



## Lester Adelbert Parish Jr

March 21, 1942 - February 21, 2023

Lester Adelbert Parish, Jr., 80 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at his residence. Mr. Parish was born on March 21st, 1942, in Wyandotte, Michigan, to Lester Adelbert Parish, Sr. and Dorothy Esther Rogers Parish.

Mr. Parish is survived by his wife Sandra Jean Parish; daughters Lori-Ann Parish Donatelli (Bobby) and Leslie Jean Stockbridge (Jon); grandchildren Cody James Stockbridge and Laci Grace Donatelli; sister Mary Catherine Rushlow; brothers Theodore Stephen Parish, Sr. and Howard Paul Parish Sr.; nieces and nephews Carrie Lorraine Langton (Trent), Stephen Girard Rushlow (Vickie), Deborah Ann Farrell, Susan Gay Soblesky, Mechelle Esther Gardner (Gary), Theodore Stephen Parish, Jr., Lisa Marie Kaspriak, Nicole Renee Hales (Thomas), Howard Paul Parish, Jr. (Heather), Robert Ureckis (Karen), David Ureckis (Janis), Margaret Helen Bird; great-nieces and nephews Ethan Donald Langton, Nicole Renae Stump (Stephen), Aaron Keith Rushlow, Brandon James Farrell, Quinn Kaspriak, Alex Kaspriak, Jacob Kaspriak, Brianna Rose Hales, Lena Renee Hales, Adelynn Hales, Henrik Allen Parish, Hadley Rose Parish, Tiffany Klouder, Jordan Hamilton (Andy), Kendal Ureckis, Joshua Clay Bird, Nicholas Bird (Sage), Andrea Bird; great-great-nieces and nephews Skylar Elaine Stump, Alivia Lynn Rushlow, Carter Wayne Rushlow, Lucy Ureckis, Koda Bird, and Rowyn Clay Bird.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Lester A. Parish, Sr. and Dorothy Rogers Parish; brother-in-law Donald Rushlow; sister Esther Gay Parish Waeghe; niece Ann Marie Parish Hufford; sister-in-law Kathleen Rose Parish; brother-in-law Lowell Clay Steele; sister-in-law Linda McCall Smith; and mother-in-law Helen Mae Steele.

Services for Mr. Parish will be Saturday, February 25th, 2023, at Friendship Church. Visitation will start at 11:00am and the service will be at 12:00pm.

Mr. Parish grew up in Wyandotte, Michigan. In his family, he grew up in the middle with two older sisters and 2 younger brothers, and he loved his family very much. He loved to play sports, including playing ball, and he loved competing in bowling leagues and golfing. He was a faithful member of the church that he grew up in. His mother volunteered him to learn and run the new dishwasher back then.

Lester met Sandra Steele at the candy stand at Theodore Roosevelt High School and they went to the Senior Prom that year. On the back of his senior prom picture, Sandy wrote what a wonderful night and that some day they would marry. Les never saw the back of the photo until after they were married. They did marry in 1964 and were married for fifty-eight and a half years. Les was determined to take care of Sandy, and was always known for saying, "I need to take care of her!" They have two children and two grandchildren. Family and friends have been a constant part of Les and Sandy's lives. Their greatest joy has been family and friends who have become extended family.

As a child, Les was diagnosed with asthma, and his parents were prompted by his doctor to go north. This became an amazing blessing to all of Les and Sandy's family and friends by "going up north," where they enjoyed camping, boating, laughing, and loving life right.

Les and Sandy had two girls, Lori-Ann and Leslie, who both went to college because their parents wanted them to be educated and provided for, no matter what. Lori-Ann married Robert Donatelli and Leslie married Jon Stockbridge. The first grandchild, Cody James, was born two weeks after Les was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer in 1999, and is the biggest blessing and an amazing grandson to Grandpa. He loved every moment with his grandson and mentored him in multiple ways. They worked together serving at the Lion's Club Kiddie Carnival. Cody followed Grandpa's example, working hard with a servant's heart, loving and laughing all the way. He was so proud of him, Les would say, "That's my grandson!" Les was called the "Miracle Man" with Roy Keller at Friendship Church. Bobby and Lori waited thirteen years of their marriage for their "miracle child," Laci Grace Donatelli. Les got to witness the birth of "his beautiful granddaughter." Her name means joyful and filled with the praise for the Lord. When Cody James held her for the first time, he said "she was worth the wait!" Both grandchildren were raised here in Alabama, with Les and Sandy's loving family all together. He saved and treasured keepsakes from both grandchildren, including crafts, cards, and gifts. He loved spoiling them and spending time with them. He would take them for vanilla ice cream at Kreme Delite and going to the Duck Pond. He treasured every moment!

Les enjoyed serving and leading in Men's Ministry at Friendship Church. He was a member of the Lion's Club, a part of the Limestone County Cancer Support Group, and active in Relay for Life.

We the family, all thank God for the wonderful, serving, giving man Les was. He always had a smile, a way to serve others, and as the oncologist said, "a rare heart!"

