless you and your family.

Susan Sittenauer - July 04, 2012 at 03:15 PM