



Larry Keating

September 20, 2024

Larry Keating, 79, ended his three-year negotiation with cancer at Hospice & Community Care on Friday, September 20, 2024, a day when he noted 147,117 other people died worldwide; his passing would barely register.

Larry lived his early life in New Cumberland, PA. At 17, he joined the US Navy for a six-year enlistment needed to train as an electronic technician and a nuclear propulsion plant operator. He spent much of this time in Charleston, SC, and aboard the submarine the USS Von Steuben, SSBN 632 (Blue), from which he was honorably discharged in 1968 as an ET1 (SS).

He then set off to Penn State, where he served as the Resident Assistant in the Navy ROTC dorm and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1971. Then to the University of Virginia School of Law, where he met his wife-to-be, Jan Masland. Upon his graduation in 1974, they set off for two years in San Francisco.

They returned to PA, settling in the neutral territory of Lancaster (Jan was from Carlisle). Larry spent most of his legal career at Armstrong World Industries, Inc., and at the instance of Jan, graduated from an early class of Leadership Lancaster, which set the stage for a parallel career in volunteerism.

Larry became involved with numerous community organizations, including

SCORE Lancaster Lebanon, Lancaster YWCA, The Common Wheel, Leadership Lancaster, and The Janus School. Blessings all.

His passion for the outdoors was greatly aided by good friends on bicycles & skis, and at Tumbling Run Game Preserve, an idyllic inholding in Micheaux State Forest, and at RoundTop Mountain Resort, where he volunteered on Mountain Safety for more than a decade.

Looking back on his life, if asked, he would tell you that, left to his own devices, he would have made a grand mess of things. But he was rescued time & again by what he came to call his friends in high places.

He took no credit for the path his life followed —how he got into submarines, college, & law school, & how he ended up in Lancaster and its wonderful community with the only woman in the world for him and his extraordinary children.

He wished everyone knew that they have their own friends in high places, the kind who don't need prayer, who are on the job every day right beside you to get you through, and don't know shame, fear, or guilt. Imagine the burden that would lift from all of us suffering souls.

Larry is survived by his wife, Jan Masland and his children, Benjamin (Colorado), Elizabeth (Philadelphia), and Bridget (Lancaster). He loved them all beyond description. He was predeceased by two brothers & two sisters and is survived by sisters, Mary (Virginia) and Lucy (California) and by nieces & nephews whom he dearly loved.

He knew that nothing was perfect, but he had great family, friends, paper route customers, fellow volunteers, dogs, bikes, & skis. What a life. He thanks you all.

Authored by Larry himself as those who knew him have probably guessed.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Larry's Memorial Service at First Presbyterian Church, 140 E. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA on Friday, October 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. with The Rev. Dan Snyder officiating. The family will receive friends at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA on Thursday evening, October 3, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. and again at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the time service. A livestream of the service will be available at <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/a24092847546347> beginning at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 4, 2024. Private interment.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent in Larry's name to Hospice & Community Care, 685 Good Drive, P. O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17608-4125, The Janus School, 205 Lefever Road, Mount Joy, PA, 17552 or SCORE Lancaster-Lebanon, 115 East King Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 3. 5:00 PM - 6:55 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Visitation

OCT 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
140 East Orange Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Service

OCT 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
140 East Orange Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Larry Keating*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 30, 2024 at 05:45 PM

BM

Wonderful tribute to a generous wonderful man!

Beth Masland - October 03, 2024 at 12:47 PM

JD

In our 60s, we talked on my porch in Charleston. "Another level?" he said, repeating a question one of us had asked, then reached through an imaginary wall as if to show me. "You're sure about that?" I asked. "You bet," he replied.

Larry also stabilized the Brandt Avenue boys.

Jim Davis

Jim Davis - October 03, 2024 at 09:06 PM

HC

The best example of kindness and humility, that's Larry.

Hobie Crystle - October 04, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - March 10, 2025 at 04:28 PM

BD

“ *I was so saddened to hear of Larry's passing. He was a tremendously engaging and caring person. I will always remember chatting with him about music, especially our shared love of the Beatles. His work with SCORE was incredible, and he helped me many times in this role.*

My thoughts are with Jan and his family.

