

## Lee Vance Walter

January 21, 1961 -- November 30, 2023



Lee Vance Walter, 62, of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on November 30th, 2023, surrounded by her loving family after a battle with cancer.

Lee was a loving wife, mother and friend. She will be remembered as a shining light and force for good in the world. Her sense of humor, quick wit and intellect were ever-present as well as her humility and spirituality. She was beloved by everyone that met her, and all were positively impacted by her infectious personality.

Lee was born on January 21st, 1961, to Joanne Claire Vance (Meyer) and Robert Lee Vance Jr. in Fremont, California. Her childhood days were spent in their home of Lafayette, California and at the family cabin in South Lake Tahoe, California.

She graduated from Acalanes High School in Lafayette, California in 1979. While in high school, Lee formed many life-long friends and competed on the women's basketball team that won a state championship in 1978.

She went on to study at the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in political science. While at Cal, Lee studied abroad on Semester at Sea, fostering her love for travel and international affairs. She was active in her sorority, Delta Gamma, where she carried on her love of sports and music.

In 1982, Lee worked for the advance team for then-President Ronald Reagan as he hosted Queen Elizabeth II for a state visit in San Francisco. The visit sparked a love for public service and a move to Washington, D.C., kicking off a decades-long career in policy and government affairs where she would have a lasting impact. Most notably, she served the American people at the United States Agency for International Development for 18 years. While at USAID, Lee was a passionate advocate for international disaster and humanitarian relief, economic empowerment, human rights and poverty alleviation. Countless people in need around the world benefited directly from her dedicated work.

In 2008, Lee met the love of her life, James Parker, set up on a blind date by mutual friends. They married in 2012 in Alexandria, Virginia, joining their families in a ceremony in Old Town. Together, they loved to travel, cook and spend time with family and friends. Their love was driven by common dedication to family and their equal adoration for each other.

Lee was most proud of her sons, especially in their development from young boys that she raised into the men they are today. From Donnie and Vance starting families of their own to Matt's successful music career, Lee was their rock and center of gravity. Her influence extends beyond mother, as she brought them through the challenges and joys of life – she was their angel on earth and now in eternity.

Lee is predeceased by her parents, Joanne Claire Vance (Meyer) and Robert Lee Vance Jr. She is survived by her loving husband, James Parker, sons Donald, Vance and Matthew Walter, her daughters-in-law Christine and Sarah Walter, her grandchildren William, Olivia and Charles Walter, her brothers Charles and Robert Lee Vance III, her sisters-in-law Stephanie Golembeski, Julie and Farrel Vance, her brother-in-law Richard Golembeski Jr., her parents-in-law Dennis and Vicki Parker, and her nieces and nephews, Nathan, Nora, Calvin and Brody Vance, Ryan Fischer and Emma and Richard Golembeski III.

A service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on January 20th, 2024, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, Virginia with a reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting The Father McKenna Center in Lee's name. The Father McKenna Center, located within the Gonzaga College Highschool community, is an independent 501(c)3 in the Ignatian tradition located in Washington, D.C. serving those struggling with homelessness and families facing food insecurity.

<https://fathermckennacenter.org/how-you-can-help/donate/>