



Russell Lee Horton

August 3, 1934 - July 18, 2020

Russell "Lee" Horton passed away on 7-18-2020. He was the devoted partner for 45 years of the late Roland Dubuc. He was born in St Louis Missouri and was the son of the late Russell A Horton and the late Helen E Horton. He was the brother of Carolyn Harney of Virginia. He also leaves 2 nieces.

Lee was artistic his whole life. In his early days he was a hair stylist and opened his own salon, Lee Horton Hair Stylist.

Later on with his love of birds he co-founded the African Love Bird Society with Roland. They then opened Agapornis Acres raising birds for some 20 years.

Their love of plants then brought them to the Plumeria Society.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to ALZ.org or LLS.org

A graveside memorial service will be held 8-3-2020 at 12 noon

Family and friends of Russell are invited to share their favorite photos, video memories and heart felt messages on his Tribute page on the Green Hills Mortuary Website.

Comments



“ We will always remember Lee and Roland as two of the most generous people we know. They would open their home and proudly share their new additions or remodeling. Roland was such a wonderful chef and Lee was an artist. Their gardens were spectacular! We learned so much every time we visited them. Lee was so talented and creative. Last time we saw them, Lee showed us his stunning needlepoint. The pillows were museum worthy. We will miss those lively conversations we had after dinner and their sense of humor. Lee was a sweet and gentle man. We are so glad that he is now with Roland.
Terry and Marie Ann

Terry Tarazon and Marie Ann Snyder - August 03 at 12:22 PM



“ Lee and Roland were are very dear friends. Lee was a true gentleman. He was so creative and shared wonderful stories of his creative interests from his childhood. He loved to look nicely dressed. Even as a young adolescent when his shirts were ill fitting he tailored them to fit more attractively. He knit his own sweaters too. He transferred his creativity into transforming their homes into masterpieces. His sense of color and design were amazing. We spent Christmas's together for years. Lee and Roland were like family. We have so many wonderful memories. They lifted life fully and we are happy they are reunited. On what would have been Lee's 86 th birthday we will be celebrating his life. RIP dear friend. We loved you

Laurie Wolfenden - August 03 at 12:45 AM



“ I met Lee and Roland in the 1970's when my interest in birds, particularly love birds, was blossoming. Many of my birds through the years were from their Agapornis Acres. It was near l'mpossible to locate rare "mutations" any where else. Lee was a founding member and
1st President of the American Federation of Aviculture, an organization that is still relevant and influential in aviculture now about 50 years later. I am proud to have apprenticed under Lee in 1990 to complete my requirements to become a African Lovebird Society Panel Judge and also to become Chairman for six years of the African Love Bird Society, an organization that Lee and Roland founded that exists vibrantly to the present day. Aviculture, especially, has lost a stalwart in knowledge and accomplishments that will not be replaced. We will miss you!

Mike Miller - July 29 at 04:05 PM

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“ I first met Lee, and his partner Roland, at the 1981 National Bird Show in Kansas City. I didn't know them before that show and was in awe of the birds they had there. Little did I know what an influence they would be on me 39 years later.

Lee started breeding Budgies but his interest focused on Lovebirds shortly after. In the 1980's and in the height of their business they raised over 1000 Lovebirds a month. They were the largest breeder of Lovebirds internationally.

Lee and Roland founded ALBS, the African Love Bird Society and at the 1979 National Bird Show in El Segundo, CA they made a play for a separate Division for Lovebirds and the organization was on it's way. They were instrumental in standards for husbandry, breeding, color mutations and show standards for lovebird. Lee was an accredited Judge in Lovebirds and Parrots. He judged throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. He was the first American Lovebird Judge to judge at the World Show in Europe.

In the 1970's, during the Newcastle disease outbreak in the poultry industry, private bird breeders were being visited by agents that would euthanize their entire aviaries. Lee and others formed AFA, American Federation of Aviculture, and it became the watchdog for bird related laws and regulations.

I know a lot of Lee's friends and family knew he was "into birds" but I don't think they understand the level that he influenced our hobby. I could spend hours telling you about what he did. He was a mentor to me and I value all the phone chats I had with Lee and Roland. I was able to visit them many times in Vista and Fallbrook. Sometimes just social and sometimes bird organization related. Many time doing research we would sit in Lee's library and look through his extensive bird book collection. Many of them antique. I was honored to have acquired his book collection when he moved to Beaumont after Roland's passing. I will always cherish the collection and it has even more special value.

Lee and Roland are together again. They will be missed immensely. I know that a lot of his "bird" friends were saddened by his passing and even though they are gone now, they will not be forgotten.

I uploaded a picture. This was the last time my wife and I visited them in Fallbrook. In the background you can see Roland's lovely Christmas tree. He left it up just so Denise could see it. I hope they are happy again now that they are together. Rest in peace Lee, you will be missed.

Gary Morgan and Denise Cook

Gary Morgan - July 29 at 01:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Lee Horton





Gary Morgan - July 29 at 12:44 PM



“ This was the last time I visited Lee and Roland in Fallbrook

Gary - July 29 at 12:45 PM