Bill Dewan

Bill Dewan - October 03, 2024 at 05:43 PM

JL

“ *What a wonderful obituary and an extraordinary man Larry was: fun, loving, generous, interesting and interested. Ben, Elizabeth, Bridget and especially Jan - he is leading us all even now to seek and feel our friends in high places who will see you through even this difficult time. Sending you all so much love, Joan and Dave Lillich*

Joan Lillich - October 03, 2024 at 03:44 PM

AO

“ Dear Jan and family,
Larry certainly lived life fully. He was always completely himself and that was a gift to all who knew him. Frank respected Larry's contribution to the legal team at Armstrong World Industries and I appreciated all the ways in which Larry contributed to the help others through his volunteer work. With love and deepest sympathies as you celebrate his live well lived, Frank and Anne Orban

Anne Orban - October 03, 2024 at 10:18 AM

DM

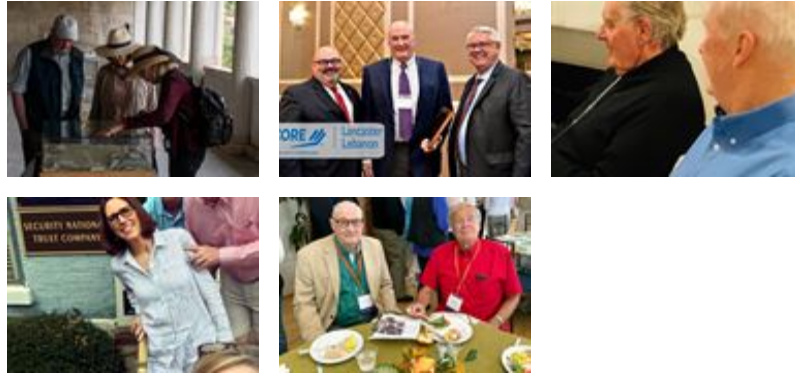
“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Debbie Martin - October 02, 2024 at 07:55 PM



“ 15 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 02, 2024 at 03:51 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Larry’s passing. He was such a kind and humble person and I really enjoyed his company in Maine. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Jan, Elizabeth, Ben and Bridget during this difficult time.



Lindsay Foster - October 01, 2024 at 04:54 PM



“ 8 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 01, 2024 at 02:54 PM

SC

“ *How wonderfully Larry lived, loved and shared himself for others in this life! We didn't see each other often - as these times are different from those in which we grew up and bloomed where we were planted- but I will always be grateful that our paths crossed and that our beloved Masland friends who are like family added Larry's light and spirit of service to their own! Sending sympathy and love to Jan and all the family. Susan Coyle Coulson*

Susan Coyle Coulson - October 01, 2024 at 11:03 AM

JG

“ *Saddened deeply by Larry's passing. I had hoped to see him again after spending time with him in Maine. Larry was a joy to be around as his insights and sharp wit provided everyone in his company great pleasure. Godspeed to you sir!*



Joseph Gager - September 30, 2024 at 02:33 PM

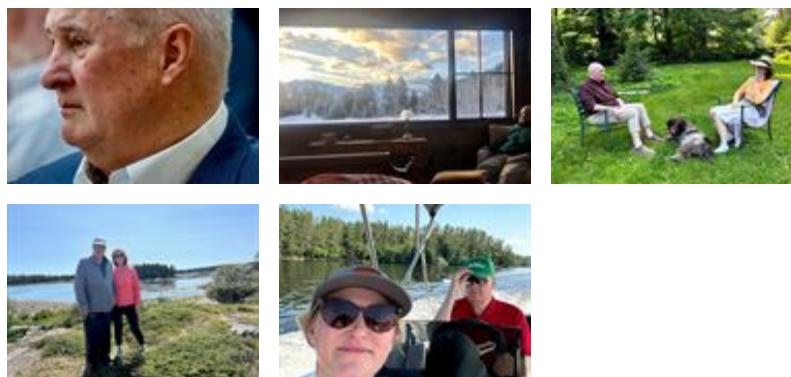
KM

“ Kurtis M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Larry Keating.

Kurtis M. - September 30, 2024 at 02:27 PM



“ 52 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 30, 2024 at 01:41 PM

AM

“ Sending love and hugs to you, Jan, and to Elizabeth and Bridget, my sweet former flute students. I have veeey fond memories of your dear family (Ben too). My heart goes out ro you all at this time. -Amy McLane

Amy McLane - September 29, 2024 at 01:14 AM

SV

“ Jan,
Heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Larry was a dear and caring man. His passing has left a large hole in the fabric of our community.
Stefanie Valar and Ed Hauck

Stefanie Valar - September 27, 2024 at 01:51 PM

JK

“ I worked with Larry at Armstrong. I remember his infectious smile and kindness to everyone. I am so sorry for your loss, Jan. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Joan Kauffman

Joan Kauffman - September 27, 2024 at 11:20 AM



“ Dear Jan, family and friends of Larry,
On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans, we offer our sincere condolences at Larry's passing. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are always saddened whenever a fellow "Bubblehead" departs on Eternal Patrol. He served with honor on the USS Von Steuben SSBN-632.

