



Lawrence George Ward

May 31, 1935 - July 2, 2015

.Larry was born 80 years ago in Chicago, Illinois, to Emily and Lester Ward.

Larry is predeceased by his parents, his eldest daughter Cheryl, his sister Donna, brother Joe and his grandson Joshua. He leaves behind his beloved wife Anne and children from his first marriage Larry, Tim, Scott, Kevin, Lisa, nine grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren.

As a teenager he joined the Marine Corps and served in Korean War as a machine gunner for 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. During his career he also served in Southeast Asia, Japan and Vietnam as well as several Marine bases. It was in Vietnam that he received a field commission. He is a highly decorated veteran and was awarded four Purple Hearts. His favorite time in the Marine Corps was the 4.5 years he served as both a Junior and Senior Driller Instructor at Parris Island, SC, training new Marines for Vietnam combat.

Upon retirement from the Marine Corps as a Master Gunnery Sergeant, Larry was re-commissioned to the rank of First Lieutenant. He then went on to work as a civilian employee for both the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

After his final retirement he served as a Docent at the Lee Mansion, a volunteer with the National Park Service at the Marine Corps War Memorial,

and as the Retired Affairs Officer at Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, and with the Marines performing a variety of elementary school programs. For his volunteer efforts, Larry was awarded the President's Volunteer Award.

He was a Scout Master of two Boy Scout troops for many years in the Stafford, VA area. He also was a Little League Umpire for the county league.

For many years Larry was a Civil War Reenactor, and loved scuba diving.

Larry wrote a book entitled "Happy Valley" about some of his time in Vietnam. He was also a poet writing some beautiful and deeply touching poems.

He loved to laugh and could tell some of the best jokes and stories. He loved to do counted thread, and in a contest once he was made to compete with the women because of the quality of his work. He was a great swimmer and loved to scuba dive. He and Anne loved Hawaii and spent many vacations there. His favorite U.S. travels were to spend time with his Marine friends in both South Carolina and Quantico. He loves Heavenly Father with whom he now lives.

Larry passed away on July 2, 2015 at Commonwealth Care Center in Fairfax, Virginia.

The family will receive friends at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 from 7-9 PM. Funeral services will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2719 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, Virginia on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 11:00AM followed by interment in Quantico National Cemetery at 1:30 PM

Cemetery Details

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

JUL 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2719 Hunter Mill Road
Oakton, VA

Tribute Wall

TS

“ 10 years have passed. Mr. Ward passed away on my wedding anniversary. 37 years of marriage, 10 years of honoring his legacy. I first met Mr. Ward in 1977 at 11 years old attending my first Boy Scout meeting. That same meeting I met another new visitor who became my best friend, and still is 48 years later. I also happened to meet my future wife that same month. May 1977 is a real moment in history for me!

Thomas L Siner - July 14, 2025 at 11:23 AM

TS

“ If anyone else sees this anymore, I just want to say that I am so glad this board has stayed up. About once a year, I come back and re-read the comments and look at the pictures and think about what a critical piece of my life Mr. Ward was and still is. My son and grandson continue to carry his name, and I couldn't be more proud, though they will never truly know what they carry with them. God I wish I had just 1 more bear hug...

Thomas Siner - October 26, 2021 at 08:36 PM

DF

“ It is my honor to represent, and speak for, the scores of Boy Scouts, now men, that Larry Ward helped form while serving as Scoutmaster of Troop 1425 in Stafford during the 80’s. Larry was our mentor and the outdoors was his classroom. He provided us a safe environment in which we could grow and in which we were free to make mistakes. He provided the example of manhood that we all aspired to, all while giving us the opportunity to have a great time being boys. It was in his troop that I forged bonds with boys whom I still consider my best friends. Under his tutelage, we grew to be leaders.

Outside of my parents, Larry was the most influential adult during a very critical time in my formative years. I’m not the only person in this room who is proud to say that I became who I am, in large part, due to the influence of this great man.

His impact did not end after we moved on from Scouting. He was there to pin on one of my bars when I was commissioned as a Marine Officer and he was present at my retirement. He was there for me many times during the 22 years between those ceremonies. When presented with a dilemma, I would often wonder, “What would Larry do?” More than once during my first tour, I actually called him and asked.

The answer then, as it was when I was his Senior Patrol Leader, and as it is now, is usually, “Quit feeling sorry for yourself, set the example, take charge, and lead your men.”

Almost everything I did as a Boy Scout, as a Marine, and as a Scout Leader myself has been guided by a simple principle: “Would this make Larry Ward proud of me?” Just the thought of EARNING a bear hug from that barrel chested giant of a man is worth making the decision or taking the action that he would be proud of – no matter how tough – worth it.

