



Lee Russell Spence

OCT 11, 1919 - JAN 6, 2021



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Lee Russell Spence

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LEE RUSSELL SPENCE passed away peacefully at 3:28 A. M. on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at age 101 at St Anthony's Gardens in Covington, Louisiana.

Survived by his beloved wife of fifty years, Sarah Domingue Spence, his children, Lynn S. Vandenesse, Thomas R. Spence (Serena) and Cary L. Spence (Elizabeth); also his stepchildren, Diane Wingo, J. Byron Wingo, Camille Wingo, Melanie W. Hughes (Randy), Maurice Wingo, II (Eleesa) and Stella W. Hillegass (Carl). He is also survived by nine grandchildren: Arthur Vandenesse (Raquel), Alexander Vandenesse, Max Vandenesse, Kevin Spence (Casey), Dallas Spence (Regan), Lydia Spence, Grace Spence, Anleigh S. Caldwell and Ashley S. Dickerson and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by twelve step-grandchildren: Sam Allen (Jenn), Molly Gentry (Robby), Sarah Melody (Dave), Stewart Burns, Marissa Bottcher (Sean), Monica Smith (Charlie), Hampton Hughes (Hannah), Ross Wingo (Lauren), Eleanor May (Alex), Ronald Carl Hillegass III, Sarah Margaret Hillegass, and George Hillegass, and nine step great-grandchildren.

Lee was born on October 11, 1919 to Dr. James Homer Spence and Lily Amiel Spence in Pass Christian, Mississippi. He is pre-deceased by his parents, his siblings, James Homer Spence, Jr, Cary Spence, Myrtle Spence McDermott, and Thelma Spence Pulkowski and Mr. Spence's first wife Dean Via Spence.

Lee was a graduate of Mississippi College School of Law and Rutgers Stonier Graduate School of Banking. He served in WWII in the Naval Intelligence. He first served on the USS Maumee, the oldest tanker in the Navy, then several other tankers, transporting oil from Aruba and Panama to the United States East Coast. Prior to the War, he was with the FBI, first in Washington, then New Orleans and Jackson, Mississippi. After the War, he graduated from Mississippi College School of Law earning a degree in 1949. He led the nation in production for three consecutive years as an attorney for the Estate Tax Division of IRS in Mississippi. He was a member of the Mississippi and Texas Bars. As a trust officer, he helped to build seven trust departments at banks in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. He received several honors during his lifetime, including a recommendation from U.S. Senators James Eastland and John Stennis to President Lyndon



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Johnson for a judgeship to the United States Tax Court. He was presented the Key to the City of Covington and honored by the 22nd Judicial Court of Louisiana with a proclamation of appreciation.

Lee was active in various civic organizations in communities in Mississippi and Louisiana. He was trustee of several charitable foundations and was privileged to give donations to the City of Covington and City of Madisonville, St. Tammany Hospital and other charities, and worthy college students. Lee was president of the Estate Planning Council of Mississippi and the South Mississippi Estate Planning Council. Lee was president of the Florida Parishes Estate Planning Council. He was a co-founder of the Estate Planning Council in Tangipahoa and St. Tammany Parishes. He was chairman of the Trust Division of the Louisiana Bankers Association. He was a member and past president of the Rotary on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Louisiana. He served on the Southeastern Louisiana University Development Foundation for twenty years. He was an Episcopalian, growing up and attending Trinity Episcopal Church in Pass Christian. His grandfather provided the lumber for the first Trinity Church.

He was active in boating, horseback riding, and tennis for most of his life. At age one hundred, he was still hitting tennis balls. Lee loved to travel with his family.

Accolades follow Lee for his honesty, integrity, and generosity in all aspects of his life. Lee always sought to do “the right thing” for his family, his friends and his clients. All of his children and grandchildren fondly remember how often he told them he was proud of them. He will be missed.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral services at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 W 21st Ave, Covington, Louisiana 70433 on Friday, January 8, 2021 at 2:00 PM with visitation beginning at 12:30 PM. Proudly serving as honorary pallbearers: Judge Martin Coady, Judge Jack Greene, F. Pierre Livaudais, A. R. Blossman Jr. Interment with Military Honors will take place on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 11:00 AM in Live Oak Cemetery, 125 Church Street, Pass Christian, Mississippi 39571.

With COVID-19, restrictions social distancing and face mask are required to attend services.

Memorial contributions to: MCLaw in memory of Lee Spence may be mailed to: Mississippi College School of Law Advancement Office 151 East Griffith Street, Jackson, MS 39201, or can be



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made at <https://lawalumni.mc.edu/>

The Spence family invites you to share thoughts, fond memories, and condolences online at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home Guest Book at www.ejfieldingfh.com.



Events


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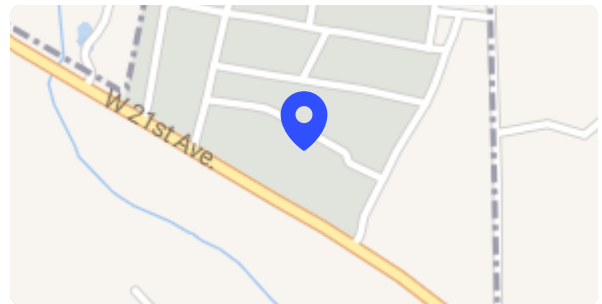
Visitation

