



## Lee Wills Hatch Jr.

July 5, 1943 - October 8, 2020

Lee Wills Hatch, Jr. was born in Auburn, New York, July 5, 1943, to Lee Wills Hatch and Louise Margaret Hardy Hatch. He lived on the Hatch family farm in Owasco, New York and attended early grades at The Octagon one room schoolhouse and later, elementary school in Skaneateles, NY.

The family moved to Turlock in the summer of 1959. Lee became acquainted with Gary Hartvickson and embarked on a lifelong adventure of friendship and brotherhood. Lee attended Turlock High School where he made many friends, played for the Bulldog football team and was a distinguished wrestler. He graduated in 1961. Lee attended Modesto Junior College and continued his successful wrestling career.

As a teen and young adult, Lee had many jobs, including Armour Foods and Valley Fresh. He eventually began working at V & S Manufacturing, where the late Henry Volk was not only his employer but his mentor & very dear friend. It was with his encouragement that Lee discovered his ingenuity in the manufacturing world. With Henry's blessing, Lee became the founder of Chaparral Manufacturing. His brilliance and expertise lead to the fabrication and manufacturing of many products used widely in vineyard, orchard and ag related businesses across the country for nearly 40 years.

In the early 70's, Lee was reunited with his love for racing pigeons, known as "the thoroughbreds of the sky." He became a proud member of the Golden State Flyers Racing Club founded in 1977. His loft has been home to many birds of distinguished pedigree, taking much pride over the years in raising birds worthy of competition.

Lee's lifelong love was travelling the river banks, lakes and mountains across the country to hunt and fish, taking trips with friends and making countless memories he loved to share. Lee has taken part in local clubs and organizations such as Turlock Ag Boosters, Turlock Horseman's Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Duck's Unlimited to name a few. He supported 4-H and FFA, not only for his children and grandchildren but for others in the community as well.

Lee is survived by his loving wife, Joan Anderson Hatch; his sister, Peggy Hatch St George (Cecil Oxford) of Sequim, WA; three daughters, Tracy Cockrell and Shelley Hatch of Turlock and Monica Burgess of Hilmar; and for 14 years, three sons, Christopher (Melissa), Timothy (Stephanie), and Andrew (Melissa) Macaulay-Robinson, all of WA

State. He was a loving Papa to twelve grandchildren: Rowdy, Frankie, Mariah, Breshelle, Travis, Cooper, Dakota, Preston, Whitlee, Ava, Emma and Oliver. Lee also leaves behind numerous cousins in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and California.

A visitation will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. A funeral service will be conducted at 2 p.m., on Thursday, October 22, 2020. All services will be held at Turlock Funeral Home, 425 N. Soderquist Rd., Turlock. Following the funeral service, Lee will be laid to rest at Turlock Memorial Park.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Turlock Memorial Park**  
575 N. Soderquist Rd.  
Turlock, CA, 95380

**OCT 21 Visitation 04:00PM - 06:00PM**

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Turlock Funeral Home  
425 North Soderquist Road, Turlock, CA, US, 95381

**OCT 22 Funeral Service 02:00PM - 03:00PM**

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Turlock Funeral Home  
425 North Soderquist Road, Turlock, CA, US, 95381

**OCT 22 Interment 03:00PM - 04:00PM**

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Turlock Memorial Park  
575 N Soderquist Rd, Turlock, CA, US, 95380-3749

# Comments

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“ It's been many years since I've hung out with Lee but I have many memories of the funny & fun things we all did together. My son is named after Lee because that was a promise Gary made when our first child was born. In fact, I still have the little leather cowboy belt Karen Clendenan gave us at the baby shower with LEH on it, referring to Lee Erik Hartvickson. Somehow, she knew Gary & I would have a boy. Lee was Gary's best friend and they were always together hunting, fishing or just hanging out. My heart and prayers go out to his family and friends - he will be forever in our hearts.

**Katherine Hartvickson** - October 22, 2020 at 01:32 PM

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“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Lee Wills Hatch Jr..



October 21, 2020 at 11:18 AM

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“ We will always treasure our lifetime of memories of Lee through work, play and friendship.  
Roy & Ellen

**Roy & Ellen** - October 18, 2020 at 11:05 PM

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“ I have such fond childhood memories of Lee. He has probably saved my life numerous times by teaching me important safety rules around horses. He was kind but firm when he once caught me with the lead rope wrapped around my hand and explained why he better not ever see a horse "attached" to me in any way! He also once caught me on my knees clipping a horse. Again he didn't just tell me not to do that, but explained why. To this day those lessons and many others have stuck with me! He was a great teacher! Oh and let's not forget Hank....the turkey he was training for the turkey races! :)

**Leslie Taylor** - October 17, 2020 at 06:09 PM



“ I did not know Lee well, but his sister, Peggy, and I have been friends for forty years. She told me many wonderful stories about growing up with her big brother and I know that she loved him deeply. I will keep Lee and his extended family in my prayers.



**Patricia Pavone** - October 17, 2020 at 04:51 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lee Wills Hatch Jr..



October 17, 2020 at 04:03 PM