

Genevieve J. Taylor
27 Estella Drive
Flemington, New Jersey 08822
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Col. Bob Lacey
5024 Maynard Street
San Diego, CA 92122

Dear Col. Lacey,

It is always a pleasure to hear from someone Les knew before I met him. He was my life and I cherish news from his past. We all go on without him but there is never a moment when he isn't with us.

In response to your request for a few short tales about Les and some snapshots, I am enclosing a copy of a tribute to Les that was written in March of 1988 and sent to Bill Knowlton. As difficult as it was to put his life on paper I feel it is an adequate recap of the life my husband led and all that he accomplished in his Air Force career of 25 years. Since the purpose of this memorial was to briefly recite his military life, I did not belabor his life after retirement in this piece.

After Les retired from the Air Force, professionally, he dedicated his life to education where his accomplishments will not be forgotten. This was always so very important to him.

Throughout his life, his love for his country, his family, parents and friends was overwhelming and this concern and devotion is really what made him tick. After retirement he was able to spend quality time with family and friends, which he treasured.

Many "tales" come to mind as I recall Les and the wonderful person he was. He enjoyed our three children and was always there when they needed him. He had a great sense of humor. He didn't know it at the time, but his last words to his youngest son when dropping him off for his first day of college was regarding the fair sex. Many fathers would have lectured on responsibility, studies, etc., but Les saw how much pressure his son was under on his first day and wanted to make him laugh, which he did quite successfully. His concern and love for the children was always his biggest pleasure.

He loved to fish and spent alot of time fishing with his sons and his father. However, he could not tolerate deep sea fishing as the motion of the boat made him ill. It always surprised his family and friends since he was a fighter pilot and could do all sorts of aerial spins and dogfights without any ill effects. He was teased a great deal about this by his sons whenever they tried to get him to go deep sea fishing. Because the one-on-one time with his family was always so important to him, he usually made the boat anyway!

It was the little things in life which he did that made him the special person he was. His mother-in-law who needed skilled care and was in a nursing home was also very special to him. Making a two hour trip (each way) to visit her every week, he endeared himself to the patients there by going out and buying food they especially craved after checking with the medical staff. Since many patients had been there for some time and were not up on inflation, whenever they wanted to pay, Les always pretended the price was less than before they were confined. That is, if he let them pay at all. It was just an example of his way of giving without receiving any credit. This was something he did for many years.

I could go on and on, but hope the above examples can begin to give you some insight into the type of person Les became after you knew him. My hope is that with this information and the attached tribute, you will have the background you need for the piece you must write.

Pictures were difficult to find. Les was always taking the pictures. I'm enclosing the ones that I do have and if at all possible I would love to have them returned. They are very precious as you can imagine.

Thank you for calling and writing. If our paths should cross, I too would enjoy meeting you and your wife.

Sincerely,

Jean Taylor