 **Friday**, January 8, 2021

 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM CT


 **E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services**

2260 W 21st Ave, Covington LA 70433



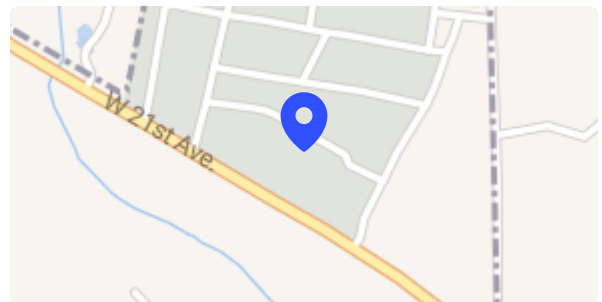
Funeral Service

 **Friday**, January 8, 2021

 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CT

 **E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services**

2260 W 21st Ave, Covington LA 70433



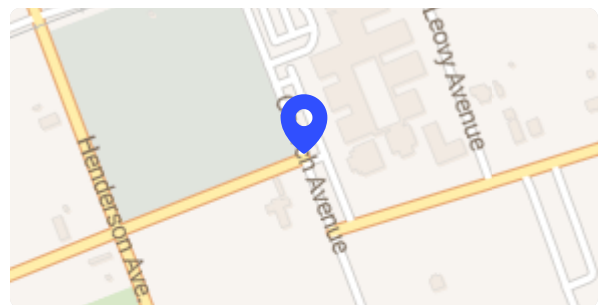
Graveside Service

 **Saturday**, January 9, 2021

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT

 **Live Oak Cemetery**

St Louis Street at Church Street, Pass Christian MS 39571





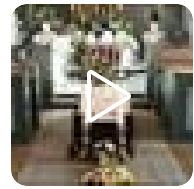
Tribute Wall

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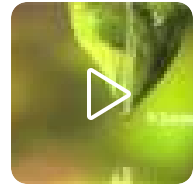
E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services shared a **Webcast Video**.



January 8 at 10:03 AM



E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services shared a **Tribute Video**.



January 7 at 12:36 PM



Patricia Timothy posted:

Dear Sarah and Family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I always enjoyed our encounters at Winn Dixie. Would have been more fun on the tennis court but lovely, none the less. With sorrow, Pat Timothy

January 15 at 9:03 AM



Helen And Holly Mclachlan sent an Arrive in Style to the Spence family.



January 14 at 5:38 PM



Dick Blossman posted:

A great man - We were honored to know him -Dick and Lynn Blossman

January 10 at 6:01 AM



Maureen Chatham posted:

My name is Willard Chatham, and my late Uncle Grover Boone worked with and was very good friends with Mr. Spence at the Seagate and Gift Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service. He spoke favorably of Mr. Spence on many occasions. Prayers are extended to the family and loved ones.

January 9 at 9:37 PM



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Judge John W. Greene posted:

I have so many, many fond memories of Lee. He was always so willing to help others, with no mind of the cost to him. He was a great source of help to our court and to the judges. As a judge, I often was faced with a minor receiving a large settlement from a court case, with a parent wanting to spend the minor's funds in a needless way, such as purchasing a very expensive car to drive the minor to school. I asked Lee if he would serve as a spokesman for me in approving/disapproving of these expenditures. He willingly served in many such cases, refusing compensation. Lee also testified in court at my request as an expert in trust cases, again refusing pay. He had a reputation, not only in large parts of Louisiana, but also in Mississippi for his expertise in starting and operating trust departments in banks. He testified in a number of big non-jury cases and was a great help to me in untangling complicated trust issues. He was truly a friend of the court and a personal friend. Judge John W. Greene, Retired

January 8 at 12:16 PM



Warren And Frances Wood posted:

Sarah, Sending condolences and prayers to you and your family! The service was beautiful!

January 8 at 10:52 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Spence family.



January 8 at 7:14 AM



Richard Bostwick posted:

Lee was a wonderful friend and neighbor, it was an honor to know him. Deepest condolences to his family.

January 8 at 5:30 AM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Spence family.



January 8 at 12:51 AM



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Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Spence family.



January 7 at 8:00 PM



Al Hamauei posted:

I worked and served on the Parish National Bank Board of Directors with Mr. Spence for many years. And I enjoyed every minute of it because of his kindness, honesty and intelligence. God Bless him.

January 7 at 7:27 PM



Mitchel Salmere posted:

Lee was an honest and generous man who helped an enormous number of individuals and families during his tenure on earth. He will be sorely missed. God Bless You and your family. Mitch Salmere

January 7 at 12:58 PM



Alfred Blossman posted:

Lee was a wonderful man. One of the finest men I have ever known. While I am saddened to learn of his passing, I take comfort in knowing he lived a very long and full life. I have known Lee since I was a 20 year old college student. and I am lucky enough to have been a regular in his tennis circle for a number of years (i had not played in 20 years when he got me back into it; and I figured hell, if Lee can still play, certainly I can play again). Lee was a kind and courteous man. I will miss him. A. R. "Trey" Blossman III

January 7 at 11:43 AM



Anonymous sent a Heavenly Grace Spray to the Spence family.



January 7 at 11:39 AM



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The Marissa Bottcher And Monica Smith Families sent a With Distinction to the Spence family.

January 7 at 11:10 AM





Media

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E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services shared a **Webcast** Video.

January 8 at 10:03 AM





Media

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E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services shared a **Tribute Video**.

January 7 at 12:36 PM

TRIBUTE VIDEO

A Journey of Life

SCAN TO WATCH

The video thumbnail features a close-up of a vibrant green leaf with a single water droplet hanging from its tip. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. A white play button icon is centered on the image. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code with the text 'SCAN TO WATCH' below it.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Lee by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit