



Lanny Dale Larson

October 31, 1943 - October 26, 2023

Lanny Dale Larson, age 79, passed away on the morning of October 26th, 2023, in Tallahassee, FL.

Lanny was born on October 31st, 1943, to Donovan Dale Larson and Verna Nelson. They lived on the family dairy in Swedberg, Nebraska, right outside the small town of Wahoo, which later became their home. On the family farm, Lanny had many chores as all farm children do. But he also had the joys of having his own pony, Twinkle. At a very young age he rode the horse to school, each day. The school was a one room schoolhouse with eight students. Apparently, it did no harm to his education, as he was always academically exceptional. He also had the benefits of being able to go off on his pony by himself. He loved fur trapping, hunting, fishing and generally roaming around getting in trouble. After moving to Wahoo, he enjoyed track, basketball, and football. He joined many clubs, was Homecoming King, and played a role in South Pacific. He never missed a good time, no matter the consequences. Fortunately, his academic life did not suffer. But it was an athletic scholarship that got him into college. After playing football and running track in college, he moved on and the FSU Department of statistics made him an offer in Tallahassee where he completed his PhD. and improved his golf game. His love was applied statistics which would have been so much fun today in the world of Meta Data.

His work took him to Key West for a dose of Buffettville and then to Virginia

Beach. He added sailing to his sporting portfolio. Finally, he returned to Tallahassee and state government where his assignments were varied and interesting, working in several state agencies, the legislature, Governor's Office, and Enterprise Florida. The assignments were never boring.

The years in Tallahassee with his wife Martha and his children, Thad and Dina, were filled with the joys and trials of all families but his love of his children was everything to him. His church, friends, community and sports were treasured. His Martha was his rock, and their love was deep and abiding. While their marriage of 45 years was long, it was not long enough. The last twenty years was a series of serious sequential illnesses for Lanny and his departure has left a grief that only God can and will assuage.

Lanny was preceded in death by his parents, Donavon and Verna Larson, and is survived by his wife, Martha; his children, Dinorah (Ryan) Bailey and Thad (Suhail) Larson; brother, Tom Larson (Sara); grandchildren, Seth Larson, Ariani Harris and Tucker Harris; nephew, Dane Larson (children: Tyce and Kolby; niece, Kimberly Ruth (children Brady and Tyler). His illness robbed him of getting to know well the lovely additions to his family, Barbara, and Savannah.

A funeral service for Lanny will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida on November 8th at 2:00 PM. and he will be interred at Roselawn Cemetery on Piedmont Drive following the reception.

In lieu of flowers donations are requested for Grace Mission, 303 W. Brevard St., Tallahassee, FL, 32312 or St. John's Foundation.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

NOV 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
211 North Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Tribute Wall

BL

“ I was thinking of Dr. Larson earlier today, as I was discussing with my family some of the past jobs I had. That led me to search his name and I was saddened to read about his passing a few years back.

I worked at the Department of Education under Dr. Larson and the FL Community Colleges division on a part-time basis when I was in college at FSU, back in the 2002-2004 timeframe. I just did some projects and clerical work, but I wanted to share three fond memories of my time there.

1) I don't recall who created this program, but I vividly remember, while working for Dr. Larsen, helping to execute an amazing program where former draftees to the Korean or Vietnam War who didn't get to finish high school were granted honorary diplomas by the state. I helped print/get signatures/send the diplomas to the veteran recipients, and received numerous returned letters back about how meaningful and fulfilling this program was to these folks. I don't recall if this was Dr. Larson's ideation, but I know he supported it and executed it and it made a difference in people's lives.

2) One time, I received a call from Dr. Larson while traveling, and he was having difficulty with his reservations. Turned out, I had made a terrible mistake of booking some things for the wrong date. I was pretty sure that was going to be the end of my time working there! But I will never forget the grace Dr. Larson showed me, how he accepted my apology and was so much kinder to me than I deserved.

3) As I prepared to graduate and put in my resignation to the Department of Education on my way to starting my post-graduate career, Dr. Larsen invited me to lunch with him. He gifted me a very nice business card holder engraved with my initials, and I have it to this day.

I was a nobody, just a college kid with a part-time job. But the way Dr. Larson treated me made me feel important and, quite frankly, gave me confidence to enter the "real world." He had a positive impact on my life.

I am very sorry to read about his health problems and passing. My condolences and prayers to his family.

Brian

Brian Lucas - August 23, 2025 at 12:42 AM

JO

“ *I worked with Dr. Larson at the Dept. of Labor and Employment Security in Tallahassee in late 1970s and early 1980s. I remember him writing a very long formula for Lotus 123 (spreadsheet software) and helping me to understand each equation. I remember he was funny and fair. He always asked the best questions in staff meetings. I learned so much from him. I am deeply sadden by his passing. I do remember his love for his wife and family. Also when he bought a navy blue truck with gold and thin red pinstrips on his lunch hour. He insisted I call him Lanny and I told my daddy and he said I know better than that. Lol. However, I did call him Lanny and that never changed in respect for him.*

Jeanette Sneed O'Briant - January 15, 2025 at 07:41 PM

BG

“ *I was able to view Lanny's service just now and am so grateful to have been able to be a part of it - even if remotely. It was a lovely service and I hope for Lanny's family gratitude for having been a part of his life and the memories shared. Thinking, of course, of Martha and the entire family and all of his many friends. Barbara Griffin*

Barbara Griffin - November 08, 2023 at 02:49 PM

QH

“ I was so lucky to have a moment with Lanny. I'm a jewelry designer and he always came by my shop to buy that special necklace for Martha. When the pandemic hit and I had to close my shop, he called me and came to my house to buy that special necklace for their anniversary. I have to say that Lanny was one in a million and not only did he have a great eye for color, a wonderful sense of humor, but a divine love for his wife. I'm so sorry for your loss. He was a great soul. All my love, Quincie

Quincie Hamby - November 06, 2023 at 05:50 PM

LM

“ Lanny was a friend and roommate at Midland U. He was a great guy who did well in all phases of his life.. we were fortunate to get to reconnect at a Midland Homecoming a couple of years ago.RIP

Larry Munn - November 06, 2023 at 03:53 PM

RW

“ Lanny was one of my best college friends as I grew up in Cedar Bluffs, NE...we shared time at his home on holidays, weekends and just being buddies. We hope enjoyed our athletes at Midland. We had kept up on facebook for the past few years. Bless your wonderful soul Lanny as you were one of the best friends ever. Dick Wray

Richard (Dick) Wray - November 05, 2023 at 09:16 AM

BW

“ *Lanny will be greatly missed by so many. I will remember him as a caring, kind soul with a great sense of humor and love of life. As his cousins, my brother and I grew up with Lanny and his brother in Nebraska. As adults we lost touch for a long time but fortunately reconnected. I am grateful to Lanny and Martha for sharing their time and many stories with me over the last years. God bless you, Lanny. Watch over Martha. Your cousin, Beverly Windle*

Beverly Windle - November 04, 2023 at 08:09 PM