



## Albert Lee Sneed Jr.

October 20, 1943 - April 14, 2024

Albert Lee Sneed Jr of Asheville, NC, passed away unexpectedly at his home on April 13th. He was born October 20th, 1943, in Denver, CO, to General Albert Lee Sneed and Dorothy Ryman Sneed. They soon relocated to Pinehurst, NC, so the retired General could play golf. He and his brothers had an idyllic childhood raking magnolia leaves, starting fires, riding bikes, and sneaking on to Number 2 which was their backyard. Albert and his two brothers attended Christ School, a boys' boarding school in Arden, NC. The headmaster "Mr. Dave" and the other teachers molded Albert into an outstanding young man. He received a Morehead scholarship, a National Merit Scholarship, and an NROTC scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina where he earned a bachelor's degree in Math and a minor in Physics, graduating in 1965. Albert was a member of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity where he made lifelong friends. He was commissioned as an Ensign and began his service to the Navy upon graduation. He did an 18-month tour in the Mediterranean aboard the USS John King, a guided missile destroyer. He was an admirals aide and finished his career as a Captain of a minesweeper. He had many adventures. He lost his Christ School class ring while water skiing in the Mediterranean Sea. While giving a tour to the royal family of Monaco, rather than referring to the young Prince Albert as "Your Highness," he suggested that they just call each other Albert. After four years of service, he decided that life at sea would not give him the family life he and Barrie wanted, and he enrolled in the Law School at Duke. He received his JD

in 1973. Upon graduation he moved to Asheville and began his career at the Van Winkle Law Firm, specializing in Bankruptcy and Commercial Business litigation. No client was too big or too small. Along the way, he received many awards and honors. Among those were being named one of the best lawyers in America, a North Carolina Super Lawyer, a Business North Carolina Legal Elite attorney, and an AV Peer-Reviewed rating by Martindale-Hubbard, to name a few. Albert had a very sharp mind and loved to discuss complex legal issues. He enjoyed a very successful law career, and as managing partner, he helped build VanWinkle into the law firm that it is today. On the Board of Directors at Christ School for 20 years and as its former President, he was credited with raising the endowment from 1 to 15 million dollars, thereby transforming the school into a premier institution. He was a founding member and President of the Council of Independent Business Owners in Asheville. He also conceived the idea of establishing a land conversation trust for Buncombe County, his proposal was adopted by the Board of Commissioners, and Albert was named the first President of the Trust's advisory board. He was a devout member of Trinity Episcopal Church. He was also a member of the Biltmore Forest Country Club. Albert was a good athlete, he lettered in baseball while at Christ School. He picked up windsurfing in his 30's and validated his prowess when he surfed the Columbia River Gorge, on a very windy day, jibing back and forth with guys half his age. He was an avid fisherman who actually once caught a rainbow trout with his bare hands. He had a 15-year love affair with a bird dog named Lily. They worked the grouse of WNC and pointed birds in Wisconsin. With Barrie, Albert traveled extensively to places like Africa, Peru, Greece, Costa Rica, and Japan. They spent their first trip, their honeymoon, in a Ford truck with a camper top as they toured the whole of the United States, camping along the way. They both were such curious, adventurous, and loving people. Albert was a unique and complex man. Those who knew him best loved him most. He loved salty raw oysters, dirty gin martinis, and Marlboro lights. He was known for saying he wasn't hungry but would then eat two plates. He was a sailor who could

navigate by the stars. He was a lawyer who would crush you in court. He was a father who raised two impressive sons. He was a husband who loved his wife dearly. He was a friend and brother that was there when it mattered. He was a principled man whose humor tried hiding itself but frequently came thru in spite of his resolve. Later in life there were two special women who helped Albert very much, Sara Lavelle and Ona Hensley. He will be remembered fondly and sorely missed by all who knew him. He is survived by two sons, Albert Lee Sneed III and wife Kristen, Paul Ryman Sneed, and wife Tracie, and three granddaughters, Mattie, Lucille, and Mirabel who were the brilliant lights in his life. He is also survived by younger brothers, John Ryman Sneed and wife Linda, Charles Sneed and wife Laurel, sisters-in law Lisa (Mike) Carriagan, and Jodie Muilenburg. Several nieces and nephews whom he adored, and wonderful friends he shared amazing memories with. He was preceded in death by his wife Martha Barrett Muilenburg (Barrie), who passed in 2018 from complications of Parkinson's disease. Rest in Peace "Big Owl". Services to be held on May 6th at 11 am at Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville, NC. Friends are welcome to join the family in a reception immediately following the service. A second reception will take place on Monday, May 6th - 4:00-6:00 pm at the Venue, 21 Market St. - 2nd Floor, Asheville, NC sponsored by the Van Winkle Law Firm. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked to please make a contribution to The Parkinson's Foundation Carolinas Chapter. Thank You.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Episcopal Church  
60 Church Street  
Asheville, NC 28801

*Reception immediately following the funeral service*

## Reception

MAY 6. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Venue  
21 North Market Street  
Asheville, NC 28801

