



Larry W. Wild

July 10, 2021

Lt. Col. (U.S Army ret.) Larry W. Wild passed away 10 July 2021 at UNC Cancer Hospital in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; he was just 70 years old. His quiet, steadfast resolve in facing life's challenges head-on never wavered during his courageous battle with leukemia. Despite the challenges, he remained a hero to all who knew him and stayed very strong until the end. Larry will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in a military ceremony November 9, 2021 at 9AM. In lieu of flowers please send donations to two charities that were dear to Larry's heart: Hope for the Warriors (<https://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/>) or The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (<https://www.lls.org/>).

Larry is survived by his wife, Janice Wild and their two children, Jamé Affeldt and Todd Affeldt (spouse), and Jason Wild and Dréa Wild (spouse). Larry was the younger of two siblings to Dr. Jack and Anna Wild and is survived by his older sister, Lynda Chappell. Larry's legacy will also continue to live on in his four ridiculously amazing granddaughters, Morgan Affeldt, Madison Affeldt, Rylee Affeldt, and Zoë Wild.

Larry was born 27 May 1951 in Lawrence, Kansas, while his father Jack Wild completed his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Kansas. Larry then traveled the United States with his parents before settling in Olney, Maryland, in 1963, where he completed secondary school at Sherwood High in

Montgomery County Maryland in 1969. Larry played defensive line for the Sherwood football team, and the fact he stood 5'6" and weighed barely 180 lbs is all you need to know about his focused determination and desire to compete.

In the fall of 1969, Larry matriculated to Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) in Westminster, Maryland, to major in Biology. Additionally, despite the unpopularity of the Vietnam War, Larry took it upon himself to volunteer for a commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps and became a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in 1973. Following his commission he was assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for training in the Army Medical Service Corps.

And then...it was at Fort Sam Houston in September of 1973 where Larry put eyes on the love of his life, Janice, while she leaned against her metallic-copper Mustang wearing baby blue bell-bottoms and a white top; a First Lieutenant training to be an Army nurse at the same post. They later met in the bachelor officer's quarters kitchen and got to know one another over a delightful meal of Hamburger Helper. Larry convinced Jan (or was it the other way around?) to swap orders with her friend, so they could be stationed together at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and were subsequently married three months later on 3 December 1973. Two years later, Jamé was born at Ft Lewis on 8 December 1975, shortly before they moved to Ft Bragg, North Carolina, where Jason was born later on 6 September 1978.

Larry served in the Army for 23 years, and his commitment took him to Georgia, Texas, Virginia, South Korea, and the National Capital Region. He earned two Master's Degrees, graduated from the US Army Command and General Staff College, and was awarded two Legions of Merit for his actions. Larry's favorite job in the Army was as a Company Commander in the 24th Infantry Division, and his greatest accomplishment was designing and developing a new paradigm in field hospitals and medicine. Larry's final

assignment took him to the DC area where he served at the Pentagon with the Office of the Army Surgeon General in addition to being temporarily assigned to US Army Forces Command Headquarters during Desert Storm. Larry's hilarious stories of a career spent serving his country are too many to mention here, but are recounted with pride amongst all of his family and friends.

Following his retirement from the Army, Larry continued to work for the U.S. Government in various contractor and civilian positions before he retired from the work force for good in 2013. For a decade before his retirement, he and Jan designed a home to be built in River Landing, a golf course community in Wallace, North Carolina. It was here that they developed close relationships with neighbors, hosted family and friends, and Larry discovered a love for golf, pickle ball, volunteering in the community with Habitat for Humanity, and helping his neighbors recover from Hurricane Florence in the summer of 2018. Together, Larry and Jan made a wonderful life for themselves over the course of their 48 years of marriage.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Larry W. Wild*

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *He was in the room next to me during my senior year at WMC. Our friendship continued even after I graduated, and although the years and distance moved us apart, he remained a part of who I am. I only wish I could have beaten him at squash at least once.*

chris spencer - January 13, 2022 at 11:50 PM



“ *I am late here, as I just read of Larry's passing in The Hill magazine (WMC). Although 40 plus years have passed since college, Larry will always be "my best buddy" from those times. My greatest regret is that we lost touch, although I was able at times to tract him down through mutual friends, knowing he stayed in the military and married Jan. He was that special kind of person that one remembers for a lifetime, and thinks of quite often. Just thinking of Larry makes me smile. Jan and his family will surely miss him desperately, but are so fortunate to have had him for a lifetime. I will visit him in Arlington for sure, for our last conversation. Midge Wright Ingersoll*

