
Lee VANDERSTEEL

VANDERSTEEL Lee, of Alpine. Born in 1933 in Elizabethton, TN, Lee had a passion for family, adventure and politics. The youngest child of ten, Lee excelled at school. She earned the National Honor Society Award in high school and attended Columbia University School of Journalism (in Alpine known as Subversive Suburban Activity). Soon after her marriage to William Vandersteel, the couple moved to Alpine, N.J. in 1968, where she became a well-known resident of the borough. She supported open and cost-effective governments and wore many hats in the political fabric of the borough. Lee was the editor, publisher and founder of the Alpine Gazette. As was her style, she approached political discourse with civility, humor, and an over-abundance of data and facts. As the "insurgent" candidate, Vandersteel was the 1st woman to be elected to the Alpine Council in 1973 with the slogan, "I'm just the girl who CAN say no." She felt strongly about the role of a public servant, holding a number of positions herself, including Fire Chief, Borough Clerk, and Community House Treasurer. Always concerned with the public purse, she published a monthly column called "Where the Money Goes," in which she listed all bills paid by the borough. Council members were often embarrassed and angered by the column. Other civic activities included membership in the Alpine Citizens for Preservation Group and Home and School Association. Lee is survived by her husband, William, her five beautiful children, Stoddard, Marion, Bill, Ann, Tina and six grandchildren; her beloved dog, Boo, and her cat, Spunky. Surrounded by friends and family, Vandersteel died on April 28, 2010 of natural causes after a long battle with cancer. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Shelter Our Sisters of Hackensack.

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