



## Merle Eugene Lea

January 14, 1939 - March 13, 2024

Merle Eugene Lea, 85, lifelong resident of the Bartlesville and Dewey area, died Wednesday, March 13, 2024, in Bartlesville.

Merle was born January 14, 1939, in Bartlesville, to Cloice Merle and Bertha Alice (Long) Lea. He grew up in the Bartlesville and Dewey area, attending school through the ninth grade. He enlisted and served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged on December 15, 1963. Merle worked as a mechanic at the Smelters for most of his adult life.

He married the love of his life, Janet Louise Dietzel, on October 26, 1989, and they made their home in Bartlesville.

Merle was a generous man and helped others whenever needed. For more than 10 years, Merle volunteered with Tuesday House, collecting items from homes and transporting them to Tuesday House. In addition, Merle and Janet delivered Meals on Wheels for about 5 years.

Family was important to Merle and he was very caring towards them, including helping to care for his sisters.

Merle and Janet were members of City Church and former members of Bartlesville First United Methodist Church.

Merle is survived by his loving wife, Janet; his three sons, Duane Richards and wife Tricia, Keith Richards and wife Tracy, and Jeff Richards; a niece, Diane Slape; nine grandchildren, Andrea, Sarah, Calli, Caleb, Libby, Emily, Joshua, Asher and Benjamin; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Avril Lea; son, Douglas Richards; and his siblings.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, March 18, 2024, at Davis Family Funeral Home – Dewey Chapel, 113 S. Osage Ave., Dewey, OK 74029, 918-534-3030. Pastor Keith Richards will be officiating. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and Davis Family Funeral Home. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel

113 S Osage Ave

Dewey, OK 74029

(918) 534-3030

davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Merle was my neighbor and he will be missed.* ”

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**Donna Scott** - March 29, 2024 at 11:45 PM