



## Richard Grant Lees

July 31, 1971 - October 11, 2025

Richard Grant Lees, 54, passed away on October 11, 2025 in Midvale, Utah. He was born on July 31, 1971, in Murray, Utah, to Grant William Lees and Linda Jensen Lees. He lived his life at warp speed, experiencing any and all new adventures he could find. All along the way he collected friends and acquaintances. He insisted each of them were now part of “his family.”

Richard grew up in the Sandy, Utah area. He attended Peruvian Park Elementary, Mount Jordan and Albion Junior High Schools and Hillcrest High School. He graduated from Valley High.

Growing up he enjoyed being a Boy Scout of America, and playing little league baseball and soccer. He also played hockey during his high school years. Richard loved his pets. He raised pigeons, rabbits and family dogs. He was a member of the 4-H club that raised seeing eye dogs for the seeing impaired.

To say Richard loved fishing is an understatement. His father, from a very young age, introduced and taught him about the sport. Some of his happiest moments were spent on a riverbank, with the sun in his eyes, the wind at his back and a fly rod in his hands.

Richard joined the United States Marine Corps in June 1992. He was

deployed for active overseas duty on two occasions. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon w/1 Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal letter of commendation and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. He was honorably discharged in 1997. Richard continued his connection with the military by being involved with Veterans of Salt Lake City. His career was in insurance and automotive sales.

Richard married Shanon Van Nerynen on November 9, 1996 in Anaheim, California.

They had four children, Miranda, Kara, Jackson and Jaken. They later divorced.

He married Emily Stayner Tani on December 30, 2024 in Taylorsville, Utah. He welcomed four more children into his family; Jack, Audrey, Katharine and Madilyn Tani.

Richard is survived by his parents, Grant W. Lees, and Linda R. Lees, Draper, Utah. Sister, Wendy Johnson (Shane Johnson) South Jordan, Utah; brother, Robert Lees (Brittany Lees) Cedar Hills, Utah; children, Miranda Whitney (Logan Whitney) Hanover, Indiana, Granddaughter, Annalee Whitney, Hanover, Indiana . Kara Lees, Louisville Kentucky, Jackson Lees, Salt Lake City, Utah and Jaken Lees, Louisville Kentucky. He is also survived by his Wife Emily Lees, Taylorsville, Utah, Jack Tani, Audrey Tani, Katie Tani, and Madilyn Tani, all of Taylorsville Utah. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Richard is preceded in death by his grandparents, Virgil and Nelda Jensen, Ammon, Idaho and William Richard Lees and Lillian Burns Lees, Hawthorne, New Jersey, as well as beloved Aunts and Uncles.

A viewing will be held from 6-8 P.M. on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at Serenity Funeral Home, Bluffdale, Utah 84065. (13863 S. 2700 W. Bluffdale)

A viewing will also be held on Wednesday October 22, 2025 from 10-11:30 A.M. preceding the Celebration of Life at 12:00 P.M. This will be held at Utah Veterans Memorial Park Chapel, 17111 South 1700 West, Bluffdale Utah.

Please share memories and condolences at [www.serenityfhs.com](http://www.serenityfhs.com)

The family wishes to thank everyone for their love, support and caring for their Son, Brother, Dad and Husband. Semper Fi!

# Cemetery Details

## Utah Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park

17111 1700 West (Redwood Rd),  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

# Previous Events

## Viewing

OCT **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Serenity Event Center  
13863 S 2700 W  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

## Viewing #2

OCT **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 PM (MT)

Utah Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park  
17111 1700 West (Redwood Rd),  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

## Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Utah Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park  
17111 1700 West (Redwood Rd),  
Bluffdale, UT 84065



# Tribute Wall



“ *Love you uncle Rich!* ”



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**Aiden Johnson** - October 17, 2025 at 02:44 PM

“ My Tribute to Rich ❤️

*I may have only known Rich for a short time, but he was someone I was immediately drawn to — and truly loved. He was never anything but sweet, funny, and kind to me. I loved him like the uncle I always wished I had.*

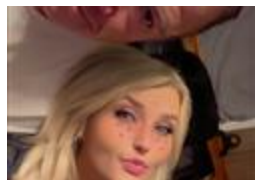
*We bonded over being Leos and laughed about how much we had in common — from our love of cars and music to our shared obsession with war movies. I always admired and appreciated him deeply for his service and his strength.*

*Even though our time together was brief, it was real. He made everyone feel like family, and that’s exactly what he became to me. I’ll miss forcing him to play Yahtzee with me, Rachelle, and Skyler, and all the late nights hanging out in that silly garage. I’ll never forget Rachelle’s “make-shift” curtains to help him sleep, his jokes about my filters, or how he made me feel beautiful — inside and out — without even trying.*

*Here’s my favorite picture of us and a screenshot of my last text to him. 💔 Ugh... I’m going to miss those late-night phone calls where we’d talk about anything and everything. I miss you already, Rich. Take me back to those summer nights — but not the ones where the AC wasn’t working, hahahaha.*

