



Lane Olin Austin

February 2, 1945 - February 27, 2026

Lane O. Austin, age 81, of Princeton, West Virginia, passed away peacefully on February 27, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on February 2, 1945, in Bluefield, West Virginia, Lane was the second child of James and Vera Austin. From an early age, he was recognized for his keen intellect and steady judgment—qualities that would define both his character and his life's work.

Lane graduated from Graham High School before continuing his education at the University of Kentucky and later the University of Kentucky College of Law. After completing a year of law school, he answered the call to serve his country during the Vietnam War. He was stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland, where he served honorably as a Special Agent with U.S. Army Intelligence for the duration of his military service. Upon completing his service, Lane returned to law school and graduated Order of the Coif in 1973.

Throughout his distinguished legal career at Sanders & Austin, Lane served his clients with unwavering integrity, diligence, and compassion. He possessed a profound respect for the law and a commitment to justice, always striving to secure the best possible outcome for those who entrusted him with their cases.

On March 28, 1988, Lane married Margaret “Peggy” Shoda, the love of his life and devoted partner of 37 years. Together, they built a home defined by warmth, generosity, and gracious hospitality. Their greatest joy was raising their three strong-willed sons, who remained the very heart of their lives.

Of all his accomplishments, Lane most cherished his role as a dad and, later, as a granddad. He worked tirelessly to provide a life of opportunity and security for his family, instilling in his children the values of integrity, honesty, perseverance, and thoughtful discernment.

Lane enjoyed a rich and active social life, due in no small measure to Peggy’s gift for bringing people together. He was a treasured member of several dinner groups and gatherings, where his ready smile and remarkable storytelling were hallmarks of every evening. Blessed with an extraordinary memory, Lane had a gift for recounting moments and memories in a way that made others feel as though they were living them alongside him.

Lane is survived by his beloved wife, Peggy Austin; his sons, Brandon (Krystin) Austin, Clay Austin, and Chase (Harley) Austin; his cherished granddaughters, Claire and Elise Marie Austin; his sister, Vera Lee Austin; and many nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues who will forever honor and cherish his memory.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Vera Austin; his nephew, Luke Austin; his brothers, J. Rudy Austin and Dr. William “Bill” Austin; and his dear friends, Michael Gibson and Terry Lampert.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, March 5, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Mercer Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, March 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Princeton. Pallbearers will be Brandon Austin, Clay Austin, Chase Austin, Jimmy

Knowles Sr., Kenny Murphy, and Buddy Johnston. Honorary pallbearers are William "Henry" Sanders III, Dr. Phillip Branson, Lawrence Morhous, and Gary Boyce.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Though our hearts are heavy with loss, we find comfort in knowing that Lane's legacy endures in the wisdom he imparted, the integrity he exemplified, and the lives he so profoundly shaped. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered always.

Previous Events

Christian Wake Service

MAR 5. 6:30 AM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6155
mercerc@mercercfuneralhome.com
<https://www.mercercfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

MAR 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6155
mercerc@mercercfuneralhome.com
<https://www.mercercfuneralhome.com/>

A Christian Wake Service will be held at 6:30 PM

Funeral Service

MAR 6. 10:30 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
507 Harrison Street
Princeton, WV

Tribute Wall

TJ

“ I just learned today of Lane’s passing. I’m so sorry for Peggy and the boys. At first I was just a client, but later I considered Lane a good friend. He was always the same every time I met him...
Thurman “Smokey” Dickerson, Jr.

Thurman Dickerson, Jr - March 14 at 03:46 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lane Olin Austin.



March 07 at 07:15 AM

RB

“ So very sorry to learn of Lane’s passing . He was very much a family man and heavily involved in Brandon, Austin and Chase’s activities especially soccer where he spent many spring and fall evenings and weekends supporting their teams. Our hearts remain with Peggy and family in the weeks and months to come. Love to all. Rick and Debbie Ball

Rick Ball - March 05 at 11:41 PM

WE

“ Peggy and family,

I am saddened to learn of Lane's passing . We participated in several cases together over the years. I found him to be scholarly, forthright and always well prepared. His jovial nature and wonderful sense of humor made him personable to all who met him. He was above all, admired and respected by his colleagues in the legal profession.

