



Larry Sparks

January 27, 1948 - December 5, 2015

LARRY SPARKS, A Proud Marine

Larry “Sparky” Sparks, age 67, of Winchester, Virginia passed away on Saturday, December 5th, 2015.

He was born on January 27, 1948 in Kansas City, Kansas, to the late Charles F. Sparks and Geraldine Gowen Weddle. Larry was a dedicated US Marine and a proud veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an avid motorcycle rider and enjoyed many motorcycle journeys throughout his lifetime. Larry’s good nature and helping hand to anyone in need blessed him with many loving friends. He never said no to a friend in need. He loved to tell his life stories and entertained his family and friends for countless hours, always bringing laughter and good times wherever he went.

Larry is survived by his loving wife, Laurie J. Topel. Sisters Carol Wilson and Karen Austin (Ken Austin). Daughter, Kassie Carr and Son, Steve Lee. His beloved dogs, Gunny, Babes and Woodie. Also left behind are numerous friends and family members.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 1 pm at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia with Robert Carter officiating. Interment with military honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 13. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall

FB

“ I went to Oak Grove elementary school with Larry. We talked on several occasions years ago then lost contact. We hung out together when we were kids. I miss our long ago talks and hanging out as kids. Rest in peace my long ago friend. You will always be remembered.

Fred Burke - November 30, 2017 at 08:54 PM

PR

“ Words can't express how deeply sorry I am for your horrific loss, you have constantly been in my thoughts and prayers every single day. My heart and deepest sympathy go out to you. Rest In Peace Larry, you will truly be missed and never forgotten.



Paula Richardson - December 13, 2015 at 09:30 AM

AW

“ Larry was a stand-up guy and straight shooter in every way. One of the funniest guys I've ever known. Shared many a laugh and good time over the years at our Marine get-togethers in DC. Sparks, you will be greatly missed.

Al Weinberg



Alan Weinberg - December 12, 2015 at 05:13 PM

JK

“ Rest in peace Marine. Will never forget Sparks' perhaps too often contribution to my too seldom laughter in 'Nam, nor his shouting out loudly "JK" (I recognized his voice immediately) at the very first Agent Orange legislative hearing in DC now many years ago at our first reunion as vets, and of many more on Arlington Ridge and at the Wall. Grateful that we had long and happy call for USMC Birthday 240 since we couldn't celebrate together this year. Will visit at peaceful Arlington. Semper Fidelis, Sgt JK.

JK - December 12, 2015 at 10:20 AM

CC

Larry made my time in Viet Nam much more bearable. His 21st birthday is something i'll never forget. Also RR in-country, sailing in the Gulf of Tonkin. Larry rest in peace! !!!

Casey A. Christiansen - December 13, 2015 at 11:12 AM

PJ

“ I am truly sorry for your loss. Larry will be missed especially his smile and laughter. He will never be forgotten. God bless.

Paula Johnson - December 11, 2015 at 06:39 AM

DA

“ after I took this picture, Larry turned to the Commandant and said "next time, lift the flag higher because your medals are causing a glare"



darlene - December 10, 2015 at 06:10 PM

RT

“ Larry and Erney and I shared a house in the early 80s we were a little crazy about that time was when I met Larry and Jay we did a lot of riding that summer we started a bike club the Blasters the only way to get in was to ride 100 mph on the belt way there was many a ride I followed those to and after just laugh Larry called me on Thursday before his crash he was in a good mood in peace old friend I'll meet you there some day

Randy Thomas - December 09, 2015 at 08:25 PM

KT

Wish we had spent more time together--Larry always had us laughing. So glad Laurie found him, so sorry, ...

Kerry Topel - December 12, 2015 at 08:32 AM

LR

“ Larry and I were in the same Battalion in Vietnam and shared a helicopter crash on board the USS Tripoli. We did not realize it until we met again at the Iwo Jima Memorial on the Marine Corps Birthday some years ago. He was telling the story in the fashion that only Larry could, having all of his stitches...Larry will be greatly missed, especially on November 10th.

Semper Fi...

HAND SALUTE !... to Larry and his family from...

Lionel Raymond

Captain

H&S Company

2nd Battalion 7th Marines

LRaymond - December 09, 2015 at 07:35 PM

MJ

“ Larry, you shared a birthday and a great bond with my dad, Jim Westerkamp. May you two fbe reunited now. You're one of a kind and will be truly missed here. I thank you for your service to our country, for your friendship with our family, and for your amazing humor. Your entire family is in our prayers during this very difficult time.

Love, Michelle & Floyd Jones



Michelle Westerkamp Jones - December 09, 2015 at 06:52 AM

BM

“ Thanks for your friendship and your help I needed to recover from surgery. "Semper Fi"

Rest in Peace Larry Butch Manning

Butch Manning - December 08, 2015 at 09:58 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Larry Sparks.



December 08, 2015 at 03:15 PM