



## Lester T Sladek Sr.

September 29, 1928 - September 8, 2021

Lester Thomas Sladek, Sr. of Oak Ridge, MO, passed away September 8, 2021.

He was born in St. Louis, MO, September 29, 1928 to Lester and Marie Dulin Sladek, the second of two sons. He married Joan Marion Truska in East St. Louis, IL, on July 17, 1954, and despite her passing in 1997, she remained the love of his life until his final breath.

In his youth, his love for guns began when he was part of the high school rifle team. He remained an avid gun enthusiast all his life. He also enjoyed competitive speed skating and cycling in his younger years. He also enjoyed dirt car racing and was an old school street outlaw.

Throughout his life he owned many muscle cars. His prize cars were his 1948 Ford convertible, his 1968 Shelby GT350 and his most recent love was his 2013 GT Premium Mustang which was tuned to his liking which he proudly drove every day until his last.

His love of cars was paralleled with over 80 years of dedication to his craft of creativity and design. He specialized in hand lettered signs and fiberglass fabrication, among his many other talents. He worked for Kern Sign Company, Herb's Hot Rod Shop, McDonnell Douglas, Ford Motor Company, General Sign, Marquette Tool and Die, and his self-owned L & J Fiberglass and Cobra Fiberglass companies where he produced go-kart and Mustang and Shelby parts. His craftsmanship has been sought out and is world renowned.

Upon selling Cobra Fiberglass to his son, he returned to his early love of

firearms and began designing and making custom gun stocks and pistol grips, many of which he hand checked.

On the day of his passing, he spent his time doing some of his favorite things: driving his car, hand-crafting a gunstock, and working in the shop.

Survivors include seven children, Pauline Niswonger, Susan (Dale) Weisbrod, Charles (girlfriend, Alejandrina) Sladek, Marie (the late Arnold) Vitek, Lester (Dyuna) Sladek, Jr., Thomas (Tammy) Sladek, and Elizabeth Sladek. Along with 15 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, and four on the way.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Charles Edward Sladek.

Visitation will be 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Friday at Ford and Sons Funeral Home in Jackson.

A celebration of life will follow at 11:00 am at the funeral home with Pastor Chris Peltz officiating.

Burial will be in Russell Heights Cemetery next to his late wife immediately following.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Crossroad Church in Jackson or the charity of your choice.

Ford and Sons Funeral Home in Jackson is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com) <<http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com>>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **10**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ford and Sons Jackson  
708 W. Main Street  
Jackson, MO 63755

## Funeral Service

SEP **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ford and Sons Jackson  
708 W. Main Street  
Jackson, MO 63755

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Lester was a great man ,so pleasant to talk to, and loved cars. My husband and I met him at a car cruise in at uptown Jackson and loved hearing his stories, he will be missed. Larry and Beth Baker*

**beth a baker** - September 10, 2021 at 10:17 AM



*From the entire Sladek family it warms our hearts that he had such beautiful friends as yourselves! Thank you.*

**Beth Sladek** - September 10, 2021 at 10:21 PM

AQ

*Tom & Tammy, So sorry for your loss you will be in my thoughts & prayers.*

*Alice K. Quigley*

**Alice K. Quigley** - September 11, 2021 at 07:25 AM

GG

*Lester was always a bright spot in my day when he brought in his Stang for service at Ford Groves ... we loved sharing Mustang stories ... condolences to the family, he was one of a kind*

**Gary Griffin** - September 11, 2021 at 08:54 PM

LR

“ Condolences to les family. I always call him the neighbor man across the street  
Les was funniest and kindest 💕 man to me. When I lost my husband  
He let me talk about him.his love for gun stock was beautiful designed. And his love for drawing funniest cartoons for Mariah  
He is going to be missed very much. Tom.little les .Charlie  
Susan. I love you 😍very much children remember ❤️💕 he had to all of yous God bless 🙏🙏❤️ greatest father you 🙏❤️ prayers 🙏  
for the families.

Leila Renfro - September 09, 2021 at 04:35 PM



Leila we love to hear how Dad was able to be there for you and brought some laughter into your life. We remember that he spoke of you fondly.  
Thank you so much for being there for him as well!  
The Sladek family

Beth Sladek - September 10, 2021 at 10:28 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Lester T Sladek Sr..



September 08, 2021 at 06:41 PM