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made in Mr. Parish's memory to Friendship Church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Friendship Church  
16479 Lucas Ferry Rd  
Athens, AL 35611

## Service

FEB **25**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Friendship Church  
16479 Lucas Ferry Rd  
Athens, AL 35611

# Tribute Wall

DU

“ I will always remember Uncle Les as a kind and patient man. A great role model, both in his words and especially in his actions. He helped me understand how to be a man, husband and father. One of my fondest memories was his garage in Wyandotte. For those who knew Les, you know what I am talking about. He had an inventory of tools, hardware and parts that would make any hardware store envious! If you needed something, he could probably find it in his garage. I will always revere his love for Jesus. As he told me recently, " I have it made. When I am alive, I get to be with my family. when I die, I will be with Jesus". You are home now, Uncle Les.

---

David Ureckis - March 09, 2023 at 02:32 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

Jon stockbridge - March 04, 2023 at 06:04 PM

JR

“ Sandy and family, I am sorry to hear of the loss of Les. He was a special person who loved his family very much. I will always remember his laugh and joy when talking about the good old days at RHS, since we were classmates of 1960. He loved talking about bowling, golf, camping or about family. He was a friend who would do anything for you. I remember the day he called to ask me about moving to Alabama, since I lived in Huntsville, Ala. for 18 months. I told him I did not think he would regret it. I don't think he did, since the family also moved to Alabama a few years later. I will miss him. My thoughts and prayers will always be with you and your family. May Les rest in peace.

*Jerry Rushlow*

---

**Jerry Rushlow** - March 02, 2023 at 06:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



---

**Limestone Chapel Funeral Home** - February 28, 2023 at 04:49 PM

GC

“ Hey Sandy! So sorry to hear about Les. Where have all the years gone?

*George Croll*

---

**george croll** - February 27, 2023 at 06:33 PM

JT

“ Sandy, I am so sorry to learn of your loss of Les. He was a great guy as you know and it's sad to lose another hometown friend. I just lost my wife of 58 years in January, so I know how difficult it is to lose someone you love so much. Hope you are doing well and otherwise enjoying live in Athens. College towns are active places and fun to live in. Just wanted you to know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.....warm wishes.....jim tinker

---

**Jim Tinker** - February 27, 2023 at 04:33 PM

HF

“ A person has few friends in life as generous and caring as Les. I met him 70 years ago in elementary school and we were best of friends for many years. Les was a hands-on doer; when he needed a new driveway he gathered his many friends together on the weekend and we constructed a new driveway. Our payment was a beer or two after a long day's work and the camaraderie experienced by a bunch of guys who enjoyed being together. On the other hand, when a friend needed help on a project, Les was always there to help. Perhaps we had a special bond because we had the same birthday, namely March 21, 1942. I was born on a hill in the northeastern part of Kentucky, and my parents left Appalachia shortly thereafter and moved to Michigan where my father sought work in the automobile industry. On that same day in 1942 Les was born in Wyandotte, Michigan, the same city that my parents moved to shortly after their arrival in their new State. I guess you could call that "serendipity" or simply good fortune, since it meant that the two of us would eventually meet and become fast friends for life. I will miss you greatly, Les, and will never forget you. May you rest in peace! Your BFF, Harold

---

**Harold Felty** - February 27, 2023 at 07:19 AM



“ I remember Les as a friend’s father who I admired as a role model. He was always quicker to smile than frown, even when he didn’t like what I said or did. He was the kind of guy more likely to get up and pitch in than tell you how to do something. His back door and a seat at the table were always open. And though it was bittersweet, I remember how often he’s made me think of my own dad.

To the Parish family, please know that so many people share your grief at this time. But most importantly to me is to celebrate a true gentleman with a special heart and a one-of-a-kind smile. Go to God Les, your job is done.

---

**Brent Testy** - February 25, 2023 at 05:23 PM

MI

“ Aunt Sandy, Lori and Leslie we are very sad to hear of Uncle Les’s passing I know it has been a long time since we have seen you. I have so many great memories of our families being together. The east coast motor home trip with all 8 of us was extremely cozy. The 4th of July get together when the firework landed in the newly carpeted boat. Never saw Uncle Les move so fast getting to the boat. BASF softball games and bowling.  
Love and thinking of you  
Mickey, Karen and girls

---

**Mickey** - February 25, 2023 at 09:27 AM

CC

“ Our 4 day unplanned trip up north with 4 adults & 4 kids in one car. An adult weekend up north with promised chicken dinner in Frankenmuth that ended up at McDonalds. Same 8 people in one tent in Holland MI when Sandy thought a bug was climbing her leg and it was David’s hand. So many memories to cherish. RIP Les. Until we meet again. 🙏💙

---

**Carol & Chuck** - February 23, 2023 at 03:53 PM

SN

*The memories I have with this family are so numerous I can't even start writing or it would take pages. RIP my friend until we meet again*

---

**Sandra Noble** - February 24, 2023 at 10:19 AM

MB

*They were a fabric in the molding of my life. Who to be as a wife, friend, mother. How to live with an open door policy...a home where people wanted to visit. Uncle Les, the consistency of what represents a family, loving, forgiving, and most importantly- what to expect from a devout husband. Thank you both, I love you very much. I'm glad you have found peace as you wait for your love, Aunt Sandy.*

---

**meg bird** - February 24, 2023 at 10:14 PM

KD

*“ Uncle Les, never without a smile. Never without love in your heart. My Dad's favorite person. We love you and Aunt Sandy so very much! Always, Kelly Rob and Rick Homeister*

---

**Kelly Danson** - February 23, 2023 at 10:19 AM