If the streets of heaven really are guarded by United States

Marines, St. Michael can stand down. One of the best is ready to assume the watch. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace.

Doug Feiring - July 16, 2015 at 11:42 AM

MH

“*Larry helped clueless Acquisition Project Officers (APO) understand the Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) in order to keep their programs funded and sustainable. I was one of the fortunate APOs he trained and guided, as I couldn't even spell "logistics" when I reported to HQMC (I&L) in 1983. I attribute my success in the systems acquisition community to Larry's willingness to mentor and help me (and many others) learn the importance of entering and keeping project data accurate in a timely manner. Larry touched many lives in significant ways; my sincerest sympathy on your loss. Mark Hayden, Col USMC (Ret), Stafford, VA*

Mark K. Hayden - July 13, 2015 at 11:45 PM

KB

“*2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Kevin Brosnan - July 13, 2015 at 04:10 PM

EH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ed Horan - July 11, 2015 at 10:35 PM

EH

L to R- Larry, Anne, Meg Mott, Carl Mott, Ed Horan, Ray Edwards, and Bill Simon. Members of Larry's 3rd Herd as he called us. Rest in Peace Marine, Semper Fi, you taught us well. Slow Hand Salute.

Ed Horan - July 11, 2015 at 10:43 PM

DW

“ *John Tracy, Anne's brother is not here to comment, but if he were, he would talk about the tour Larry gave us at Gettysburg. He possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of the Civil War. He walked us past every fence and knoll, and told us exactly how the battle had raged.*

He told us the story of the Confederate soldier who had Chamberlain in his sites, but was unable to shoot because Chamberlain was such a magnificent man and how the two met after the war. He showed us the place Chamberlain had been standing.

He brought it all to life as only one who has served in battle could.

Donna Wolfe

Donna Wolfe - July 11, 2015 at 02:26 PM

JG

“ James & Kathy Godley purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Lawrence George Ward.



James & Kathy Godley - July 09, 2015 at 06:11 PM

ML

“ I remember when I met him as a corporal during our corporal course he taught a class on weapons and a brief history of his back ground! We were all blown away by how much he loved to serve and make a difference in the Marine Corps! He knew so much and there was never a dull moment around Mr. Ward! The ball came around and I asked him to come he came and he danced with us ladies! He also, knew the library he worked in like the back of his hand, he had read every book in the library and could tell you if it was a great book or not. I met Mr. Ward at Henderson Hall! He will be forever remembered!

mindy lobecker - July 08, 2015 at 08:55 PM



“ Anne: Peggy and I wish to express our deepest sympathy to you and Larry's family.
I did not know of his death until today. I will be in touch. May God Bless you.
Larry was a great DI and I learned a lot from him. Chuck and Peggy Hunter

Charles G. Hunter - July 08, 2015 at 03:27 PM

TS

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Thomas Siner - July 08, 2015 at 12:35 AM

TS

Troop 1425, 1980-1981, Stafford, VA

Thomas Siner - July 08, 2015 at 12:38 AM

TS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Thomas Siner - July 07, 2015 at 08:36 PM

TS

(From 2012) This crew was in Mr Ward's Boy Scout Troop from about 1977-1984. It includes 3 Eagle Scouts, Senior Patrol Leaders and Patrol Leaders, 2 Marines (1 retiring in this picture) and 2 Army servicemen. Still friends today, and we all owe part of what we are to Mr Ward's passion for training young men to be people of honor, commitment, and leaders in whatever their circumstance.

Thomas Siner - July 07, 2015 at 08:43 PM

TS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Thomas Siner - July 07, 2015 at 08:25 PM

TS

25 Years after our Scouting career, we gathered to celebrate Independence Day with our old Scout Leader, who also happens to be our most celebrated Veteran!

Thomas Siner - July 07, 2015 at 08:47 PM



Sgt Ward was a great DI and a good DI too. He was tough and thorough and very dedicated. My deepest sympathy to Anne and Larry's family. I will be in touch soon. Larry was a great Marine and I am honored to of known him. His memory and dedicated will always be cherished by me. God Bless.

