



Lawrence "Larry" Edward Wilkinson

August 11, 1954 - August 25, 2013

Lawrence "Larry" Edward Wilkinson, age 59 of Moravia, passed away Sunday, August 25, 2013, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines from injuries sustained in a scooter accident.

Larry was born August 11, 1954 to Robert "Bob" and Patricia (Amos) Wilkinson in Ottumwa. He married Vickie Yenger September 9, 1978, at the First Christian Church in Albia. They were blessed with nearly 35 years of marriage and two children, Tiffany and Travis.

A graduate of Ottumwa High School, Larry received an Associate of Arts degree in business from Indian Hills Community College. He worked for Iowa Southern Utilities in Ottumwa, Burlington, Washington and Centerville; was an investment advisor for Iowa Trust and Savings Bank in Centerville; and worked at Rathbun Regional Water Association as an economic development specialist. He and Vickie then owned and operated Playtime Storage in Moravia. It was established in 1996 and evolved into a storage, repair and maintenance facility. Recently, Larry was the store manager at the Rathbun Marina.

Larry was a member of the Rathbun Yacht Club where he penned a monthly column under the pseudonym "Captain Chaos" for the Wind Scoop Newsletter for several years, a founding member of the Rathbun Lighthouse Society, past member of the Rathbun Lake Association, and former president of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce. His pride and joy were his grandchildren. When not spending time with his family, he enjoyed being outdoors sailing, camping, scuba diving, and working at the lake. He also liked helping people, traveling, and playing a daily game of cribbage with close friends. He was very talented working with his hands and worked on many projects in Papa's Nauti Shop with his grandchildren.

Larry is survived by his wife, Vickie of Moravia; two children, Chief Petty Officer Travis (fiancé, Shannon Clothier) Wilkinson of Lexington Park, MD and Tiffany (Tyler) Havard of

Albia; three grandchildren, Treyton, Tommy and Tessa Havard; his mother, Patricia Wilkinson of Ottumwa; and three siblings, Kathy Loving of Ottumwa, Dennis (Diane) Wilkinson of Glendale, AZ and Jody (Dave) Aeschliman of Bloomfield. He is also survived by his best friend, David Howe of Centerville; and many nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bob; a sister Diane Wilkinson; and a brother-in-law, Gary Loving.

A Celebration of Life will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, August 29, 2013, at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia; with Pastor Richard Grimes officiating. Burial will be in Main Station Cemetery near Rathbun Lake.

Visitation will be 2-8 p.m., Wednesday, August 28, 2013, at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Larry's family present from 5-8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Iowa Donor Network or to the family for a later donation.

Comments



“ We are so sorry about Larry's accident and passing. Having had a similar accident a couple of years ago myself, it reinforces the fact that we must live each moment and cherish the time we have here. I have been thinking about him a lot and I'm sorry that these thoughts are late in coming but I have had more trouble coming to grips with it than I would have thought since I lose friends and patients all the time as a doctor.

Though we didn't know Larry all that long, I always loved his directness and honesty. It was refreshing that he could leave things behind and do what he really wanted. It was also an incredibly generous act to be a donor and I know, as a transplant surgeon, what it means to the people who will be blessed by his gift. We have made a donation to the donor network in Larry's name.

Larry is someone we won't forget.

Spark and Meg Hutchison - Ottumwa, IA - acquaintance - September 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I am very sorry to hear of Larry's passing. Larry was my first board president when I was with the Appanoose Economic Development Corporation. Larry lived life to the fullest and with much passion. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

My deepest sympathies, -Jason White

Jason White - Indianola, IA - Friend - August 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss - Larry was an outstanding person with a incredible work ethic... I only know him from Playtime Storage and Buckcreek Marina - I am saddened by all this and send my prayers and love to you and your family

Ed Kelenyi - Fairfield, IA - Acquaintance - August 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Vickie, Tiffany, Travis, and Family,

We were shocked to hear about Larry's accident and passing. So many wonderful memories of being neighbors in Centerville, roomies in Cedar Rapids, dock buddies, serving on the Chamber of Commerce together (golden horseshoe on the square), crazy trips we took to Chicago and Minneapolis in search of the perfect boat, and SAILING. Though time and distance separated us, the memories will last forever. Larry was a devoted family man, an extremely hard worker, a good friend, and generous individual that would offer assistance to anyone in need, He will be missed by many. May God be with you all, in the difficult days and months ahead.

George and Laura Klesel - Boone, IA - Friend - August 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vicki and family: We are saddened to hear of the loss of your husband, father, grandfather and son. Larry was a wonderful individual and a great friend and will be missed by many.

Dale and Randi Terrell - Ottumwa, IA - Friends - August 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Larry was a great person and will be missed by many.