*Sponsored by the Van Winkle Law Firm*

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ Albert Lee Sneed Jr. was my brother in law so I had the opportunity to know him and his beloved wife, Barrie for over 50 years. He was a wonderful and generous brother to his two brothers and also to their wives. He was also a loving and generous father to his sons and their families. I will never forget when he was a law student at Duke and to support Barrie and himself, he sold Kirby vacuum cleaners. He was a very good salesman and even sold us one of the fancy Kirbys, the cadillac of vacuums when we were newly weds and could barely afford ANY vacuum cleaner. But he made us see it as an investment. I was inspired by Albert's work ethic almost as much as by his generosity and intelligence. I never heard him complain about any work he ever did - even selling vacuums door-to-door. I asked him once when he came home from selling vacuums one day: how did he juggle going to law school and also selling vacuum cleaners so many hours per week: He said, "if it wasn't hard they wouldn't call it work." Then he grabbed a bite and hit the books. We are still feeling his loss as he was a great and remarkably generous patriarch of the Sneed family. If he could help a person, he would do it. There is an old Baptist hymn which sums up Albert: "May the live I lived speak for me." May he rest in peace !

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**laurel sneed** - January 23, 2025 at 08:56 PM

JB

“ John M Barrow & Henry F Barrow purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Albert Lee Sneed Jr..



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**John M Barrow & Henry F Barrow** - April 30, 2024 at 09:51 AM

CT

“ Of the countless individuals that I have interacted with over the years, Albert was a man that I had complete faith and trust in. My sympathies go out to his family, friends and all who were blessed to have known Albert.

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**Christopher Tunstall** - April 29, 2024 at 09:58 AM

DS

“ I was Al's classmate at Christ School. If you look at the class picture in the Angelus for 1958, he and I are the two guys who don't look old enough to be in the picture! I was constantly harassed and picked on by bigger boys and I eventually ran away in 1959 . Al Sneed was always kind and sympathetic to me and I am sorry to learn of his death. Dick Stanley

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**Dick Stanley** - April 23, 2024 at 11:38 AM

GL

I used to work with Albert when he was in Law School at Duke. When he got paid on Fridays he would call Barrie, and she would come sailing in saying, "Give me your check Albert, I need it." She was always wearing baggy shorts, shirt, and had on flip flops Then he would hand over his check, grin like a ten year old boy, and watch her leave. I realized later I was watching "True Love" in action. George Love III

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**George Love** - April 23, 2024 at 12:49 PM

HB

“ Henry B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert Lee Sneed Jr..

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**Henry B.** - April 23, 2024 at 09:59 AM

HB

“ Henry B. purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Albert Lee Sneed Jr..



Henry B. - April 23, 2024 at 09:59 AM

M.

“ M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert Lee Sneed Jr..

M. - April 22, 2024 at 09:29 PM

M.

“ M. purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Albert Lee Sneed Jr..



M. - April 22, 2024 at 09:29 PM

T(

“ The Strankos (Rudicel) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Albert Lee Sneed Jr..



The Strankos (Rudicel) - April 21, 2024 at 10:53 PM

DN

“ I deeply liked and respected Albert when I worked with him on the Committee to form a downtown Asheville Business Improvement District. I will always keep him in my thoughts as an admirable leader and man. Dave Nutter

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**David Nutter** - April 20, 2024 at 08:39 AM

LC

“ I knew about this great loss tuesday , but had to wait until i could get it together after such a great loss .Albert was equipped with ultimate legal knowledge . When a gentleman with his legal knowledge and the wise judgement as to how to use that knowledge exit your life it is a great loss . Someone who stood beside you and used that knowledge and WISDOM to lay your legal giants to rest . This is no small thing .Albert's work here is done and he has gone on before . I thank God he placed someone like Albert into our life . I pray God will guide his associates at the law firm in his replacement . One example of what a fine person Albert is . I had need to get in touch with him during the pandemic well i called his office and being as busy as he was he took the time to return my call . After he had laid my situation to rest . Later as we talked i learned a large tree had fallen and whacked his heat pump . Just one example of how Albert placed other before himself .When I see this man again in Heaven , i plan to give him a hug and thank him for all the times i called and did not have the knowledge myself but he did and laid all my legal giants to rest . Not gone just gone before . Harold & Lucille Conner

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**Lucille Conner** - April 18, 2024 at 01:13 PM

DA

“ Albert and his brothers are very much being thought about. Of course Paul and Lee are in my thoughts and prayers. The three Sneed “boys” are special cousins of mine....They are always supposed to be planning a reunion for the families. What a reunion will take place in the future. The last time I was in Asheville, Albert was kind enough to take me to dinner. What a wonderful time we had “remembering when.” We sadly shared the loss of our spouses and understood each other’s pain. Albert has beat me in joining his love. God bless the family and I’m holding tight to the memories. Well done Albert, good and faithful servant

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DeeDee (Morrison) Acee - April 17, 2024 at 10:04 PM

CD

“ To Lee, Paul and family, Susan and I are so sorry for the passing of your Pop, Albert. We will miss seeing him here in Asheville. Although his back prevented him from playing golf with us during the past year, when we last played his swing was strong and mighty! He was one of the good guys on this earth. God bless you and be with you all at this time. Charlie and Susan Dulin

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charlie dulin - April 16, 2024 at 06:55 PM