Charles G. Hunter - July 08, 2015 at 03:32 PM

PM

“ Sgt. Ward was one of my three DI's for Platoon 359 (August 1962-Oct 1962) My memory of him was that he was the only one of my DI's who did not beat the snot out of me on a regular basis. That is not to say I didn't get cuffed on occasion to encourage my motivation. Sgt. Ward and my other DI's (Sgt. Roberts and Staff Sgt. Banazak) were instrumental in making me not only a good Marine but the man I am today. There are no words to express my appreciation for that. He was not only a good Marine, he was a very good man...I was able to reacquaint with Sgt. Ward a few years back at the several platoon reunions, 40 plus years after our graduation, I was able to attend at Parris Island. I was very sorry to learn of his passing past week, and my deepest sympathy to his family over his loss. Semper Fi Sgt. Ward...you were a good Marine and a good man. Rest in Peace my friend.

Phil Mason - July 07, 2015 at 06:38 PM

JP

“ We spoke many times in his office. He spoke with such vigor and life. Never a sad moment , he would always laugh with you. I spoke with him about all his achievements , especially being a Drill Instructor. You could see that HAT come back on quickly when the memories started back up. He was a Marine down to the bone. You couldn't ask for a better friend / brother. Thank you for your service and friendship. Please watch over all Marines. Semper Fi

Jesus Perez - July 07, 2015 at 05:57 AM

SP

“ *Mr Ward or better known as Lt Ward was one amazing man to know! I remember the first time I walked into his library! He was so sweet and helpful! I began going just to talk to him! He had such an amazing heart and without him the world will be a bit darker! He and his wife made my son his first baby blanket that he still uses over five years later! You will be missed med ward! I love you from Sgt Pulver and family*

shannon pulver - July 07, 2015 at 05:40 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence George Ward.*



July 07, 2015 at 01:57 AM

MM

“ *A wonderful man and Marine. He loved spending time with Marines and was a completely selfless man. You will be missed. Rest in peace Marine, Semper Fidelis-Maj Mike McTeague*

Michael McTeague - July 06, 2015 at 10:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence George Ward.*



July 06, 2015 at 08:56 PM

CR

“ *Gunny Ward was my Drill Instructor at Paris Island in 1968, I had the good fortune of seeing him again at Henderson Hall where my Daughter was the XO there. They were talking about me and discovered that he was my DI. When I saw him again after 45 years he gave me a great big bear hug.
I told him that all my kids went on to be Marines.
Rest in peace Gunny
Semper Fi*

Colan Ratliff - July 06, 2015 at 06:49 PM

JP

That is Amazing. Small world.

Jesus Perez - July 07, 2015 at 05:59 AM

TS

Sometimes I wondered if I was actually going to survive some of those bear hugs! :-)

Thomas Siner - July 07, 2015 at 08:50 PM

MA

“ *All Marines go to heaven.*

Mannie - July 06, 2015 at 05:04 PM

CS

“ Mr. Ward was my brother's Boy Scout leader, but he was so much more to our family. My brother and his friends can give more details to how much he meant to them. They are still life-long friends, many of them Eagle Scouts, and all bonded from their experiences with Mr. Ward. My brother even gave his oldest son the middle name Lawrence. Personally, Mr. Ward even influenced my Girl Scout troop as we attempted to model ourselves after my brother's troop. I went all the way in Scouts earning my Gold Award, as my brother had earned his Eagle. We both learned many things from those years and developed life-long friendships from them. I even remember camping at Gettysburg and doing the 10-mile hike with the troop there. He was a no-nonsense guy, but so funny and kind. He used to call my best friend and I 'fric and frac' as we tagged along after our big brothers. He will be greatly missed.

Carol Spiess - July 06, 2015 at 12:39 PM

RS

“ For many years I served as assistant scoutmaster under Larry. It was a great honor and humbling to work under such a great leader. The boys loved him and he had complete control only by his fatherly presence. None of the boys were even aware of his military background, he kept it to himself. My son even used Larry's middle name for his son's middle name. And now that son is having a baby and has chosen Timothy Lawrence for his expected boy. It was a great boy scout troop he ran. To this day about 5 of the boys from the troop remain my son's best friends. When my wife became a girl scout leader she had Larry come to a meeting and talk to them about camping. No food was in their tents after Larry's talk. He just gave of his time so freely for developing fine young men. I am so sorry for your lose but it is heavens gain. I will always remember the great times I had with him and thankful for the time and instruction he gave to my son. Bob Siner

Robert Siner - July 06, 2015 at 11:51 AM

DW

“ One of my favorite memories was when Anne and Larry were helping John rake leaves in Cincinnati and Larry was doing his Mrs. Doubtfire imitations. Very funny. Donna

Donna Wolfe - July 06, 2015 at 09:02 AM



Lawrence
Nagy

“ I was a boot recruit back in 1966, Larry was my Senior Drill Instructor. He was as tough as nails S/Sgt. then. I figured if I'm going to become a US Marine I want to be trained by the very best and Larry was all that and more. He not only trained us to be tough, he also taught us pride and honor and to be gentlemanly. He taught us respect, leadership and discipline. I found underneath that tough Marine exterior was a large heart that truly cared about his country, his fellow Marines, his family and yes us boot recruits. I'm proud to say that man made me a much better person than I ever thought I could be, his training has helped me face all the battles of life with understanding and hope. May God be with Larry Ward, I'm proud to have known you Semper Fi.....

