



Lawrence Bendix Larsen

April 26, 1925 - August 19, 2019

BLUEFIELD - Moving on to be with Jesus, Lawrence Bendix [LB] Larsen, 94, left this earth on Monday evening, August 19, 2019. His sweetheart of 69 years, Wilma, was by his side as he peacefully breathed his last breath.

Lawrence was named “Bud” by his sister Alice, when he was born on April 26, 1925. His Dad, Hans Larsen, came to America at 18 years of age from Froyland, Norway. Martha Olsen Larsen moved to New York with her family from Arendal, Norway, when she was 4 years old. Together, the Larsen home was established on Staten Island, New York, for 52 years, where Bud graduated from Curtis High School in 1943.

The call of God for ministry came during his US Army service, in 1943-1946, at the time of World War II. Bud then attended and graduated from North Central Bible College, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1950, with a diploma, and completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Music Education at MacPhail College of Music, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1953. He did additional graduate studies at Union Theological Seminary, in New York, and at the University of Minnesota.

LB’s full-time ministry began immediately after college in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as an assistant pastor and minister of music. In 1952, he returned to Minneapolis and joined the North Central Bible College faculty. LB was

ordained that year for ministry with the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. He became Chairman of the Music Department in 1960. Among his teaching assignments, he directed the College chorale, The Evangelaires. During the same years, he was a part-time minister of music at the Minneapolis Gospel Tabernacle.

As a director of many choral groups, LB expressed “that there is ultimate joy in having the singers respond to directive interpretation, I call it, playing the human organ!” He has to his credit a number of published choral arrangements. Many summers, LB and Wilma served as Music Directors at Family Camp for the Lake Geneva Bible Camp in Alexandria, Minnesota.

In 1971, LB accepted the position of Secretary (now called Director) of the National Music Department of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri. During his tenure, he edited over 1000 musical compositions, produced two publications for full-time church musicians growing from 100 to over 1000, produced recordings of various choral publications, choruses, and a series of Spanish recordings and choruses, plus the supervision of the development and editing of the SING HIS PRAISE hymnal.

Following his retirement in 1991, LB did part-time teaching at Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, and was the volunteer director of the Pioneer Praise Choir from Central Assembly of God, in Springfield, Missouri, with 72 members, releasing a CD of their music.

Wilma, also a musician, showcased her musical talent on the marimba, vibraharp and piano. Together as instrumentalists, Bud and Wilma wrote arrangements, practiced and performed in churches and in concerts culminating in a CD recording project of 22 selections.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife, Wilma, whom he married on June 8, 1950; his three daughters and their husbands, Linda Darlene and Marshall Flowers, Jr. of Bluefield, West Virginia; Lois Doreen and ER Freeman of Ipswich, Massachusetts; and Laurie Denise and Mark Muirhead of Pinehurst, North Carolina; five grandchildren, Luke and Jennifer Freeman of St. Paul, Minnesota; Brett and Jessica Flowers of Stratford, Connecticut; JJ and Lindsay Flowers Koh of Madison, Wisconsin; and Alex Muirhead of Orlando, Florida; and eight great-grandchildren, Ella, Grace, Lucy, and Molly Larsen Flowers; Alice, Thomas, and Agatha Freeman; and Maylin Muirhead.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hans (1974) and Martha (1992) Larsen, his sister, Alice Larsen Thomassen (2009), and his granddaughter, Rachael Rebecca Freeman Grudem (2005).

The family prefers memorials to be made to the Roger Thomassen and LB and Wilma Larsen Scholarship Fund, managed by the Music Department at Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri. Designated contributions may be sent to the Evangel College Music Department or Advancement Office, 1111 N. Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802 or call Evangel University, 417-865-2815, ext 7290, Advancement Office.

A celebration of life service will be at 10:00 a.m. Monday, August 26, 2019 at Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton, West Virginia. Interment will be at 2:30 p.m. at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin, Virginia.

Friends may visit with the family on Sunday, August 25, 2019 from 7-8 p.m. and on Monday morning from 9:30 a.m. until the service hour at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home. To view a video tribute to Mr. Larsen, or share condolences with the family, please visit www.bailey-kirk.com.

Cemetery Details

Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery

Dublin, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 25. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home
1612 Honaker Avenue
Princeton, WV 24740
(304) 425-8176
info@bailey-kirk.com
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 26. 10:00 AM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home
1612 Honaker Avenue
Princeton, WV 24740
(304) 425-8176
info@bailey-kirk.com
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

Graveside Service

AUG **26**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery
Dublin, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Lawrence Bendix Larsen*



Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home - August 25, 2019 at 07:10 PM

MD

I am honored to have know this incredible man and his family. Never a more humble encouraging person have I ever met. Looking forward to getting to know you better in Heaven brother!

