



Larry John Blus

December 23, 1933 - July 2, 2020

Lawrence (Larry) John Blus (December 23, 1933 – July 2, 2020)

Lawrence (Larry) John Blus of Portland, OR passed away on Thursday, July 2, 2020 in Portland. He was 86. Larry was born December 23, 1933 in Tilden, IL to Frank Blus and Anna Lentkis Blus .Larry was one of eight children:

Siblings: Anne (Pete) Novack; Mary (Louis) Luketich; Frank (Jr.) (Willa) Blus; Joe (Jane) Blus; Bill (Dorothy) Blus; Ray (Betty) Blus; Barbara Jean (Mervil) Franklin.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents and all siblings and their spouses except for his sister Barbara Jean Franklin of Fairview Heights, IL.

Nieces and Nephews (deceased): Gloria Jean Novack, Jamie Luketich Jr., Andrew Blus, and Lucille Luketich. Surviving Nieces and Nephews: Cindy (Steve) Meyer, Debi Jo (Roger) Urbani, Joyce (Kenny) Clare, Jill (Jim) Webb, Joni Blus, Paul (Ann) Luketich, Louie Luketich, Dr. James (Christine) Luketich, Dennis (Julia)Franklin, Evelyn Franklin, and many great and great-great nieces and nephews survive Larry.

Larry married Donna Darlene (Weil) Blus , April 25, 1964 in North Platte, NE. The couple celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2014 by renewing their vows. They were married 56 years.

Larry And Donna have three children: Denise (Kevin) Cossa Tigard, OR; Emily (Kenneth) Tantare Portland, OR; and Daniel Blus Salem, OR. Larry is survived by grandchildren: Sarah Tantare Seattle, WA; Julia Tantare Portland, OR; and Caitlin Cossa Tigard, OR.

Larry attended Tilden Illinois Elementary and graduated from Marissa Illinois Township High School, Class of 1951. He served in the US Army from 1953-1955, earning the rank of corporal. He moved on to college, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL in 1959; followed by a Master's degree in 1963.

Larry joined the Army during the Korean War and used the GI bill to enroll at Southern Illinois University where he became the first person in the Blus family to get a college education. Immediately after he obtained his bachelor's degree, he studied and got his master's degree. He used these degrees in Zoology and Botany to study birds, working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a leading biologist researching how DDE and DDT affected the eggshells of brown pelicans. He was published in countless books and papers and testified before Congress against the use of certain toxic pesticides that eventually contributed to restrictions on the use of DDT. He published nearly 100 papers in scientific journals and chapters in scientific books.

Larry began his professional work experience as a research biologist for the Nebraska Fish & Game Commission 1963-1966. He worked as a wildlife research biologist 31 years for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from 1966-1997.

Larry was part of a large number of civic and religious organizations.

Toastmasters 1975-1977; Branch President Thrivent Financial 1988-1998; Western Hills Kiwanis 1998-2004; Board of Directors OSU Music Association 1998-2004; Benton County Democratic Party, Precinct Committee Vice Chair 1999-2001; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Laurel, MD 1966-1977; Grace Lutheran Church, Corvallis, OR 1977-2004; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Portland, OR 2004-2020.

He worked as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Corvallis, OR 1998-2004; Raleigh Hills K-8 School, Portland, OR 2005-2010; Habitat for Humanity; OSU Crossroads 1984-2004 .S. Fish and Wildlife Retirees Association, Portland, OR 2004-2020.

Larry was highly respected by his peers at Patuxent and worldwide; he was a pioneer. He was well-loved and revered by his colleagues, friends, wife,

children, and relatives, and he was adored by his grandchildren.

He was an avid philanthropist contributing to: Trumpeter Swan Society, Audubon Society, World Wildlife Federation, Amnesty International, Doernbecher, Doctors without Borders, Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, Luther World Relief, Medical Teams International, National Wildlife Federation, Oregon Wildlife, Special Olympics, St. Joseph Indian School, St. Labre Indian School, Southern Illinois University Foundation, and many more. Favorite hobbies: spending time with family, watching birds, reading, playing games, singing, attending church, listening to his wife sing in the church choir, watching his children and grandchildren play sports and perform.