Margaret Ingersoll - January 11, 2022 at 05:30 PM



“ *Larry and I served together at the Army Surgeon General's office. He was the consummate staff officer - smart, hard working, efficient, and a great teacher - and friend. The work was hard, but always a joy when Larry was around. I will miss him.*

bill klenke - October 21, 2021 at 08:59 AM

TF

“ Larry and I were classmates in the Class of '69 at Sherwood High School in Sandy Spring Maryland. He was dedicated and sharp as a student and as an athlete. His sense of humor was infectious. We both had leading roles in the school musicals in our Junior and Senior years, and his command of the roles he played was truly masterful. We were together in a senior English class that took a semester to study theater. I will never forget his presentation of a solo scene from a Eugene O'Neil play. It was a truly awesome display of intelligence and skill from a young man who became (we see this in the other memories posted here) a consummate storyteller. Larry's presentation of the role, in a 10 minute monologue, brought me to tears and revealed a depth of understanding of the human condition that, in retrospect, I would only expect to see in a person with many decades of life experience. Many times since then I have wondered, "How did he do that?" There are moments in every life when we brush up against genius, and this was such a moment for me. At a reunion of the class of 1969 I reminded him of all this. And his humility at a moment of praise was just one more example of his exceptional character. May he rest in peace. Tom Farquhar, Sandy Spring Maryland

Tom Farquhar - August 23, 2021 at 07:31 AM

DH

“ The storyteller in Larry is smiling from above after seeing the beautiful obituary written by his family that highlights his life. Larry was a good man, a good friend, and a good neighbor. As a hard working volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Larry was the guy who saw what needed to be done, and he got to it. His quiet sense of humor was always appreciated by those around him and the stories got even better the second time we heard them. Kayaking and playing racquetball with Larry will always be cherished memories for me. (Sometimes he even let me win a game or two.) The River Landing community will miss him so much. The world could use more men of integrity like Larry. You left us too early friend. Rest in Peace, Dean Hanson

Dean H - August 07, 2021 at 11:06 AM

FJ

“ Yes, Larry was a treasure! After reading his obituary, I was again struck by his commitment to and love for country, family, and friends! I was also overcome with sorrow that we didn't spend more time sitting on the porch listening to Larry! He had so much to share, so much he had accomplished, so much he had devoted to our country, so much love for family, so much heart! We could have listened to him for days! We are humbled to have met him! Yes, he was a treasure, a real hero!... and we will miss him!

Faye and Charles

Faye Jones - August 05, 2021 at 11:22 AM

KH

“ I was saddened to hear, from Bob, the news of Larry's passing. I am grateful for the the reconnection at our 45th Reunion at WMC. Prayers and condolences to Jan and his entire family. Jan, I know Larry's illness was difficult for you and your family. A friend of mine told me, "While we are here, we are only partial sketches of ourselves. Now Larry is complete, powerful and glorious." Unimaginably mysterious, but I do believe it. Blessings to all.
Kathy Hobart

kathy hobart - August 01, 2021 at 08:57 AM

AS

“ It's sad to have lost such a wonderful man and classmate from WMC '73! I remember Larry coming to our 45th reunion with lots of food to share. It was such an enjoyable day and so good to touch base with old friends like Larry. He will be missed! Prayers and condolences to his lovely wife and family.
I recall Wisdom 3:1-9...the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them...



Annie Schaffner - July 31, 2021 at 05:11 PM

BJ

“ Along with Larry, I was one of the Western Maryland College ROTC “Fab Five” who were commissioned in 1973. When we started ROTC in 1969, it was mandatory for all male students for our freshman and sophomore years. When it was clear the draft was ending, only 5 of us moved forward as juniors toward graduation and commissioning. Then, I discovered Larry & I would both be stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA. When my wife and I reported in late October, 1973, I reached out to Larry. When he showed up, he came with Jan and the news she was MRS. Wild!! Since my wife was a RN, too, we had many things in common, leading to a wonderful friendship (including the birth of Jame!!) during my time at Ft. Lewis, which ended with my leaving active duty in 1976. I am glad The WMC alum network allowed us to keep track of each other and our families over the years. And, I am truly grateful to have shared the 40th and 45th reunions, in person, with Larry. He was a good man.

Bob Jacobs

Bob Jacobs - July 30, 2021 at 07:37 PM

BA

“ There are many memories over the past ten years - traveling through Europe, date nights in Wilmington, dinners and wine tastings at the club, and so, so many more. However, the memories that will always top the list for Gregg and I are those evenings the four of us spent together playing canasta (and, boy, was he good!) Larry, our thoughts and prayers are with your family. We'll see you on the other side where there is no sadness, no tears, and no pain. Love always, Bev & Gregg

Beverly Alexander - July 30, 2021 at 04:38 PM

BK

“ Our community lost a special person and we will all miss Larry. When driving down Paddle Wheel and I see someone walking with a backpack I think of Larry and the many walks he made and always with a straight back, quick pace and that backpack. Our sincerest condolences to Jan and the entire Wild family. Larry was a special person and he touched many lives probably more than he realized. Rest in peace.

Barbara and Jerry Kukoski

Barbara Kukoski - July 29, 2021 at 11:51 PM

LP

“ Over the years there have been so many stories and memories, some that should never be shared. However, the ones I remember most fondly are the stories Skip would share about their carpool adventures on their way home on Friday nights. Details cannot be shared because some of them were less than legal. 😬 In addition, the refinishing of the basement in the smurf house in VA (as Jan called it,) was another great adventure. We will miss Larry's dry humor that made us all laugh.

Lynda Parker - July 29, 2021 at 06:43 PM