



## Leona "Lee" D. Smith

June 11, 1930 - August 22, 2025

Leona "Lee" Smith, age 95, passed away on Friday, August 22, 2025 in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. The daughter of Leonard and Julianna (Sietz) Hudge, she was born June 11, 1930, in Belleville, Michigan. On June 23, 1951, she married Bert Smith of Willis, Michigan and together they raised three daughters, Luanne Schonfeld, who passed away in 2014 at the age of 61; Susan (Larry) Nutson of Chicago, Illinois and Carol (Wally) Cross of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. Lee also leaves seven dearly loved grandchildren: Matt (Meagan) Schonfeld and Katie (Craig) DeVoto both of Ann Arbor, MI; Natalie (Josh) Barney, Bloomfield Hills, MI; Laura (Jake) Williams, Beverly, MA; Stefan (Megan) Cross, Plymouth, MI; Kyle Cross, Rochester, MI; and Sam Cross, Royal Oak, MI. She also leaves eight precious great-grandchildren: Lucas Schonfeld, Emma and Adam DeVoto, Jane, William and Jack Barney and Charlotte and Jackson Cross as well as two special sisters-in-law, Mary Anne Hudge of Ann Arbor, MI and Flo Lorey of Oldsmar, FL, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Pat and Don Freitag of South Carolina and much-loved Goddaughter, Nancy (Hudge) Bailey of Ann Arbor, MI.

In 2016, Lee lost her beloved husband with whom she shared close to 65 years of marriage. She was also predeceased by three younger brothers, Ed, Bill and Tom Hudge. One brother survives, Jim (Carol) Hudge of Locanto, FL. Prior to their move to Tecumseh, Michigan in 1979, Lee and Bert resided in Belleville, Michigan where they were active members of St. Anthony's Catholic Church and the Belleville Kiwanis Club.

Lee's life centered not only around her husband and family but on journalism. From the age of 16, she wrote for the Ypsilanti Press, the Senior Voice in Sebewaing and the Belleville Enterprise and Romulus Roman, where she was Suburban Living Editor and wrote a column under the kickers All Around the Town with Lee and Potpourri. She was also a charter member of the Michigan Women's Press Club.

The move to Tecumseh ended her ties with those papers. With "columns still kicking around in her head," she then approached Jim Lincoln, publisher of the Tecumseh Herald and she was hired on the spot, her column becoming part of the newspaper for 38 years. Her work for the Herald was recognized at the state level in 2000, when she took first place in the MPA Better Newspaper contest. She had no formal education in journalism. Writing was a God-given talent.

Avid golfers at the time, Lee and Bert joined Tecumseh Country Club and were members for 35 years. Their love of golfing took them coast-to-coast in the USA and Nova Scotia often with groups of friends from Belleville and Tecumseh. They never traveled without their golf clubs and a good book; both being avid readers.

Lee also made many friends through her affiliation with the Saline chapter of the Red Hat Society. In 2016, Lee moved to Story Point, Ann Arbor, where she established To the Point, a quarterly newspaper which she edited, wrote and did the layout.

In 2022, Lee was moved to Sunrise of Grosse Pointe Assisted Living where she lived until her passing. We wish to thank the staff there who made her final years comfortable.

Friends may join the family for a time of visitation on Monday, October 13, 2025 at the St. Andrew Catholic Church in Saline, MI from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 A.M. with Fr. John Linden as Celebrant. Following the service inurnment will take place in the St. Andrew Church Columbarium. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are appreciated. Donations can be made by

visiting [www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate) and envelopes will be available at the Church.  
To leave a memory you have of Lee, for directions or to sign her online  
guestbook please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Columbarium

910 Austin Road  
Saline, MI 48176

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 13. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Dr  
Saline, MI 48176-1157  
(734) 429-5210

## Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 13. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Dr  
Saline, MI 48176-1157  
(734) 429-5210

## Inurnment in Columbarium

OCT 13. 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Columbarium  
910 Austin Road  
Saline, MI 48176



# Tribute Wall

JH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jim Hudge** - September 23, 2025 at 01:24 PM

JH

“ I will not be able to attend as I have problems traveling. I love Lee and shared a lot with her. Lee was my tutor while I was a baby and up until she married Bert. She told me stories about the hardships we had growing up in the 30's and 40's. Lee made things happen and took charge of her 4 brothers. Me being 10 years younger, I was the brat. She taught me so much. When Lee went to college at MSNC, in Ypsilanti, I really missed her. I was always happy to visit her when she lived in the dorm. I still remember their wedding reception in Wayne and helping with our mom. Afterward Lee started her new life and raised 3 beautiful daughters. In 74 when our Mom and Dad passed away our family started to drift our separate ways. In 2017 my last trip to Michigan I was happy to visit her and reminisce about our lives and I will have great memories of the days together with my sister.

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**James Hudge** - September 23, 2025 at 01:01 PM

DM

*Where have the years gone? Jim, I'm sorry you have problems traveling; it seems like most of us can't get around much; I know I don't. I am keeping you and your family in my prayers. Memories will have us get us through. I am thankful that I believe in God and Jesus Christ. I have a cousin that is 90 years old and still growing strong. I pray that she continues on for a long time. She is an inspiration. (You may know her from church, Genevieve Kwiatkowski Johnson - she graduated from Belleville High School.)*

*Doris (Lindemann) Miller, LHS class of 1959*

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**Doris (Lindemann) Miller** - October 08, 2025 at 10:00 AM

BR

“ Lee was part of the Red Hat group “Saline Sexy Sirens”. Of course Lee came up with our name.:-). I loved spending time with her, at her home or at Story Point. She made the best Butternut Squash soup and loved to entertain. Lee always had a story to tell and she enjoyed writing. May our loving God wrap his arms around her family. She will be missed. Love, Becky Rogers



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**Becky Rogers** - September 04, 2025 at 06:34 PM

TH

“ I love you Aunt Lee 💕 Love your Niece Teresa



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**Teresa Hudge** - August 27, 2025 at 05:34 PM

CS

“ I remember Lee through her working in the newspaper business. My mother was a Women's Editor in Wayne, MI. the same time Lee was writing. My condolences to her family.

Carol DeBord Smith - August 25, 2025 at 07:39 PM

JC

“ I was in Red Hats with Lee. She was such a lovely lady. She was also a talented writer. Enjoyed a Christmas luncheon at her home in Tecumseh. When she lived at Story Point, I would visit with her at St. Andrews. She will be missed. Rest in Peace, Lee



jan corona - August 23, 2025 at 03:17 PM

DM

Sending condolences to Leona's family and friends. I grew up on Rawsonville Road so we knew the entire family; and my parents always went to Hudge's grocery store. Jim and the Hudge family went to Lincoln Consolidated Schools; (Jim I pray that you and your family are well). I have many happy memories of those early years. [My family have all passed.] I am keeping you all in my prayers. Sincerely, Doris Lindemann Miller. LHS 1959.

Doris Miller - August 24, 2025 at 06:23 PM