It was truly my honor and privilege to know him. He will be greatly missed.

Wayne Evans

Wayne Evans - March 04 at 03:19 PM

TF

“ *The Dunmyer Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Lane Olin Austin.*



The Dunmyer Family - March 04 at 11:24 AM

JH

“ *Lane was always fun to be around, with his wit and smile. He always said he “had my back at track” during our days at Graham HS.*

God blessed me with the brief times we shared together.

Jeff

Jeff Harrison - March 03 at 09:40 PM

JL

I have known Lane since 1977. He was a mentor. I saw a good man, a good lawyer, a good humanitarian, a good human being, a good and decent individual, who was extremely sensitive to seeing the needs of others, and supplying those needs.

Lane was an extraordinary example of a life well lived.

Joe Long - March 04 at 10:41 AM

TD

“ *The Douthats purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Lane Olin Austin.*



The Douthats - March 03 at 05:51 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lane Olin Austin.*



March 03 at 04:49 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lane Olin Austin.*

March 03 at 04:49 PM

UA

“ Uriah Argyrakis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lane Olin Austin.



Uriah Argyrakis - March 03 at 10:36 AM

BJ

“ Janet and I were so very shocked to learn of Lane's passing last Friday. Our friendships were 74 years in the making. Lane and I met on the hilly playground of Logan Street in the second grade and we stayed in contact since that time. One can hope to have several very close friends throughout their lives, Lane was surely mine, for which I will always be grateful.

We pray for Peggy and the boys and their families during this sad time in their lives. Lane's great smile and generous altitude will endure forever in our hearts. Rest in Peace, dear friend!

Buddy Johnston - March 03 at 09:54 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Lane Olin Austin.



March 03 at 09:46 AM

GE

“ I have not seen Lane since our college days but he was a great friend then and will always be. His lack of self interest and ego was admired by all. He will be missed. Greg Earls

Greg Earls - March 03 at 08:05 AM

LK

“ We are saddened to hear of Lane's passing. I went to Sunday school with Lane when we were young and rode to Bluefield College during our time there. May God grant peace for his family at this difficult time.

Linda and Barnes Kidd - March 02 at 08:22 PM

Tammy Williams

“ So many memories of going to the boys' soccer games with Lane and Peggy. What good times!!! I am praying for family.

Tammy Williams - March 02 at 06:32 PM

LW

“ I am sorry to hear of the passing of my friend and mentor. A great man and a pretty darn good lawyer.



Lacy Wright - March 02 at 05:12 PM

MF

“ Melinda Fanning lit a candle in memory of Lane Olin Austin



Melinda Fanning - March 02 at 05:11 PM

TL

“ I worked for William Sanders when Lane started work for him. Lane and I shared the same birthdate. I have stopped in several times over the years and always had to talk with Lane. Praying for Lane's family.

Tina Larue

Tina Larue - March 02 at 05:10 PM

JK

“ Jim and Cheryl Knowles purchased the Serene R etreat for the family of Lane Olin Austin.



Jim and Cheryl Knowles - March 02 at 05:09 PM

GP

“ We are so saddened at the loss of Lane. He was a fine man who loved his family and was a good friend. We will miss him. We send our love to Peggy, Brandon, Clay and Chase. May our Lord bring you each comfort and peace in this time of loss.

Greg and Penny Prudich

Greg Prudich - March 02 at 03:12 PM

RS

“ Condolences to Peggy & Lane's sons. Bob & April Schumacher.

Robert Schumacher - March 02 at 08:05 AM

CB

“ Chad and Janet Balwanz purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Lane Olin Austin.



Chad and Janet Balwanz - March 01 at 12:13 PM

AN

“ The family of Randolph and Sheila Scott offer sincerest condolences to the entire Austin Family during this difficult time.

Anonymous - February 28 at 09:42 PM