Lawrence Nagy - July 05, 2015 at 10:20 PM

BB

“ Larry was one of my Drill Instructors back in 1962. Our Platoon was 359. He was an inspiration to all of us. Sure he drilled us and ran us as hard as anybody. He wanted us to be the best Marines, but there was also a gentleness about him. I never forgot that. I never saw Larry after we left Parris Island. Not until after our 51st reunion. He didn't attend due to a health issue, so I made arrangements to meet with him where he volunteered. When we met I hugged him and thanked him again for shaping me into the person I became. Husband, father and friend. You could see he was proud of me. He introduced me to all the Marines he worked with as "Bob, one of my boys from Parris Island back in 62". I will miss you Larry and I'm sure your family will miss you even more. You made the world a better place by being the kind of Marine you were. God Bless you Larry and keep them in shape "Up There".

Bob Brooks - July 05, 2015 at 06:54 PM

KS

“ i first met larry several years ago, larry was my father's senior DI back in the 60's and i was going on a trip to quantico with my father and his fellow marine corps leagueers. larry was meeting my father there for a visit with him.i will admit that i was a little nervous meeting larry i heard the stories from my dad about parris island and although i was never in the service there is that image of a mean tough drill instructor and i know larry was a marine's marine but sitting across the table from him at mickey finns the man i met was... well the only word i can think of is grandfatherly. he asked me about my life,my brothers,my mother,my girlfriend and her kids,my job...anything and everything about my life and he was truly interested in me...as we sat there i came to think me and my brothers might not be here if it wasn't for larry in some way. he made sure my dad paid attention in class and did everything he could to prepare my dad to come home..meet my mom and have my brothers and me..i saw larry after that because he was very close to my dad and his friend who larry was also his senior DI back in the 60's. larry will be greatly missed by my dad and all of us. when i was a kid my dad told my brothers and me that everyone has two families the first one were you're born into and marry some one but your second family you make with friends that are as close to you as someone you share a bloodline with. speaking for myself and my brothers who also knew larry. larry we loved you and you were always a part of our family we will miss you.

keif simon - July 05, 2015 at 07:46 AM

MM

I was married to a wonderful man who was trained by Larry at Parris Island in the sixties. I also was prepared to meet a gruff, hard and gritty drill instructor at the reunion. What I found was a witty, sweet, funny, caring and happy 'fatherly' man. And instead of trained by Larry, I would say these 'boys' were Guided by this great man. And as happy, it was evident each year we met that his happiness came from his lovely wife, Anne. To have the gift of spending time with them both was a privilege . Safe Harbor Larry. Love from Meg, Jay, Rae and David. (David is my grandson who Larry showed patience and 'Grandfatherly' understanding). Meg Mott

Meg Mott - July 05, 2015 at 10:01 AM

MR

“ Larry offered Rex a comradeship of the highest kind... a fellow Marine. Larry took it upon himself to acknowledge Rex's service to his country and sent him official decals for his car. While traipsing through a cemetery on a dark and misty day, Anne and Joan (veterans of graveyard terrain) walked at a quick pace while I brought up the far end. Larry dropped back, and with his assistance, I safely made it to the front of the line. What patience he had with all of us that day! We met a woman who had just finished making a baby blanket. When Larry told her that my daughter was expecting a baby, she insisted that Larry take her blanket for my new baby. He thanked her in such a way as to bring tears to all our eyes. But most of all, Rex and I will remember Larry's laugh. It was a hearty laugh born within and racing to burst out in the most infectious way. If Larry was laughing, then everyone else was too. Unfortunately, the laughter left Larry in these last days and months: Replaced by tears and pain. Larry, himself, has left us to find his joy. But! be assured: Every time we think of Larry we will smile, chuckle, maybe even laugh as Larry taught us how. In time, Anne's tears of sorrow will turn to memories of the fun, the joy, the excitement of the life they shared. And, Anne, too, will smile with thoughts of her Larry.

Rex & Marylouise

MARYLOUISE RUBY - July 04, 2015 at 07:34 PM