



Gustav D. Lee

FEB 21, 1966 - JAN 5, 2026



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5
Media	Page 7



Gustav D. Lee

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Gustav D. Lee, age 59, passed into God's presence Monday, January 5, 2026 at his home in Nunica, MI with his family close by. Gustav was born February 21, 1966 in Stoneham, MA to Donald and Marie Elizabeth (Olson) Lee. He is survived by his sister Maia and his brothers Marcus, Anton and Ivan, his stepmother, Peggy Lee and half siblings, Katherine and Tippy. Gustav was preceded in death by his sister Kari, his sister Tora and his wife Jodi (Titus) Lee.

His life became difficult following a debilitating back injury in New York and then when his wife, Jodi, was diagnosed with cancer and died in 2015. Gustav and Jodi shared the love that most people dream to be able to experience and Gustav has been grieving her since they had to part. There is solace in the idea that Gustav and Jodi will now be able to reunite and share their love for each other once more.

Gustav lived in many places throughout his life including Massachusetts where he was born, Michigan and Washington where he grew up, and Seattle and Chicago and New York as an adult. Though never having lived in Wisconsin, Gustav adopted the Green Bay Packers as his team of choice and regularly wore the green and gold. Gustav was an artist with food and beverage and dedicated himself to honing his skills working as a barista and a bartender and a sommelier and a chef. He was skilled at preparing feasts or adding the right touch of food or wine to any occasion.

So many long friendships remained strong throughout his life. His friends valued his friendship as well as his insights, thoughts, help and advice. As the remembrances came in after he had passed, the real value of Gustav was apparent by all the testimonials of how much he was loved and appreciated and admired and respected by so many people who he had known, helped, provided positive influence to and was steadfast for.

As a gentle man with great love and kindness for his family and friends, a brother who was patient and curious and creative and helpful and positive, an uncle who loved and taught and led and nurtured, a friend who valued and helped and comforted and stood firm, a husband who loved



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deeply and cared and grieved, Gustav will remain a beacon of what good and kindness can bring to this world. He will be forever missed but never forgotten.

A celebration of life will take place graveside in upstate New York in 2026. Details to follow.



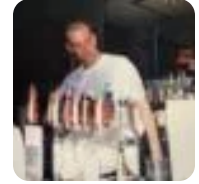
Tribute Wall

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LN

Lonnie Nam shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



The first time I met Gustav, we were sitting and chatting with our mutual friend, Kay the bartender. As I got up to leave, he told me — in the kindest way — that I had a “tall personality.” I may not be tall, but his friendship always made me feel as if I stood just as tall as he did. That was Gustav — effortlessly lifting people up. One time I was venting about the frustration of putting furniture together, and before I knew it, he showed up with a screwdriver in hand, ready to help. Another time, he had access to a van — which in New York City is basically a luxury — and he immediately offered to pick up a large item for Kyle. After a late night at work, even though my door was just a few steps down the block, he still made sure I got home safely. That was who he was: thoughtful in the small moments, generous without hesitation, and always looking out for the people around him. Gustav had a warm heart and was a true friend. He was deeply appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

January 28 at 11:46 AM

B

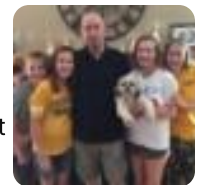
Brendan Wright posted:

My freshman year spring break, a friend and I went to stay with Gus and Jodi. We were treated to so many great NYC sites and food. Gustav spent every day he could spare practically running us around the city. We saw the WTC, and even went out on the roof which we were told was a special opportunity. We even went to his work at what was then Morrell wine bar & cafe where he immediately got Jodi a glass of the finest wine on hand. It was a whirlwind week with tons of great memories, food, and sites to see. The most important part looking back is knowing how important it was to him that we were taken care of and that we got to see as much as possible.

January 22 at 10:25 AM



Victoria Lee shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



My freshmen year of college, Uncle Gus came to visit me at college in Missouri. I don't remember what brought him to Missouri, but I remember that he showed up at the coffee shop I worked at at the time and asked a coworker if I was there. I was working in the back, and my coworker came to me and nervously said, “a scary looking man with a very cute dog is looking for you.” I remember looking through the window to see him on the patio area with Matilda and laughing to myself thinking about the stories he had told me from his youth when he worked security at some bar/nightclub spots. He seemed to take some pride in being a “scary looking man,” so it was just funny to me.

January 20 at 8:28 PM



Tribute Wall

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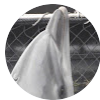


Ivan Lee shared 5 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Gustav and Jodi. The love they shared in pictures.