Larry never let a person pass without reaching out for a handshake or hand hold. He was welcomed into Heaven, with angels singing, "Well done."

A memorial service will be held at a date to be determined. His remains are interred at Oak Lawn Memorial Park, Corvallis, Oregon. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift of remembrance of Larry to the National Wildlife Federation, the Macular Degeneration Association, Sarasota, FL or St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Beaverton, OR.

Cemetery Details

Oak Lawn Cemetery

2245 SW Whiteside Drive
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 753-4532

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ To Donna and family of Larry, We are deeply saddened by your loss. I enjoyed working with Larry as a fellow scientist while at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in MD and later doing some field studies with him out west. He was a pioneer scientist for his exemplary work on the toxicity of organochlorine insecticides on birds. I learned a lot from him about conducting field studies. Larry was such a totally nice person to be around. He had a natural sense of humor and a genuine concern for others and was quick to spot inequities where he felt people had been treated unfairly. He will be sorely missed by all of us. We again extend our deepest sympathy to all of you. Dave and Suzie Hoffman

Dave and Suzie Hoffman - September 06, 2020 at 11:32 PM



“ I loved Larry, and loved helping care for him at Regency park. He was so sweet to me and joked about getting on Farmers.com to find me a good husband. Lol We would break out in song at times and he was always kind to me, even when he was cranky, or in pain. He was a very kind Man who will be missed greatly! Hugs to you Larry, Love Wendy Roberts (your favorite female caregiver)

Wendy Roberts - August 26, 2020 at 10:38 PM

CH

“ I was blessed to have Larry's two delightful granddaughters, Sarah and Julia, in my classroom at Raleigh Hills. The frosting on the cake was that they brought Larry with them. Even after the girls moved on, for years Larry continued to volunteer with my first and second graders. Beyond being a masterful teacher with an unending wealth of knowledge, Larry was a beautiful human being. He had a natural rapport with children reflected in his twinkling smile, gentle demeanor, and endless patience. Fond memories of Larry will forever live in my heart. I send my deepest sympathy and love to his family.

Carol Howell

Carol Howell - August 23, 2020 at 01:31 PM

CM

“ To Donna and family of Larry Blus, we are truly saddened of the passing of your wonderful husband. He was a really great person. When Dan & Clinton were growing up, Clinton really recalls the Rose bowl that the three of them went to, wonderful experience & good times. Yes, all our lives have moved forward & lots of happenings in between. Oh, how the Lord has blessed all of us in many ways. The angels are constantly over us, guiding us in all ways & every direction. Keep strong faith & tell everyone hello from us. Email me at carmel_97333@yahoo.com-----Carol McNaughtan . Mel & I live in the same home & have 4 grandchildren. Clint & Heidi live in Vancouver.



Carol McNaughtan - August 18, 2020 at 06:24 PM

CN

“ Donna, I am sorry to hear of the death of your husband. I have often wondered about you and where you were after Platte Valley School in Nebraska. My prayers are with you and your family.

Charles and Claire Nicholas
Alvord, Texas

Charles Nicholas - August 08, 2020 at 03:21 PM

RM

“ Larry was a good friend and always a joy to be with. I posted a pic of Larry, Donna, Barb and I, with Mooyoung Kim and his wife Anna Myeong and their daughter Grace.

We The 4 of us traveled to San Francisco to see Anna give a concert at Grace Cathedral. It was a fun weekend and a great visit with a group of friends.

Grace was named after Grace Lutheran in Corvallis where Anna played while Mooyoung went to school at OSU.

We all met there and have gone our own way since. But that pic is a very good memory.

Donna and Barb were in the OK Coral together and did many concerts around Corvallis. Larry was one of the best groupies.

Helped and supported there service to the community.

We will miss him very much. Ron & Barb Manbeck

Ronald Manbeck - July 24, 2020 at 07:32 PM

RM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ronald Manbeck - July 24, 2020 at 07:18 PM

MP

“ *Larry was a very popular colleague when he worked at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, during the 1970-80s. He was an excellent professional scientist working on contaminant problems with wildlife. He will be missed.*

Matthew C Perry - July 12, 2020 at 07:13 AM