



Lee Wymore

December 31, 1953 - April 11, 2026

Lee Allen Wymore, 72, of Ames and formerly of Oskaloosa, passed away April 11, 2026, at his home in Ames, Iowa.

Lee was born on December 31, 1953, in Oskaloosa, to Leroy Eldon Wymore and Alvada Lucille (McCarty) Wymore, and was the elder brother to Mike. He met his high school sweetheart, Joyce, in band and graduated from Oskaloosa High School with the class of 1972, a year behind Joyce. Joyce attended the University of Northern Colorado, and Lee wrote Joyce a letter every single day until he joined her in Colorado the following year, while attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in plant pathology. Lee and Joyce were united in marriage on August 9, 1975, in Oskaloosa. After Colorado, they moved to Ithaca, New York, where he attended Cornell University for a PhD in plant pathology, studying lettuce pathogens, and then to Montreal, Quebec, for a postdoctoral fellowship studying tomato pathogens at McDonald College of McGill University. Joyce and Lee had two children, Meghan and Mathew. In 1990, the family moved back to Oskaloosa, and Lee, Leroy, and other family members rebuilt their family house on South First Street after years of emptiness following a fire that destroyed it. The family lived in that house until 2020. Lee initially worked at Oskaloosa Engineering and Manufacturing as the quality control manager and began teaching evening classes at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa. He was hired into a full-time position at Indian Hills, mostly teaching Biology, but also Field Botany, Environment, and

Health, and was eventually department chair of the math and science department. He established and led the Science Club at Indian Hills. Lee retired in 2020, and Lee and Joyce settled in Ames to be near Meghan and Mathew and their grandchildren. Lee was “Bapa” to Henry and Alex, Tillie and Casper, and enjoyed going to their activities as he had for Meghan and Mat. In his youth, Lee played bassoon and bass drum in the band and was a Boy Scout, earning the rank of Eagle with Troop 77, which his father, Leroy, established. Later, Lee served as Cubmaster and Scoutmaster of Troop 77, as Mathew was a Cub and Boy Scout, and served on staff for many summers at Camp Wapello as archery instructor and the head of ecology and conservation. When his grandchildren were old enough to join Cub Scouts in Gilbert, Lee enjoyed attending their meetings and led several activities for their dens.

As a young adult, Lee enjoyed playing competitive volleyball. He was an amateur historian, especially of George Armstrong Custer and the Civil War. Lee was a founding member of the Ottumwa Civil War Roundtable and remained involved until his death. He served as newsletter editor, compiled the annual Civil War Jeopardy trivia contest, and frequently presented programs for the group about his Civil War-related travels and favorite topics. In his later years, he also attended the Des Moines Civil War Roundtable. Lee was a member of the Little Bighorn Associates and collected period weapons and relics, including his 1860 Spencer Carbine. He planned and organized the 2025 annual meeting of the Little Bighorn Associates in Kansas City, MO. Lee enjoyed camping trips, particularly to Poudre Canyon, CO, where he and Joyce began camping in college and returned many times, and later camping trips with his grandchildren in the Midwest and Colorado. He loved hiking, identifying plants and trees, and traveling with family and friends. Lee was a Darwin enthusiast and traveled to the Galapagos Islands in 2023, and was an amateur astronomer with his 8" Dobsonian reflector telescope. Lee was a fan of the Montreal Expos and the Denver Broncos. He also enjoyed growing carnivorous plants, collecting fossils, and helping excavate the Mahaska

County mammoth in 2012.

Lee is survived by his daughter Meghan (Jonathan Brand) Wymore Brand of Gilbert, IA; his son Mathew (Megan Henson) Wymore of Ames; three grandsons: Henry and Alexander Brand, and Casper Wymore Henson; one granddaughter, Tillie Wymore Henson; his brother, Mike (Erin Joy Swank) Wymore of Aurora CO; his brother, Jonathan (Tara) Wymore of Oskaloosa; stepmother, Terrie Wymore of Oskaloosa, and stepsisters: Brooke Ann Sells of Oskaloosa; Keely (Jeff) Choate of Marshalltown; and Bec Soll (Jerome Ellis) of Oskaloosa.

Lee was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved Joyce by 5 years and 76 days.

Memorials can be given to the Mary Greeley Foundation towards Radiology in Lee's name. Over several years, as he received weekly paracentesis at Mary Greeley Radiology, he became good friends with the Radiology Ultrasound technicians and receptionists.