To our "Brother-of-the-Phin" we say, "Sailor, rest your oar. We have the watch. Fair Winds and Following Seas." Thank you for your service to our country.

Jan and family... "may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you." 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (ESV).

Jim Sandman, FTC(SS) Ret,
National Chaplain, USSVI.
www.jimsandman.com

Jim Sandman - September 27, 2024 at 05:44 AM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 26, 2024 at 03:52 PM

JK

“ I had the extreme pleasure of getting to know Larry thru being on The Janus School Board of Trustees for multiple years. I learned something new or gained expanded insight with every discussion.

My deepest sympathy to his family and friends. The Lancaster community will truly miss his invaluable contributions.

Jim Klahr

Jim Klahr - September 26, 2024 at 12:47 PM

CK

*Larry was the best! Everyone that had the privilege of knowing Larry truly loved him. We only wish we spent more time with Jan and Larry. The world has lost a great man!
Our condolences to Jan, Ben, Elizabeth and Bridget.
You are in our prayers! Charlie Kurtz & Kathy DuBois*

Charlie Kurtz - September 26, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ 34 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 26, 2024 at 12:43 PM

SB

“ I'm so grateful to Larry for his kindness and support of YWCA Lancaster. Stacie Blake

Stacie Blake - September 26, 2024 at 09:41 AM

HC

“ such a good and kind man. privileged to know him, and have always been inspired by his example. - Hobie Crystle

hobie crystle - September 25, 2024 at 08:56 PM

NM

“ New School Montessori purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Larry Keating.



New School Montessori - September 25, 2024 at 03:48 PM

TH

“ Larry and I participated in a fund raiser for a community service in 1995. We went from table to table to play games and tell stories.

Later we skied together at Blue Mountain with the Vipers and biked together with the Lancaster Bicycle club.

What fond memories. I will miss you my friend.

Tom Hooper

tom hooper - September 25, 2024 at 11:06 AM

DM

“ I was fortunate to get to know Larry through both his family and his works in the community. Larry was so encouraging and supportive to my professional career, and he really made a mark in the local nonprofit community through his time, talents and mentorship. I'm especially thinking of my dear friend Bridget at this time. In reading Larry's obituary, I'm so grateful to see that his humor and grace were present for all to see.

Diana Martin - September 25, 2024 at 10:35 AM

HE

“ Larry was one of my friends in high places. He was wise, funny and incredibly kind. I know he will be missed by everyone who has ever been luck enough to make his acquaintance. He has left the world a better place and been a blessing to his family, his community and his friends. May his legacy bring peace to your souls knowing your husband and father was loved by all who knew him. My deepest sympathies at this difficult time. Henrietta

Henrietta - September 25, 2024 at 06:47 AM

WC

A list of Larry's qualities and goodness giving due notice of his friends in high places, were Legion. My learning a little bit about Larry came from first Presbyterian Church and the Lancaster Bar Association. The quality I admire so much that he showed was simple practice of paying attention, not being distracted, getting things done he shall be missed.

William W. Campbell - September 25, 2024 at 07:44 AM



A list of Larry's qualities and gifts would be extensive. The quality I admire so much that he showed was the simple practice of paying attention, not being distracted, getting things done. He shall be missed.

William Campbell - September 25, 2024 at 07:53 AM

JH

I met Larry cycling years ago, and on many bike rides. From the first meeting, Larry was always such a gentleman, great sense of humor, humble and kind. I admired him, we all should be more like him! rest in peace.

Jack Hess

JACK L HESS - September 30, 2024 at 12:57 PM



Jan and family, we've been away for months and just found out that Larry passed away. We are so very sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in our thoughts.

Kate Zink-Saladik

Kate Zink-Saladik - October 01, 2024 at 10:12 AM

LI

Deepest condolences to Jan, Elizabeth, Bridget and Ben. I will miss my kind, clever and very funny next door neighbor.

Lizzie - October 02, 2024 at 08:54 AM

JE

Jan, Jim and I have some lovely memories of fun times with you and Larry. He had the best sense of humor. He will live on in the hearts of the many people who were touched by his kindness and consideration. Condolences to you and your family.

Jan and Jim Eastman

Jan Eastman - October 03, 2024 at 12:04 PM