

CROSSED THE BAR

Joseph W. Larimore



Joseph William Larimore, Jr., (Joe) passed away peacefully on 13 February 2023 in the comfort of his treasured Log Cabin in the woods surrounded by his family and dog Harriet; just the way he wished.

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri on 7 December 1937 to Dr. Joseph William and Ruth Evans Larimore. It was at the Cabin his dad built, where Joe learned what was important in life from his best friend and mentor Roosevelt V. Moten and his dog Champ. Those lessons would shape the man he became who selflessly gave back to his country and all who were blessed to know him.

Joe attended Country Day and graduated from Culver Military Academy and Brown University where he played football. It was at Brown when Joe had the calling to serve his country as a United States Marine. During this time, he married his beloved wife Barbara Clark, and they started their life and family together while he was based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA. After serving his country, he retired from the USMC as a Captain. He very much lived and believed in the tenants of honor, loyalty, integrity, and the sanctity of your word as your bond.

Joe and Barbara moved back to St. Louis and together they continued to build a wonderful life focused on their family and friends in their two favorite places: the Cabin and Charlevoix, MI.

In St. Louis, Joe accepted a position as Secretary of the St. Louis Police Department Board of Commissioners. When asked to volunteer for a software development project, Joe offered his services. He taught himself how to code, and as a result, he designed and developed what would become the first on-line warrant system in the country. As a true pioneer, he went on to become a founding father designing and programming Computer Assisted Dispatch and Records Management Software Systems for civilian Police and Fire Departments. In 1970, being the authentic maverick he was, he ventured out on his own and started Larimore Associates, which is now the oldest privately owned company in the nation providing custom Public Safety Software applications to the Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Management markets.

Leading the nationwide industry for 26 years, he, his daughter Wendy, and his dedicated, loyal, beloved work family along with his customer family continued to grow the company over a span of 53 years; with customers going on 45 years today. Together they were responsible for many innovative firsts in the industry such as integrating E911 and mobile applications. Joe was always way ahead of his time and in the late 1990's was already envisioning the use of UAV's during dispatch of emergency calls for service.

Joe's proudest achievements in life were his three girls who he and Barbara raised to be independent, adventurous and kind. His favorite thing was to literally pop-in on their lives to engage in whatever they were doing at the time. All their friends knew he was a safe harbor. He was loved by so many people whose lives he touched, and he made everyone feel special and included as an important part of our extended family.

Joe was a genuine, kind, loving person who knew no strangers and no animals who did not love him. He laughed joyfully, was never petty nor smallminded and found no need for the "fluff" in life. He lived life quietly and was a man of few words but when he spoke his words were meaningful and gave just the right message.

Being an artist at heart, Joe loved to be immersed in the outdoors. His hobby was his passion for carving amazing wood creations out of carefully selected pieces with both chainsaws and hand-carving tools; both at the Cabin and in Charlevoix. He shared his prized carvings with many cherished friends, making each person a special creation that spoke to the uniqueness of the individual. Joe engaged in many outdoor adventures such as white-water rafting, canoeing, and camping on some of the most beautiful rivers in the country with his family and friends.

Joe is survived by his wife Barbara, his daughters; Wendy Collins of San Diego, CA, Joanne Larimore (Dan Dirnberger) of St. Louis, MO, Barbie Larimore of Chicago, IL; his dear friend Julian Hernandez of Wildwood, MO and his adored Labrador Harriet; his sister Ann Larimore; his sister and brother in-law Florence and Howard Hall; his nephews Howard Hall III (and family) and Scott Hall; his niece Christine Sow (and family); the Miami Larimore's; the Fort Valley, GA Evan's; his life-long friends Hord Hardin and Mike Walther; and all of those whose life he touched.

Our family has the deepest gratitude and love for Gabriela Hernandez, his angel of care.

We will all miss Joe sitting on his porches.

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Memorial contributions may be made in Joe's memory to:

Stray Rescue of St. Louis <https://www.strayrescue.org/>
Belvedere Scholarship Fund, 512 Belvedere Ave., Charlevoix, MI 49720

Funeral Services and Celebration of Joe's Life will be in Charlevoix, MI in August 2023.