*The world feels a little colder without you here, but I take comfort knowing you’re now one more angel watching over all of us. ❤️*

*Rest easy, Rich. You’ll never be forgotten.*





“ I couldn't say, I knew rich too much but even if I knew him a little bit, he was still a good guy and I liked him a lot. He accepted me with open arms I'll never forget that. He treated me like I was a part of his family. I'm gonna miss you Rich

Kota Mcdougall - October 17, 2025 at 01:05 AM

JA

That's beautiful Kota thanks for sharing!❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

Jack - October 17, 2025 at 03:54 PM

CW

“ Lost a damn good Marine. Gonna miss you, brother. I'm sure you're already guarding the gates of Heaven... though knowing you, you probably took a purposeful wrong turn just to raise a little hell first.

Semper Fidelis Marine 🇺🇸



Chad W. - October 16, 2025 at 11:13 PM

JA

Having amazing Marines like him is what made America the world best country on planet earth!!!🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

Jack - October 17, 2025 at 12:08 AM

EL

*Love these pictures! Thank you for sharing! ❤️❤️❤️*

**Em Lees** - October 17, 2025 at 12:36 AM

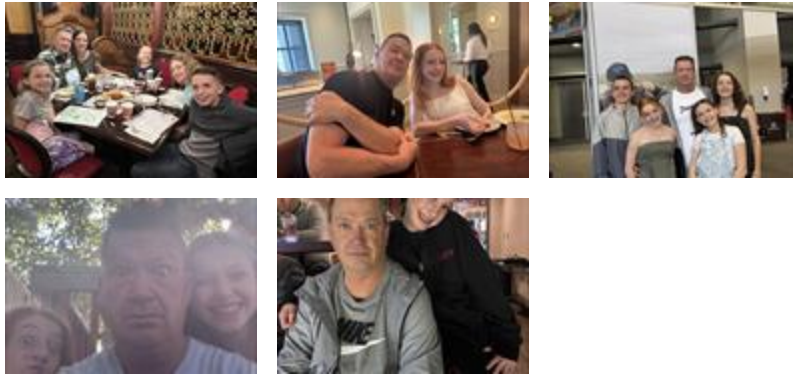
SL

*Wiet~ Thank you for sharing the photos. They brought back so many memories. I am happy that you were a part of our story. P.S. Those pics are so 90's LOL!*

**Shanon Lees** - October 18, 2025 at 07:14 AM

RE

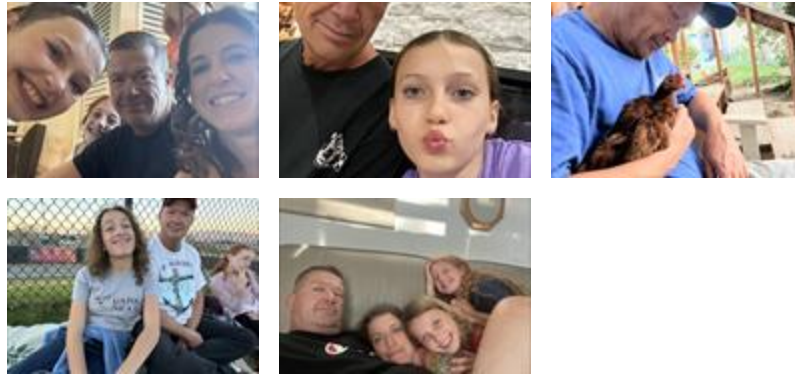
“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



**Redhead** - October 16, 2025 at 10:59 PM

MT

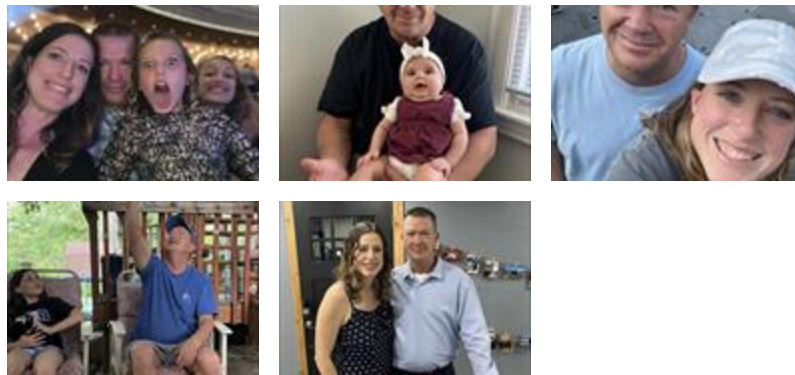
“ I know Rich is up in heaven looking down and seeing how much we love him. When I met him I knew I had a real dad on my side the whole time. I love him and always will 🥺



