



Lawrence R. Thomas

November 7, 1943 - December 11, 2022

Lawrence (Larry) Robert Thomas passed away peacefully at home with his beloved family on December 11, 2022 after a brief but strongly fought battle with brain cancer. Larry was born on November 7, 1943 to Guida (Durnil) Thomas and Joseph Thomas in Detroit Michigan. After graduating from Lakeshore High School in St. Clair Shores, MI, Larry attended Port Huron College and Eastern Michigan.

Larry was drafted into the army 1966 where he attended Fort Riley Kansas Boot Camp. He fought in the Vietnam war where he met many of his lifelong friends and brothers in the 9th infantry division.

Larry met the love of his life Karen Wasik shortly after returning from Vietnam in 1968. They were wed at Saint Gertrude's Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores, MI on June 5th 1970. They shared almost 53 years of love, laughter, and happiness. They welcomed three daughters and 7 grandchildren.

Larry worked at Safran's printing company as a printer from 1969 to 1982 when it closed. He worked at Valasis Printing company from 1983 until his retirement in 2008. Once he retired, Larry spent his free time with his treasured grandchildren as often as he could and enjoyed watching all their sporting events and helping with anything they needed. He and Karen loved going to the casino together. Larry also loved watching the Detroit Lions and

Pistons. Larry was an avid news and political aficionado and spent his free time watching and discussing the news.

Larry was a kind soul and always took care of everyone around him. He was giving and generous. He worked tirelessly for his family. He will be greatly missed as he was the light of his family. His boisterous voice and laugh would fill any room he was in. He had a way of making people feel like they were the most special person around. If he had a dollar, he would give it to anyone that needed it. He was truly selfless.

Larry was predeceased by his mother Guida Thomas and his father Joseph Thomas. He is survived by his wife Karen Thomas, his daughters Sara Thomas, Melissa (Ryan) Gray, Rachel (Matthew) Sabaugh. His grandchildren, Zachary Thomas, Madeline Gray, Elizabeth Gray, Alexander Sabaugh, Sophia Sabaugh, Nathan Gray, and Gabrielle Sabaugh. He is also survived by his sister Janie (Thomas) Kushniruk.

The family will greet friends at Mandziuk and Son Funeral Directors of Sterling Heights on Sunday, December 18th from 3:00PM until 8:00PM. Funeral Service will be held on Monday, December 19th at 10AM at Mandziuk and Son Funeral Directors of Sterling Heights.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Scripture Service

DEC 18. 6:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Funeral Service

DEC 19. 10:30 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Instate ~ 10:00am

Military Honors

DEC **19**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence R. Thomas*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Lawrence R. Thomas*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *I will never forget the first time I met Larry. He told me several funny jokes and he had a million dollar smile and laugh. I will never forget when he told me to let him know if I ever needed anything even if it was something as simple as a ride home. He was sincere in his kindness.*

My thoughts and prayers are with the Thomas family during this difficult time.

Megan Riemer - December 18, 2022 at 08:56 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.*



December 18, 2022 at 11:39 AM

JL

“ I remember watching Larry play football, basketball and baseball when I was going to Lake Shore Jr. High. All of us younger guys always looked up to him because he was so good. I would run into him at CYO basketball games over the years. He was always friendly and said hello. We would always talk about Lake Shore sports. Just a great person. This world will miss him....RIP Larry. Jim Lewis.

Jim Lewis - December 16, 2022 at 08:21 PM

FC

“ From Steve, Theresa, Kevin, and Colleen purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.



From Steve, Theresa, Kevin, and Colleen - December 16, 2022 at 05:04 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.



December 16, 2022 at 01:03 PM

HC

“ The special times that we all enjoyed with Larry are treasured! As I was looking at Sara's posting of her dad tears were running down my face. It sure meant a lot the last time we saw Larry and we were sitting together when he put his hand on mine and kept it there.

Hank& Ce - December 16, 2022 at 10:05 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.



December 16, 2022 at 09:47 AM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray* was purchased for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.



December 13, 2022 at 11:03 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.



December 13, 2022 at 10:37 PM



“ *Forever Beloved* was purchased for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.



December 13, 2022 at 07:14 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.*



December 13, 2022 at 01:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence R. Thomas.*



December 12, 2022 at 10:06 PM



“ *My brother,Larry,oh I'm going to miss you buddy. We've been friends since basic training in 1966. Had some crazy experiences with you in VN that I wouldn't change for anything. I just want to remember you telling me that you love me because I cannot say those words to you anymore. So I say for the last time my brother,my combat brother "I love you".*

Pete Celentano - December 12, 2022 at 05:55 PM



Larry you will be so missed and so will that get laugh if yours. What a great father you were to your girls and great husband to Karen.

Sherry Pierce - December 12, 2022 at 09:35 PM



Matt Larry playing for the Saint Clair Shores green hornets when I was 12 1/2. Larry was my quarterback, and everybody else is too. What an athlete! I love his blood views too. Always a smile. I'll miss you pal.

Mike PALAZZOLO - December 13, 2022 at 05:34 AM

JC

Larry and I dated in high school so every memory I have of every event I attended he was my date!! He was the best!! My heart goes out to his family 😞

jean mason curtiss - December 13, 2022 at 08:20 AM

MP

*I meet Larry Bro in 68 @ Safran
We played Baseball & Basketball 🏀 What a great Time .Going to the Steak outs.Having The DJ play Conway Tweetty. Karen is the LOVE ❤️ of His Lovely Family God Bless 🙏🙏🙏*

Mike Peralta - December 13, 2022 at 08:58 AM

DS

I went to South Lake and competed against Larry from JR High through High School. He was a good athlete(all sports), a great competitor, and became a good friend. We went to Tiger games and drank a few beers together. He will be greatly missed!!!!!!

Dick Swarthout - December 13, 2022 at 09:51 AM

DF

LARRY YOU WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND YOU WILL BE MISSED BY ME AND MY FAMILY.WE HAD GREAT TIMES TOGETHER AT ST ANGELA BASEBALL AND ALSO A FEW BEERS AT TIMES.I WISHED WE HAD SEEN MORE OF EACH OTHER DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS.IT WAS GREAT TO HAVE NICE HELLO AT THE HAM PLACE A SHORT WHILE AGO.MARY AND FAMILY SHARES IN MY CONDOLENCES .I'M SURE YOUR GOING TO HEAVEN. PEACE LOVE DON LA FLEURE AND FAMILY

DON LA FLEURE - December 13, 2022 at 10:57 AM

JB

I met Larry in fall of 1960 at Lakeshore. He was a senior and I was a freshman learning from the master. Larry was as good of an athlete that there was in all three sports. But not only was he an outstanding athlete but also a great person. He was like a big brother to me. Later in life I would run into him at a ball field or high school reunion. We had a blast. Rest in Peace, I know God will bless you.

Jack Bellomo - December 15, 2022 at 05:36 PM

GT

I was contacted by numerous of our retired Valassis work group about the loss of our friend Larry. This explains how well he was liked and how much he will be missed by so many. I had a special connection to Larry because of our shared VN service. There were only 3 of us in the entire Company. And I am very happy to hear that he is getting a full Military Honors Funeral. RIP our friend! Sincere Condolences to Larry's Family!

Gary Thede - December 16, 2022 at 12:44 PM

RH

Thank you for the Memories Larry spending time at Luigi's many times you and I ran many times to see who could beat each other you always won I'm sure you had a wonderful life with your wonderful wife life is a journey and you made the best of it hope to hook up with you in the future

Roger Hermans - December 20, 2022 at 11:37 AM