Roy and Nan Brereton - COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA - classmate - August 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Larry. Thoughts and prayers are with you all. Glenn and Jackie Appler

Glenn Appler - De Witt, IA - August 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so saddened to hear the news of Larry's passing. My mom and dad were good friends of Pat and Bob Wilkinson. When we all lived in Ottumwa, Iowa, growing up, our families would get together often at one anothers' homes or area parks for picnics in the summer. Back in 1978 or 1979, I was on a trip to Ocho Rios, Jamaica. My traveling companion and I were on a jitney which was bound for a river feast celebration and we started talking to another couple that boarded from a different resort. For some unknown reason, it came up in our conversation that these people were good friends of Larry's. Small world. I wished that I had shared that story with Larry. I am so very sorry for your loss. It sounds like he grew up to be a wonderful person.

Jill (Davis) Briggs - Seattle, WA - Family friend - August 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Vickie, Tiffany, Travis, and Family, We were shocked to hear about Larry's accident and passing. So many wonderful memories of being neighbors in Centerville, roomies in Cedar Rapids, dock buddies, serving on the Chamber of Commerce together (golden horseshoe on the square), crazy trips we took to Chicago and Minneapolis in search of the perfect boat, and SAILING. Though time and distance separated us, the memories will last forever. Larry was a devoted family man, an extremely hard worker, a good friend, and generous individual that would offer assistance to anyone in need, He will be missed by many. May God be with you all, in the difficult days and months ahead.

George and Laura Kiesel - Boone, IA - Friend - August 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie, Tiffany and families. I was really saddened to hear about Larry's accident and passing. I had the pleasure of working with him on a number of economic development projects over the years and he was always so enthusiastic and fun to be around. His many accomplishments and good works will not be forgotten. I will miss him.

dave johnson - albia, IA - friend - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie - I, like everyone else, has been shocked by Larry's passing. Please accept my sincere condolences.

For me, Larry and Rathbun Lake are intertwined. Larry epitomized for me all that was good about the Lake and the "lake experience". I was quite disappointed when he sold PT Storage, because I assumed that would limit my contact with him, but delighted when he started working for Doug. I made it a point to stop in and see him every morning I was at the Lake and visit for a few minutes. I don't know if he realized that I had made this a "ritual", but it was important to me and I looked forward to it every day. I know that he had a similar impact on the lives of everyone else he connected with.

Love, Greg Hayne

Greg Hayne - Fairfield, IA - Friend - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ What a wonderful and welcoming person he was. Our thoughts, prayers and our hearts go out to you all. Vicki he was a very special kind of guy that was so willing to share and I thank you both for welcoming us aboard your sail boat a few years back and for me to take the wheel was a treat in its' self. The real treat was getting to know him.

God Bless you all.
Evan and Laureen

Evan and Laureen Durfey - Johnston, IA - Friend - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Wilkinson family

We are so sorry and saddened with the loss of such a great man. We are new to the South Dock and have been there one year now but getting to know Larry has been one of the highlites of coming to Rathbun Lake. He was always so friendly and helpful with any of our needs . He will be greatly missed ! Again we are thinking of you all and praying you find peace and comfort in the days to come!

Daryl and Kay Allison

Daryl and Kay Allison - Cedar Rapids, IA - Friend - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Larry was a Great man! He hired our son Luke at PT Storage and taught him so much! Everytime we visited the lake we would always stop in the Marina store to see Larry. He always had a smile on his face and a story to share. It's so sad that GOD decided it was his time to go. I know everyone agrees. May he rest in peace and look down upon us all, as his memories live on with us. GOD BLESS.

Randy & LorRae Groff - Port Byron, IL - Friends - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Wilkinson Family,

I am so sorry to hear of Larry's sudden passing. I have such fond memories of the Wilkinson family and our South Dock fun on summer weekends. Prayers that you are comforted by all of the memories and stories shared by your family and friends over the next coming weeks. Travis and Tiffany, I know the loss of a parent all too well and am so very sorry for your loss. There will come a day when you can smile again without tears as you remember your dad, but give yourself all the time you need to get to that day.

Much love
Abbey (Swalwell)

Abbey (Swalwell) Henderson - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I was saddened and shocked when I heard of Larry's passing. My heart goes out to you all at this difficult time.

Bruce Keeney - Jefferson, IA - former Co-worker at la Southern - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie and family,

We were so sorry to hear from my parents (Jim and Linda Bell) of Larry's passing. You both have been such good family friends for a long time and he will always be remembered as a guy who loved his family more than anything. We will be thinking of you...

Justin and Justine Peebles

Justine (Bell) Peebles - Ankeny, IA - Friend - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember when Vickie would bring the kids into Burlington to see Larry at work. They would light up his day. He was a kind and wonderful person...will truly be missed. I'm so sorry for your loss...may God give you strength during this difficult time.

Deb Olson Buskohl - IA - Friend / ISU Burlington - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ We would like to pass along our deepest sympathies to you on Larry's passing. We enjoyed visiting with him and Jayne enjoyed working with him at Rathbun Rural Water. We hope that you find peace with God and your family.

Tom and Jayne Reynolds - Mystic, IA - Friends - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle Larry, you will be missed greatly. We love you!