January 13 at 11:45 PM



Ashley Lenton posted:

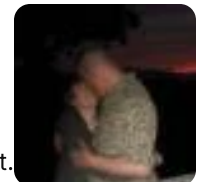
One of my favorite memories of Gus was a day in the early 90s, when we were walking down Bedford Ave together on our way somewhere. We happened upon a new clothing store and I stopped to admire a really cute dress in the window. Gus encouraged me to go and try it on and in the name of fun, I did just that. After it was back on its hanger, Gus took it from my hands and proceeded to buy it for me. I was in shock! It was a spendy dress! He then told me he wanted to purchase it for me because it made him happy to see me happy. It was the first time in my life that someone had done anything like that for me. It wasn't about the money spent at all... it was about his generous heart and kindness towards me that warms my heart each time I think about him and that moment together in the dress shop. That very dress still hangs in my closet..I'll have it with me for my lifetime. For the simple reason that Gus gave me the gift of worthy-ness that day and each time I come across it, I am reminded of that gift and of one of my all time favorite humans, my dear friend, Gustav ❤️

January 14 at 2:10 PM



Victoria Lee shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

When I think about Uncle Gus, I think about what it means to have a soulmate and the capacity for deep, unwavering love. Even after Aunt Jodi died, Gus remained completely, unmistakably in love with her. It wasn't something he hid or moved past. It was simply the truth of who he was. Loving Jodi wasn't a chapter of his life that ended when she did. It was the through-line of his entire existence. Watching that shaped my understanding of love more than anything else I've ever witnessed. I've never seen anyone love another person more deeply or more completely than how Gus loved Jodi.



January 13 at 11:45 PM



Lonnie Nam shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 28 at 11:46 AM





Media

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Victoria Lee shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 20 at 8:28 PM





Media

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Ivan Lee shared 5 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 18 at 12:10 AM





Media

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Media

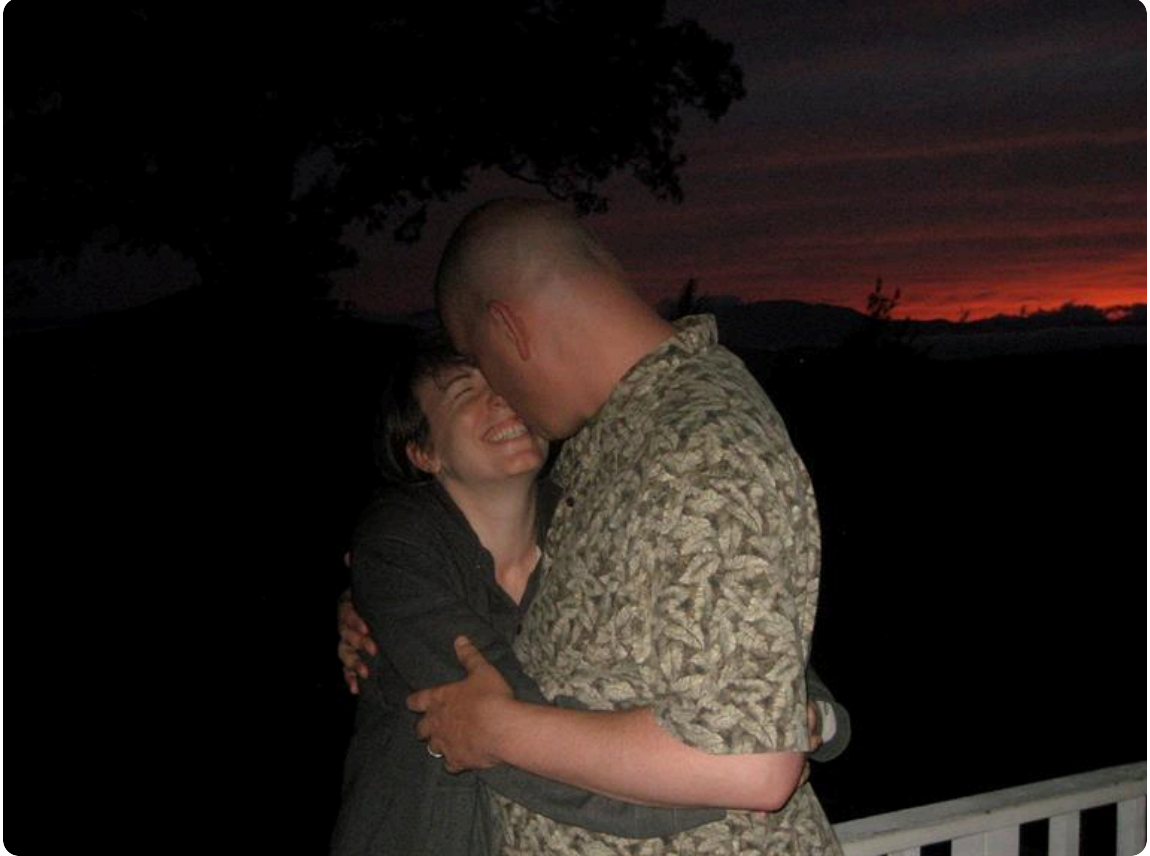
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FEB 21, 1966 - JAN 5, 2026



Victoria Lee shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 13 at 11:45 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gustav by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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