



Laurence L. "Larry" Christensen

October 27, 1945 - July 25, 2017

Laurence L. "Larry" Christensen passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on July 25, 2017 following a valiant battle against cancer. Michigan born, Larry received his B. A. from Athenaeum of Ohio. Following several years of community service, including work with Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), he earned his J.D in 1976 from Emory University School of Law.

A long time champion of the injured and disabled, Larry focused his legal skills on Workers' Compensation, Social Security Disability, Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts. Practicing with Burgess (Anjel) and Christensen at the time of death, he partnered several years with attorney Winnie P. Pannell, and practiced decades as Laurence L. Christensen, P.C. A staunch advocate of alternative dispute resolution, in 1995 he founded Georgia Mediation Services. He enjoyed this opportunity to mediate workers' compensation cases. In 2015 the Georgia Supreme Court awarded him the prestigious Distinguished Service Award for outstanding public service to Georgia's judiciary. Larry was "a lawyer's lawyer." He relished research and writing. He published many professional articles and presented seminars in Georgia and nationally to medical providers, members of the Bar, and other organizations. A classicist, he enjoyed reading texts in ancient Greek and Latin. On the lighter side, he often offered an appropriate joke, frequently poking fun at himself, evoking smiles and laughter from clients, judges, colleagues, and friends. From the time he was a youngster he enjoyed playing his trumpet. His trumpet solo was a highlight of his 70th birthday party. Well into middle age Larry took up ballroom dancing, even entering into competitions. One of his favorite hobbies was wood working. He delighted in gifting beautiful bowls, paperweights and other items he crafted in his work shop. Larry's creativity and imagination led to his building an elaborate model train town for his young buddy, Nathan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Maurice and Phyllis Christensen, Larry is survived by his sister, Mary McDonald, brother, Kevin Christensen, nieces and nephews Sarah, James, Renee and Michael, as well as his Marietta family - Paula, Ron, Christina, Elizabeth, David, and Nathan Snively.

Visitation will be held at Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home, 180 Church Street, Marietta, Georgia on Sunday, July 30th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A Celebration of Life Memorial

service will be conducted at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 87 Lacy Street, Marietta, Georgia on Monday, July 31st at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Larry's memory to his favorite charities: The Atlanta Union Mission or the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

www.mayeswarddobbins.com 770-428-1511

Events

JUL **Visitation** 02:00PM - 06:00PM

30

Mayes Ward-Dobbins Historic Marietta Chapel
180 Church Street, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

JUL **Memorial Celebration** 10:00AM

31

St. Joseph Catholic Church
87 Lacy Street, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

Comments



“ What sad news that Larry has passed! I am an attorney who represents injured workers, as Larry did for many decades. I consider myself fortunate to have known Larry; he was a wise, wonderful, soft spoken but tenacious, advocate for his clients who probably knew about the areas of law he practiced than anyone. Some years ago, Larry decided to focus on Social Security, and Georgia's injured workers lost a great advocate.

Larry mediated several of my cases for me with wit, wisdom and an ability to relate to my client's concerns that often led to positive results. We spoke often, though I did not see him as often as I would have liked. Not too long ago, Larry gave me advice on how to resolve a particularly ticklish issue in the settlement of a case. Those of us who knew Larry are diminished by his loss.

I will miss our conversations and his wonderful advice. My heart felt condolences to his family and friends.

Tom Monk

Tom Monk - July 30, 2017 at 03:22 PM



“ Atlanta Dance purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Laurence L. "Larry" Christensen.



Atlanta Dance - July 29, 2017 at 06:32 PM



“ Dear Friends,
I was blessed to spend three years of college with Larry and see him at class reunions in recent years. He read voraciously in every imaginable field taking careful notes and thoughtfully reflecting. He was deeply prayerful and the mind of Jesus took over ...no one has been a more gentle and kind man; the more someone was on the margins, the more Larry wanted to include them in the circle of his love. He understood so well Jesus' command to wash each other's feet. Every Easter Monday he inspired me to live the Gospel more. I am sorry for your loss but thank God you were especially close to him. May our comforting Spirit and many fond memories console you and assure you of seeing him again some day face to face in the warmth of God's light eternal!!
Fr Phil Schmitter

Fr Phil Schmitter - July 28, 2017 at 08:09 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Laurence L. "Larry" Christensen.



July 28, 2017 at 01:57 PM



“ Judy and I extend our deepest sympathy to Mary, Kevin, Sarah, James, Renee, and Michael, as well as Paula, Ron, Christina, Elizabeth, David, and Nathan on the death of my friend Larry.

Larry and I both studied at the Athenaeum of Ohio (a Catholic seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio) as part of the class of 1971, but during different years. I got to know Larry years later at our annual Easter Monday Class Reunions. We all thought highly of Larry, and I'm sure God has a deep love for him too.

One of our classmates, Fr. Phil Schmitter, commented yesterday, "Larry was a man of wonderful wisdom and a phenomenal capacity to love. He is the epitome of Matthew 25: 'Whatsoever you do to these, the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me!'"

When Larry was diagnosed with Mesothelioma, it was like finding out a close family member suddenly took ill. Larry kept a positive attitude all during his treatment for his cancer, and served as an example to others he knew who were suffering from cancers. There were times when it looked like Larry had beat his cancer, but I always had fear in my heart that some day the news would be reversed, as it did yesterday in an e-mail received from Paula with the news that Larry had died.

One year, Larry crafted wine bottle corks with a wooden handle which he made of wood from trees that had grown on the seminary grounds. He gave one of the bottle corks to each of us who attended the Easter Monday Reunion that year. On another year, Larry gave each of us high quality, wooden paperweights he had crafted which had a 1971 Kennedy half-dollar imbedded in the center to commemorate our seminary class year, 1971. Each time I see and touch that paperweight on my desk, I think of Larry and pray for him and any others ill in our class. As long as I live, when I see and touch that paperweight on my desk, I will always remember Larry, pray for him, and ask him to pray for us.

Eternal rest grant unto Larry, O Lord.
And may he shine in the Perpetual Light of Our Savior at the Heavenly Feast.
May he rest in peace. Amen.

Ray and Judy Feldman - July 28, 2017 at 09:17 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ray Feldman - July 27, 2017 at 09:20 PM



“ This is one of the handcrafted paperweights Larry made and gave to his seminary classmates at the 2014 Easter Monday Class Reunion.

Ray Feldman - July 27, 2017 at 09:22 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Laurence L. "Larry" Christensen.



July 27, 2017 at 09:12 PM