A private service will be held, and Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory has been entrusted with Lee's arrangements. A memorial open house/celebration of life for both Lee & Joyce will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 11:00 am-2:00 pm, in the Community Room at the Mahaska County Environmental Learning Center in Oskaloosa.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
secretary@forestcemetery.com
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration

MAY 2. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Mahaska County Environmental Learning Center
2342 IA-92
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

A memorial open house/celebration of life for both Lee & Joyce will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 11:00 am-2:00 pm, in the Community Room at the Mahaska County Environmental Learning Center in Oskaloosa.

Tribute Wall



“ Lee was complicated, interesting, very reserved, very funny, and dedicated to teaching. I have many good memories of conversations and meals (Chinese buffet). R.I.P. Craig Payne

Craig Payne - April 29 at 11:44 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lee Wymore.

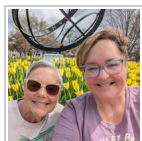


April 29 at 08:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lee Wymore.

April 29 at 08:26 AM



“ I taught with Dr. Wymore at Indian Hills Community College for many, many years. He was passionate about teaching science, helping with the mammoth dig, and his family! He was proud of Mathew's performances in Theatre and would always share with me the theatre productions they had traveled to see that Mathew was involved with. Peace to Mathew and Megan at this sad time.
-Dr. Jennifer Boyenga, IHCC Theatre Professor

Jennifer Boyenga - April 21 at 11:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Macdonald College



Robert Spring - April 19 at 07:22 PM



“ I worked with Lee at Macdonald College in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. I was his lab assistant while he was doing his Postdoctoral research with Dr Alan Watson.

He was a smart, kind person with a very good sense of humor and a soft laugh.

He was thrilled to be living in a city that had a Major League baseball team. During his stay here, he went to many Expos games.

I discovered Lee's interest in the American Civil War when he learned that my husband's great-great-grand father had been a soldier in the Civil War. I benefitted there and then, in the middle of the College farm fields, from a private lecture on the battles my husband's ancestors had participated in, complete with plans drawn in the earth with a nearby wooden stick. It felt like I was there!

I remember a three-day trip to Boston that he, Joyce (and baby Meghan) organized with a few of us from the lab. We walked a lot, talked a lot, learned a lot about history and ate at all the must-eat restaurants in Boston. We had a great trip!

Lee was also one of the founders of the St-Jean-Baptiste camping weekend tradition. The St-Jean-Baptiste weekend is a long holiday weekend at the end of June in Québec. The Wymores and their friends, the Tibeliuses, went camping to Charleston Lake Provincial Park in Ontario on that weekend. And ever since then, there has been a group of us camping there, every year, on or around that weekend, then with young children, now with adult children and grandchildren and more stiff muscles!

He is now forever with his beloved Joyce.

Anne Collette

Robert Spring - April 19 at 07:19 PM

DK

“ I first hired Lee as an Adjunct Instructor in Science courses. He was perfect. Lee was an excellent teacher, liked by students and faculty. He was soon hired full time. I will miss this honorable man...an intellectual and humanist.

Dr. David M. Kirchner, IHCC Retired Arts and Sciences/Administration

David M. Kirchner - April 18 at 01:01 PM

FW

“ I will always remember Lee in Ste Anne de Bellevue as the Pied Piper of spring, leading the banditry of local kids in patrols of the school parking lots where the melting snow left just enough lost coins to make the treasure hunt ever exciting. He was also the most intense and dedicated softball player I could imagine. The world is poorer for his passing.

Fred Whoriskey - April 16 at 09:13 PM

LP

“ When Lee lived in Montreal, there was a group of us, close friends, who all resided in town houses close to one another. The heating system for those town houses was in the basement of their unit so their place was always hot. I remember him, in the middle of the freezing Canadian winter, with snow banks all around, walking out in shorts outside to cool off with a smile on his face. A very cool memory to me. Lise

Lise Paquin - April 16 at 09:10 PM

MH

“ I still treasure having Dr Wymore as a professor in college. He was an amazing teacher. He will be greatly missed.



Melissa Hoose - April 16 at 01:28 PM

KN

“ This wonderful man was a quiet academic, and we all loved him for his wry sense of humor. He was a wise man who only spoke when he had something to say. Jeff and I will miss him dearly.

Karen Nielsen - April 15 at 05:54 PM

 John Walker

“ I knew and came to appreciate Lee from my membership in the Ottumwa Civil War Roundtable. He was incredibly knowledgeable and always extremely gracious and patient with those who had difficulty understanding. I am proud to have been able to call him friend. John Walker

John Walker - April 15 at 04:01 PM