



Larry V. Brown

September 16, 1942 - September 13, 2020

Larry V. Brown, 77, of Greer, SC, left this world quietly on Sunday, September 13, 2020, passing away from heart failure in his home in the care of his wife, Barbara, and his daughter, Ashley.

Born September 16, 1942 in Leavenworth, KS, Larry grew up living at Wadsworth, VA medical center, where his father was Fire Chief. He loved exploring the expansive historic property with his friends. A graduate of Leavenworth High School, Larry was a celebrated athlete in football, and also played American Legion baseball and in Ban Johnson Leagues.

Larry maintained his commitment to youth sports throughout his adult life, ever passionate about young people learning the fundamentals and developing a love of the game. He coached American Legion baseball teams in Topeka, KS, and followed the league closely, rooting for teams and players, and attending as many American Legion World Series as he could. He was also a fan of KU Basketball and the Kansas City Chiefs, reveling in the team's historic 2020 Super Bowl win.

Larry graduated from Washburn University and went on to build a successful career as a Sales and Marketing Executive for sporting goods companies, including Wilson Sporting Goods, Rawlings and Allegheny. While he pursued his career, Larry was an NCAA Division I football referee. When Larry decided to strike out on his own as an entrepreneur, he founded and operated retail shops in well-known resort hotels in Kansas City, MO, Kansas City, KS, The Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC, The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA, and

Wintergreen Resort, Wintergreen, VA.

With his wife Barbara, in 2004, Larry launched Boutique Jolie, which featured fine women's clothing and exclusive gifts with two locations at The Sanctuary, Kiawah Island, SC and Amelia Island Resort, Amelia Island, FL. In 2012, they closed the shops and retired.

While at The Grove Park Inn, Larry became acquainted with artist Francis Barnum, a sculptor of Civil War miniatures, and developed a deep interest in the art form and the history. He sponsored several Civil War sculptors, featuring their work in his stores, and ran the largest Civil War sculpture exhibition in the United States.

He called Western North Carolina home for much of his life, spending 23 years in Asheville. An avid outdoorsman, Larry was an Asheville Area Chairman of Ducks Unlimited. A nature lover with a special affection for mountains, forests and streams, he enjoyed the camaraderie of camping and hunting with friends and family.

Larry was also captivated and inspired by tales of the American West, and in particular loved the iconic Mountain Man, with no greater example than Robert Redford's portrayal in the film "Jeremiah Johnson." He collected fine sculpture embodying the courage, independence and quiet strength of these pioneers who lived off the land and made their way in a harsh but beautiful landscape. Larry loved to travel and experience new cultures, appreciated beauty in all its forms, loved a good meal and a beer. An enthusiastic history buff, Larry was fascinated by WWII and the Third Reich, and read copiously on the subject. With an easy laugh, sparkling sense of humor, and a warm, generous spirit, Larry touched many hearts. Larry engaged everyone who came into his orbit. Nary a waitress, nurse or neighbor would encounter Larry without a question about their family, education, or hopes and dreams. And once Larry welcomed people into his life, he valued their friendship and maintained the connection, regardless of the years that passed or the distance between them. Larry was devoted to his extended family and his circle of friends with the same generosity that he shared with his blood family. He will be missed by everyone

who ever met him, his family, and many dear friends.

Larry is survived by his wife, Barbara Brown; his daughter, Ashley Klumb (Hugh) of Mt. Pleasant, SC, their children, Logan and Hannah; stepdaughter, Ann Heatherington and her partner, Clint Brandhagen of Sunnyside, NY; stepson, Matthew Jank (Julie) of Jackson, MI, grandchildren, Rachel Bergy (Kevin), Michael Jank, Adam Jank; and two great-grandchildren, Matthew and Micah Bergy; The McGlenn Clan (Plymouth, MI and beyond); his brother, Bob Brown of Kansas City, KS; his brother, Keith Brown (Susan) of Olathe, KS and their children, Kyle of Olathe, KS and Courtney Shondell of Prairie Village, KS; and his sister, Janice Fulks (Terry) of Shady Shores, TX and their children, Joshua of Frisco, TX and Shannon of Plano, TX.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarkson and Muriel Brown.

No memorial service is planned.

Contributions may be made in Larry's memory to Washburn University, The Nature Conservancy, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or to a charity of your choosing.

