



Larry Lampton

June 26, 1924 - November 18, 2020

Leonard "Larry" Lampton, 96, a true American hero and member of the greatest generation, died peacefully on November 18, 2020.

Larry was born on June 26, 1924 in Louisville, KY to the late Leonard Emmet and Gladys (Allen) Lampton.

Larry served our country honorably as a member of the United States Navy from January 13, 1943 to February 25, 1946. He served aboard the USLCF-31 on D-Day at Omaha Beach and he spoke very honestly about his experiences. He carried around a picture in his wallet of the boat and on the back was inscribed "Appledorf Scotland, 33 ft tide. Left us high and dry". He was one of the few members of the point to survive and was awarded the purple heart. He often remarked that he was just a scared kid doing his job. In later years he spoke publicly to veterans groups and for fundraisers. One of the highlights of his life was attending the honor flight to Washington D.C. with fellow veterans.

On May 16, 1947 Larry married Elaine Virginia Etter in Centerline. Together they celebrated 72 years of marriage before she passed in January of 2020.

Larry was a Conductor for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad for over thirty years.

Larry enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing tennis. He could often be found on the tennis court and enjoyed the game well into his 80's. When he was 85, he won the southwest senior Olympics in Phoenix. He was also never one to turn down a game of poker, especially if it was Texas Hold'em. He won many tournaments in the area and continued to play almost until the day he died. He and Elaine also liked to twirl around the square dance floor for many years. They were great partners in every sense of the word. They were also both avid readers.

Larry often shared that his secret to longevity was 2 PBR's before dinner every day and a few pieces of cantaloupe every morning.

Larry will be greatly missed by his sons Mickey (Paula Pancheri) Lampton and Timothy (Mary Jo) Lampton; grandchildren Lawrence, Jerry, Lindsey (Wes Harrand), Jon, and Jessica; great-grandchildren, Elana and Brady; and sister Martha White.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and siblings Barbara and Lela.

In keeping with Larry's wishes, cremation has been arranged and private services will be held.

Interment for Larry and Elaine will take place at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Those wishing to make a gift of remembrance in Larry's name are asked to consider Hospice of Michigan or to Mid Michigan Honor Flight.

The family would like to offer their sincere thanks to both French Manor on La Franier and Hospice of Michigan for their care and kindness and his poker friends for all the fun times.

One of the last things Larry said was that he was "All In". He is now receiving the greatest jackpot and is reunited with his dear Elaine.

Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Avenue

Arlington, VA, 22211

Comments



“ I met Larry on Paul Ameel's tennis court about 25 years ago. I'm not sure just a guess. We played with Roger Steed, Mic Crandle and Dr. Ken Taylor most often. Larry was a VERY GOOD tennis player! Larry was very fast around the court! He had a very frustrating drop shot that always surprised me! He was fun to play with! I did get a history lesson from him after tennis while having a beer with everyone on Paul's deck overlooking the bay. We were discussing the Normandy landing and what had happened that day---from our simple knowledge of the war. Then Larry spoke up to say that we were close but that's not what happened! What he told us next surprised us all!! Larry was a real hero and we were all glad that he made it through that terrible day! It was a pleasure to know Larry. A very nice guy! You all should be proud!!

LEN PRICE - November 27, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ I met Larry about 10 years ago playing poker tournaments at Turtle Creek. Not only was Larry an excellent player, he was always highly respected by all the other regulars. He was also a gentleman and displayed a delightful sense of humor. I use to bring my WW2 vet uncle to play and Larry took him under his wing, helping keep track of the poker game. As I got to know Larry better, he talked about his time in the service. He graciously agreed to speak at a yearly fundraiser for Mid Michigan Honor Flight that was held at The Traverse City Country Club. It was quite a moving presentation where Larry described his D Day experience. At the end of his recollections, Larry told the audience about his last trip to our Capital, the trip where he will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He will now make that last trip, a real American Hero and a Hero to all who had the privilege to know him.

Rick Birndorf

Rick Birndorf - November 22, 2020 at 12:58 PM



“ Larry was kind, honest and someone who became a friend the first time you met him. When playing poker tournaments he always stayed in, if he had a pair. In one tournament I had two pair going heads up against Larry. I went all in, he called me, and to my surprise he had three of a kind. He gently smiled as he sent me home. You boys are very lucky to have had Larry as your father. He will be missed.
Bill Rasmussen
Attorney

William Rasmussen - November 22, 2020 at 09:07 AM



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Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 20, 2020 at 01:32 PM



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