Madi Tani - October 16, 2025 at 10:54 PM

AU

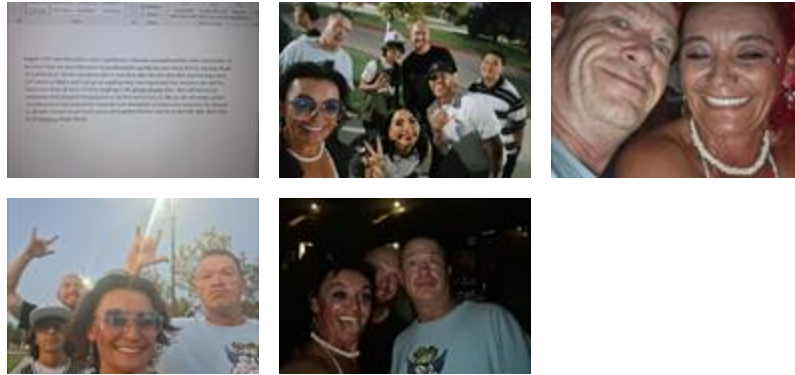
“ Rich has always been there for me! Whether its I was sick or sad or anything! He was a great father! He taught me how to be brave! I'm glad he is at peace. I bet he is looking down at us smiling knowing how we all love him so much!



Audrey - October 16, 2025 at 10:39 PM

RE

“ Mom took so long I just had to share a couple things about a man who briefly blessed my ohanas lives. Rich accepted his role as uncle Rich toward my younger brother Ronin and I. Rich called me and asked me if I wanted to join him my mom and skyler to the ice cube concert and my immediate response was I have church all I heard was Rich Sky and mom laughing so hard that mom said I have to pee! My mom meeting a great man with great friends whom know laughter is the key to a friend. My niece Raenna 3 had a special hand shake with Uncle Rich and had to give a code to get into uncle Richs room, from the first to the last time we visited him he Always made us laugh and was always welcomeing. ALOHA PUMEHANA MAI KAI NO



RealsSky - October 16, 2025 at 10:29 PM

CL

Rich, you were a real life hero and fought for the freedoms we all take for granted. You paid a heavy price for price for your time at at war—a price only your brothers who fought beside you can understand. You did your best to leave it all on battlefield and what a super human you bacame! A friend, Father, husband, and employee everyone wanted to be a part of! I had the honor of being called “Mom” because you worked and hung around with my boys for so long! The best friend, employee and “Son” anyone could ever have. You will forever and ever be dearly missed. Until we meet again in Heaven!❤️  
Charlene Long

Charlene Long - October 17, 2025 at 01:02 AM

EL

“ To the love of my life, my Babe,

As we always said, “I will love you forever and forever!” 🌸❤️🌸

*The amount of life, fishing, adventures, concerts, trips, movie nights, arcade days, house projects, laughing, crying, growing together, chickens, cooking, grilling, saying goodbye to Maisy Moo, painting, just relaxing and holding each other that we fit into three plus years together....I hold so tightly and close to my heart!*

*Now you have plenty of time to fish and I will see you soon! ❤️❤️❤️*



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Em Lees - October 16, 2025 at 10:28 PM

JA

“ I got a wrestling award during my sophomore year called The Grit Award. We took a picture together. There’s no way I would have gotten the award with out Rich helping me be tough enough both physically and mentally to get it. He was actually my real father in my heart and always will be. I still was not the best my sophomore year but because of how hard Rich pushed me I became a lot better my junior year and I got a wrestling called Most Heart and sense he is still with me in my heart he will be with me every second of the proses. I made a promise to him that I was going to be one of the best wrestlers in the world and no matter how long it takes and how much hardship to takes me I’m going to fulfill my promise to him. I prayed to God that Rich would feel amazing and get treated amazing in heaven and I have a feeling he is. I bet he’s looking down at us right now thinking wow my family and friends really, really love me.



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**Jack** - October 16, 2025 at 10:10 PM

EL



*So beautiful Jack!*

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**Em Lees** - October 16, 2025 at 10:36 PM

SB

“ Our first concert together. Ice Cube! We had a blast. Rich took me my girlfriend and her 16 year old son Royal. This was Royals first concert and Rich made sure he would remember it for the rest of his life. Rich was a great man like that.



Skyler Biesinger - October 16, 2025 at 07:42 PM

SB

“ So many memories with My Brother. To many to count. Him living with me for the past 6 months were some of the best times. Haven't seen him laugh so hard and that happy in a long time. He always had my back and I had his. Saturday night we were supposed to play pool as a team and own the table and then beat everyone in darts at the house. Grilling and smoking meats won't be the same without him.



Skyler Biesinger - October 16, 2025 at 07:32 PM

RE

Love love love love

RealsSky - October 16, 2025 at 09:31 PM

JA

Rich was amazing at barbecues he made the best food in the world and made everyone laugh and extremely happy! Nothing will be the same without him.

Jack - October 16, 2025 at 10:19 PM



*He made amazing food I will miss it*

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**Madi Tani** - October 17, 2025 at 03:05 AM