The family wishes to extend sincere thanks to Open Arms Hospice, Bon Secours/St. Francis Hospital, and to family and friends for their continued love and support.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Tribute Wall

DG

“ I was sorry to hear the news of Larry's passing. My condolences to his wife and family. He was a nice man. May God's Blessings be with you all. Larry holds a special place in my memories. He is the first person I ever met at Wilson Sporting Goods . I met him as a college senior at Miami University in 1977 when he was on campus with a couple of other Wilson guys interviewing college kids. That day I had an interview with another company . When I was done I happened to see this Wilson recruiter standing in the placement office. I had an extra resume so I introduced myself and asked if he might have a few minutes to talk. He said yes. After we talked he asked me to come back that afternoon to speak with one of his colleagues. After that I interviewed back in Chicago at Wilson's HQ and was offered a job. I spent 14 years there - my favorite company to this day. Had it not been for Larry it likely would not have happened. He extended himself when he didn't need to and it started my career. I will be forever grateful to him. Dave Gibbons

Dave Gibbons - October 04, 2020 at 09:46 PM

DJ

“ Larry Brown was my cousin. We grew up 16 miles apart. He had a great laugh and personality. He was "one of a kind". I have many fond memories of Larry and the Brown family. My most cherish memory was the time he showed me how to throw a curve ball and what it looked like when at the plate. My heart goes out to his family. Don Jensen

Don Jensen - September 27, 2020 at 09:32 PM

HM

“ It was just a couple years ago when you and Larry came over to visit with David and I for just a little bit. But honestly, that was one of the loveliest evenings I've ever spent. Larry was witty, charming and just a joy to be around. Barb, you had a gem of a husband there and I'm very sorry for the emense loss his passing is. But how wonderful that you had him, such a wonder if a man, to fill you with beautiful memories.

Holly McGlinn - September 27, 2020 at 08:01 PM

LL

“ I was so saddened to hear of Larry's passing having such fond memories of him from leavenworth high school. How his family described him is exactly how he was as a teenager. One of my favorites- charming, fun, full of laughs and loved the girls. It does not surprise me to hear how successful he was in life surrounded by friends and family. Our Leavenworth days are full of memories and Larry will be missed.

Lilburne Quinn Laidlaw - September 27, 2020 at 04:43 PM

TL

“ Barbara, I will miss my buddy of close to 50 years. We will all miss that "easy laugh and sparkling sense of humor" and most of all Larry's Special Friendship. Tom

Tom Leonard - September 27, 2020 at 04:24 PM

WW

“ I will miss Larry. I was his Asheville, NC attorney. He was a good friend, not just my client. He reminded me of my own father who believed that there is no reason why you should not have a good sense of humor while exercising tough common sense when conducting business. I looked forward to my telephone calls and face to face meetings with him. It was fun to be with him, a good chuckle and a good plan was the result. I liked and respected Larry. He had a successful life. He did what he liked to do, with people he liked to do it with, in a place he liked to do it in, and he left the place a better place than he found it. That is true success.
Wilder Wadford

Wilder Wadford - September 27, 2020 at 10:33 AM

BD

“ Dear Barbara, I was reading the KC Star and noticed a small obituary and Larry's name jumped out at me. I am so sad to read that he is gone--we haven't kept in touch, but his memory lingers on. Larry and Tom were roomies at KSU for a year or so. They had a great time. My memories of Larry, Bill Madox and on and on are still vivid.

My Tom had a brain bleed which went undetected for five days and did lots of damage. I guess we learn to live our lives in a different manner. Fondly, Barbara Binder Dawson.
My prayers for your comfort.

Barbara Dawson - September 25, 2020 at 11:14 AM

LR

“ Although we have known his wife, Barbara, for over 50 years, we did not have the pleasure to meet this wonderful man until the summer of 2018. How fortunate we were to get to know our dear friend’s husband at last.. It was apparent immediately that this was a true love match. I know his passing has left a gigantic hole in her heart. May the past 20 years.together help ease your broken heart with all the beautiful memories you shared together. Rest In Peace Mr. Brown...you have earned your wings.

♥♥ Jeff & Lynn Robinson

Lynn Robinson - September 23, 2020 at 09:21 PM