Michele Dickens - August 26, 2019 at 11:24 AM



“ *Lawrence Bendix Larsen*

December 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM

LP

“ *I was a student at NCBC 1962 - 1966 when Brother Larsen was head of the music department. I was pianist for the Evangelaires much of that time, and went on several tours, including an extended tour to NYC with the choir. I rejoice that he is in the presence of Jesus after a lifetime of faithful ministry. I look forward to the sweet bye and bye when we are all together again.*

Larry Pilot - September 19, 2019 at 04:37 PM

JW

“ *An incredible musician along with dear Wilma! What a blessing they have been to the family of God! Our sympathy and prayers for the family in this special season of loss. For sure LB is celebrating on streets of Glory! I'm so grateful for these dear friends have touched my life! Johnna Wheeler*

Johnna Wheeler - August 24, 2019 at 05:26 PM

MM

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Mark Muirhead - August 24, 2019 at 10:06 AM

MM

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Mark Muirhead - August 24, 2019 at 09:54 AM

MM

Gaither Music "Old Friends" used for 1 MIN_part 2 from 60th Wedding Anniversary is broadcast online under the "fair use copyright act."

Mark Muirhead - August 24, 2019 at 09:55 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence Bendix Larsen.*



August 24, 2019 at 08:17 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:32 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:32 PM



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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:32 PM

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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:17 PM

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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:17 PM

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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:15 PM

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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:14 PM

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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:13 PM

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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:13 PM

MM

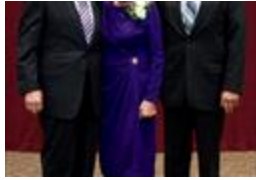
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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:11 PM

MM

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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:09 PM

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Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:07 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 11:00 PM

MM

Music for More 60th Wedding Anniversary memories is broadcast online under the "fair use copyright act."

Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 10:59 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 07:59 PM

MM

Gaither Music used for 1 MIN from 60th Wedding Anniversary is broadcast online under the "fair use copyright act."

Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 08:01 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 07:53 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 07:47 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Muirhead - August 23, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Lawrence Bendix Larsen.



August 23, 2019 at 04:12 PM

JS

“*Brother, L.B., Bud Larsen ... I used all of these names at various times ... starting with Brother, then L.B., and after many years of association, Bud. What an outstanding Christian gentleman, a dedicated musician, always an encourager, and full of integrity! I treasured his friendship. He led the music department of the Assemblies of God with great distinction. I think of General Councils, Teen Talent events, and National Music Conferences where he had such a profound influence. I had the privilege of serving on the committee for Sing His Praise hymnal. Bud's love of the hymns and his depth of knowledge led the way.*

Bud love the ladies in his life. Wilma, what a partner you had! (I can still hear/see you two playing "Stars and Stripes"). Linda, Lois, and Laurie, your love of music and subsequent musical pursuits made your daddy so proud!

Bud served the Lord with gladness! I enjoyed his leading congregational singing with such joy! He was radiant and expressive ... never more so than today as he sings "What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see"! Well done, good and faithful servant!

Love and prayers to the entire family,

John and Roslyn Shows

John Shows - August 23, 2019 at 10:42 AM



“*Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lawrence Bendix Larsen.*



August 22, 2019 at 04:29 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence Bendix Larsen.*



August 22, 2019 at 03:05 PM



“ *A wonderful man has been called to his heavenly home. Our prayers are for all of the family who mourn his final journey to heaven. For 92 years he obediently obeyed this order from Jesus "...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven...(Matt. 5:16)" Wilbur and Sylvia Junker*

Wilbur and Sylvia Junker - August 22, 2019 at 11:54 AM



“ *My love and prayers go out to Wilma, Linda, Lois, Laurie, and the rest of the family. Bud was special and will be remembered for the beautiful music and blessing he was to so many. Heaven gets more precious all the time. ~ Cheri Moos*

Cheri Moos - August 22, 2019 at 10:49 AM



“ *May God's comforting presence be with you all in the passing of LB. Karen and I are praying for you all. ~Randy & Karen Walls*

Randy Walls - August 22, 2019 at 08:42 AM



“ *TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Lawrence Bendix Larsen*



TonyanEdgar Wicks - August 21, 2019 at 06:19 PM