Trish Keller - Des Moines, IA - Niece - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie and family,
We are so sorry for your great loss. Our memories of Larry from our days at Rathbun are many. He was truly a special man. Our prayer is that you and your family will experience God's great comfort and love.
Hugs,
John and Ren Rue

John and Ren Rue - Punta Gorda FI, FL - Friends - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ During this difficult time, may the comfort of God's loving arms carry you through the quiet moments, and bring you peace.

You are in our thoughts, our hearts and our prayers.

Mark and Thelma Smothers - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vicki, your family and mom.

So sorry to hear of your loss. Know he will be missed by so many. I remember the summers that he would sit on a friends physical therapist pontoon boat next to ours and visit. He was always so happy, will always remember those days. We had a pontoon boat an rented a summer slip and spent a lot of time on the lake.

My thoughts an prayers to you all.

Evelyn Sharpe - Albia , IA - friend of Ruth Yenger - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Sailed with Larry on the Mississippi. Good man he will be missed.

Micheal Wagner - Burlington, IA - Friend, worked with Larry @ ISU - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I had worked with Larry for many years and he always had a smile on his face and such an outgoing personality. This summer he hired Russell at the Marina and he thought the world of Larry & pretty sure he made a great impact on Russell's life as well as many great memories were made. Our heart breaks for your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Kevin, Teresa & Russell Bauer - Centerville, IA - Friends - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie, I am so sorry to hear of Larry's accident and passing. He was such a nice man and will truely be missed.

Beth Hendred - Ottumwa, IA - friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Please accept our sincere sympathy and prayers, and may your loving memories give you peace.

Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ A candle lite in Larry's memory

Don and Suzanne Hamiel - Clyde, NC - Friends - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie, Travis, Tiffany and Family -

We are so sorry about your loss. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.

Barbara, Eric, Shannon and Kyle - Clements, MD - Friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie, Travis and Tiffany:

Words can not express how very very sorry we are to hear of all of this. Please know that our family prays for strength and guidance for all of you, now and in the days to come. You have a wonderful family, and many friends to see you through this tough time. I saw Larry alot on the road, when I was coming or going to work in Albia. That drive won't be the same. He always waved and smiled...

Travis, you will always have a special place in our hearts. You always will... You know where we live, so please don't be a stranger, when you are back home for a visit.

Judy, Dave Gee and Kyanne

Judy Gee - Centerville, IA - Friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Travis and family,

I am sorry to hear of your loss, you are all in our thoughts and prayers. The love of your family and friends will help get you through this very difficult time.

Love,

Angie, Kevin, Kolby and Kolton

Angie Haynes - Mechanicsville, MD - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Prayers of strength, healing & comfort goes out to Vickie and the family. Larry was a special man and he will be missed by everyone who knew him. He had tremendous confidence in his employees & was very influential & professional in all that he did.

Cindy Lou Whiteley-Stewart - Corydon, IA - Retired co-worker - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ We are very sorry for your loss. Larry always bent over backwards to take care of us at the lake. His presence will be greatly missed.

garmon/brechon family - ottumwa, IA - friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Larry was a special kind of person. He had a way to make anyone feel special. I am sure he is sailing in heaven. Best wishes & our sincere condolences to Vicky, Tiffany, Travis and the entire family. We are so sorry for this great loss.

Rick & Deb Henkle - Cincinnati, IA - friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Great friend and will miss him dearly.

Jon & Amber Van Zante - Moravia, IA - Friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ My heart goes to out to you. Larry was a special friend to so many.

Janice - Moravia, IA - Friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Larry was a good friend to many people and a very professional business man. He worked on my sail boat many times. He always worked with a smile and went about his business like a true professional. I always knew that I could count on Larry to take care of my boat as if it were his own. He was a great sailor, quick with a smile, eager to help with anything and generous with his time. He was a hard working man of his word and I appreciated him very much. I just can't believe that he left us so early. He was the kind of man many others should look at and strive to be. God bless Larry.

John Layland - Carolina Baech , NC - Friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie and family,

I first met Larry when he worked for RRWA and sincerely enjoyed being around him. You and Larry were so generous to take me and my children sailing and Wayne swears that because of it, we own a sailboat today. Larry was such a wonderful man, always cheerful and always a friend. I will truly miss seeing him at the Marina. Please know that we are thinking of you.

Emily, Wayne, Austin and Claire

Emily Piper - Des Moines, IA - Friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie and family

We were so very saddened to here of Larry's passing,our hearts ache for you and your family's loss of a wonderful husband,father,grandfather and friend. We will always have good memories of the time we were able to share with you while we were at lake Rathbun.we have good memories of our sailing trip to the BV's ,great times at Lake Rathbun, and watching your kids grow up. I know you have a wonderful supportive family to help you through the tough days ahead,our thoughts and prayers for you all .God Bless you all. Don and Suzanne Hamiel

Don and Suzanne Hamiel - Clyde, NC - Friends - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM