



Leon Jeffrey "Jeff" Herlong

January 15, 1947 - September 17, 2025

Leon Jeffrey "Jeff" Herlong, beloved friend and father, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2025, in Tavares, Florida, at the age of 78.

Jeff was a native of Leesburg, Florida, and member of Leesburg High School's class of 1965, he attended Lake Sumter Community College (now Lake Sumter State College), Stetson University and graduate of Holiday Inn University, Brunswick School of Management and Ramada Management Institute. Jeff was known for his infectious sense of humor and his extraordinary talent for sharing stories. He also loved sharing his faith in conversations with friends and acquaintances. His passions were many—music, movies, history, cars, car racing, and guns. In his younger years, he was a competitive bowler, and throughout his life, he remained a skilled pianist, admired for his fiery and energetic playing style.

Jeff's professional journey began in hospitality management where he operated major chain hotels in 13 cities across six Southern states. Later, he built a distinguished career in the automotive industry, earning the respect of colleagues for his integrity, exceptional work ethic, and the strong relationships he cultivated. Jeff approached his work not just as a job, but as a calling—taking immense pride in his contributions and the friendships he formed.

Beyond his career, Jeff was a lifelong and respected gun collector. His extensive knowledge reflected a deep appreciation for the craftsmanship, history, and mechanical artistry of each piece.

Jeff is survived by his son, Michael; his daughter, Jennifer; and four grandchildren.

Family and friends are invited to honor and remember Jeff at a visitation on Thursday, October 2nd, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Beyers Funeral Home, 1123 W. Main St, Leesburg, FL. A funeral service celebrating his life will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by burial at Lone Oak Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The NRA Foundation in Jeff's name.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Cemetery Details

Lone Oak Cemetery

306 Thomas Avenue
Leesburg, FL 34748

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory
1123 W Main St
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 787-4343

Funeral Service

OCT 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory
1123 W Main St
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 787-4343

Tribute Wall

BE

“ Jeff was a very generous man. Without Jeff I would only half the man I am today. He gave me my love for barbecue and grilling out. He was a great cook. He taught me how to bowl many many years ago and I then taught my son my daughter, wife and grandson. A wonderful man who love everyone around him and he dearly loved Lake County.
Brian Earwood.

Brian Earwood - October 04, 2025 at 02:28 PM

BC

“ Jeff was our friend and neighbor for the past 23 years. We love our lake life. We will miss Jeff, our condolences to his family and many friends.

Bill and Denise Carey - October 03, 2025 at 04:46 PM

BC

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Bill and Denise Carey - October 03, 2025 at 04:42 PM