



## Lawrence Melvin Smith Jr.

July 13, 1943 - February 9, 2024

Lawrence “Larry” Melvin Smith, Jr., passed away peacefully at home on Friday, February 9, 2024, from complications from Parkinson’s disease. He was born on July 13, 1943, in Kingman, Ariz., the second son of Lawrence M. Smith and Lucille Mae Bicknell. He grew up in the San Francisco Bay area, graduated from Sacramento State University in 1964, and earned his master’s degree in parks and recreation with a concentration in outdoor education from Pennsylvania State University in 1970.

Larry led the Parks and Recreation program at Northern Virginia Community College for twenty years, from 1973-1993, and retired early to care for aging parents with his wife Sharon L. Scott-Smith. Two decades later, he returned to NVCC as an adjunct faculty member and taught periodically until 2020.

In the early 2000s, Larry and Sharon settled in New Market, Va., where they ran a bed-and-breakfast inn. Larry was an active member of the Rotary Club of New Market and served one term as New Market’s mayor. In 2014, they moved to Manassas to be closer to family. Larry was a member of the Manassas & Manassas Park Cities Democratic Committee and Trinity Episcopal Church in the City of Manassas.

He is survived by his devoted wife and best friend Sharon, son Gary Scott (Jackie), daughters Larissa M. Smith (John D. Miller) and Laryn M. Weeks (Rodney); grandchildren Sarah Kirkland (Chris), Sydney Scott, Dylan Scott, and Ariana Weeks; two great-grandchildren, JoHannah and Joelle Kirkland; and Lucy, his beloved Golden Retriever. He is predeceased by his parents

and his brother Richard Bicknell Smith.

Larry did not wish to have a memorial service. He always loved being outdoors, whether it was hiking in the wilderness with Sharon or sitting on his front porch. If you wish to remember Larry, his family hopes you will take time to enjoy the first beautiful spring day in his memory.

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ I was a student of Larry's at NOVA in the 1970s. He inspired me to go into the conservation field both in public lands management and as a board member for an environmental education nonprofit. Without Larry's support, I would not have been able to meet my career and life goals.

Larry was knowledgeable, kind, understanding, funny and a great story teller. He could tell great campfire tales!

I was in the DC area pre- covid and tracked him down via email. Unfortunately timing prevented us from seeing each other. He will stay in my memory forever and I will miss him.

Mark Spencer

---

**Mark Spencer** - May 17, 2024 at 11:35 AM

BL

“ Over the years. some of Sharon's Canadian family had the pleasure of getting to know and love Larry through their visits to British Columbia and our visits to see them. Bob and I visited Larry and Sharon on both coasts over the years and hosted them in our home. Larry's go to attitude and outgoing personality, combined with his ability to participate in almost any outdoor activity, endeared him to us all. We have truly fond memories of our rare and always fun times together.

---

**Bob & Linda-Anne Lambert** - February 26, 2024 at 11:44 PM

DR

“ Sandy and I are saddened by Larry's passing. We were great friends in graduate school at Penn State and raising our children, often on great vacation trips. He will be missed.

Dale Roth, State College, PA.

---

**Dale Roth** - February 14, 2024 at 08:30 PM

DS

“ Sharon and family, my heart is crushed to hear this. Larry and Sharon are so special in my life. Larry was my P & R professor at NVCC and became my friend, mentor, Conference roomie, and an all-around good buddy. Larry could and would talk to any plant, rock, tree or animal, willing to stand still and listen, he never met a stranger. He was a one of a kind and I'm so proud to have known him, learned from him, shared with him, traveled with him and had him as my friend. I will miss him the rest of my days. Rest in Peace Buddy

---

Donald Schenck - February 13, 2024 at 01:37 PM

NM

“ Norma Mathes lit a candle in memory of Lawrence Melvin Smith Jr.



---

Norma mathes - February 13, 2024 at 01:24 PM