



## David Lee Larson

October 15, 1964 - October 25, 2023

David Lee Larson, 59, passed away peacefully (Sunset) October 25, 2023 at Fairfax County Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia with his loving wife by his side.

The youngest son of John Larson Sr., and the late Laverne Naidl Larson, David was born in Manitowoc Wisconsin on October 15, 1964 (Sunrise). As a teen, David obtained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1982 and graduated from Manitowoc Lincoln High School in 1983.

David enlisted in the U.S. Army under the delayed entry program while still in high school. He completed the basic training course at Fort McClellan Alabama. After graduating, he completed advanced intermediate training (AIT) as a 67 November, helicopter repairer at Fort Rucker Alabama.

Assigned to Bravo Company, the 70th Transportation Battalion (AVIM) in Mannheim Germany (Coleman Barracks), David began work as a mechanic and crew chief on the UH1H Huey helicopter. As the Huey helicopter was phased out, he transitioned to the UH60A Black Hawk helicopter as a 67 Tango after completing the Black Hawk course at Fort Eustis Virginia.

While working in Mannheim Germany at Coleman Barracks in 1987, David met and fell in love with the love of his life, Janie McCray Larson of the late

Eileen McCray Tyler and William Holmes. They were married in Nykobing Denmark 10 November 1988 after dating for a year.

As David's army career progressed, he rose quickly through the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) ranks and was promoted to Sergeant First Class (E-7) in less than 10 years. David always liked to be where the action was. When he realized it wasn't behind a desk, he applied to Warrant Officer Candidate School. David graduated from the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School as a distinguished graduate after he completed the Aviation Maintenance Technician Warrant Officer Basic Course in 1996. He later successfully completed the Army Warrant Officer Career College Warrant Officer Staff Course and Senior Staff Course.

David was stationed at Fort Irwin California (247th Medical Detachment (NTC Support Battalion)), Schwabisch Hall/Giebelstadt Germany (Charlie Company 6-159th Aviation Regiment), Fort Campbell Kentucky (Delta Company 6 – 101st Aviation Regiment), Camp Page South Korea (542 Medical Company (Air Ambulance)), Kilo Company, 4 - 159th Aviation Maintenance, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia and Joint Base Langley-Eustice, Virginia (Flight Concepts Division, Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC)).

His deployments included enforcement of the no-fly zone Eastern Turkey/Northern Iraq (Operation Provide Comfort) and Bagram Air base Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom). David received the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal and the Legion of Merit.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Grantham University. David graduated from 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault School,

Fort Campbell Kentucky, Airborne School, Fort Benning Georgia and obtained an Airframe and Power plant (A&P) license from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Shortly after retiring from the Army in the grade of Chief Warrant 5 with 31 years of service, David turned to other interests. He worked as a Senior Contract Specialist/Contracting Officer for the Department of Transportation at the National Highway Safety and Traffic Administration (NHTSA). While there he received numerous certificates and awards for excellence most notably the Department of Transportation's Employee of the Year Award for Acquisitions.

David had many hobbies and interests including photography, music, matting and framing. Running in particular was a passion. He registered and ran year after year in approximately fifty races each year often using half marathons to train for marathon races.

David was very active in the running community. He participated in races held by Bishop Events, was a member of the Marathon Maniacs Racing club and maintained the Maniacs/Fanatics District Facebook page. David's favorite race was the New York City Marathon which he ran four times. An avid sports fan, he closely followed all the Wisconsin sports teams especially his beloved Green Bay Packers and his favorite hockey team the Pittsburgh Penguins.

David was a loving, kind and thoughtful man with a wicked (deadpan) sense of humor. He often loved to play practical jokes on friends and co-workers alike. Outgoing and popular, he had a positive "can do" attitude that he applied to everything he approached or undertook throughout his life. David was a loving son, husband, brother, cousin, nephew, a mentor and a good friend.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Janie McCray Larson, his father, John

Larson Sr., his oldest brother, John Larson Jr. (Julie), sister Pamela Larson Schuk (Bill), brother Jeff Larson (Jennifer), God son, Brandon Schuk, God Daughter Nicole Larson, sister-in-law, Vernadean McCray Tot (Clem), brother-in-law Martin McCray (Hannah), sister-in-law Nicole McCray Harris (Sharrone), Sister-in-law Raenell Lorinda Tyler, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and family.

David is presided in death by his mother, Laverne Naidl Larson, sister, Debra Larson, mother-in-law, Eileen McCray Tyler, sister-in-law, Tory Lynn Tyler and brother-in-law Randolph Anthony McCray.

Relatives and friends may be received at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, Friday, November 3, 2023, 4:00PM-

8:00PM. Service details to be determined. Memorial contributions may be made to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society or a charity of your choice. Please view and sign the family guestbook at [www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com](http://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive  
Arlington, VA 22211

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 3. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 971-7400  
[info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com](mailto:info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com)  
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of David Lee Larson*



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**Jefferson Funeral Chapel** - November 02, 2023 at 02:20 PM

AB

“ *To the David Larson Family,  
I am sorry for your loss.  
I will always cherish the memories of growing up at the Larson household.  
Andrew Baruth*

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**Andrew Baruth** - November 09, 2023 at 11:44 AM

PM

“ *My sincerest condolences. I lost track of David after we finished Scouting, but was deeply moved by the video tribute and all the wonderful photos of his life. It is no surprise that he lived a loving, accomplished and honorable path. He was a quality guy and I was lucky to have had a Scouting experience with David and the rest of the Larsons. Know that he'll be remembered well. Phil Maples*

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**Phil Maples** - November 09, 2023 at 07:57 AM

EC

“ When I think of David, I can only remember very positive experiences. David was always helpful, always very responsible, and always positive. I think in everyone’s life, we meet thousands, of people.

As we look back in our lives with all those people and experiences, the memories get blurred and only a few select people we remember. Many of these few people are those that changed the way you philosophically view life itself – how to treat others and how to live your life.

They say that each of us are a product of all the experiences and people we have met in life, but I think that we are mostly a product of these few special influential people in our lives.

David is one of those special individuals that I will always remember. He showed me that we can be more positive, more helpful, and more understanding. He made me a better person. With David’s passing, I can only think that his positive outlook in life carries on within all of us. I feel fortunate to have met David at NHTSA and my heart is broken of his passing.

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**Ed Chan** - November 07, 2023 at 09:24 AM

DJ

“ Janie, we are so sorry for your loss and our prayers are with you during this difficult period. David was the epitome of a warrior and dedicated public servant that selflessly served his country. His contributions the this country are beyond belief. Stay strong, sister.

Sincerely, David & Angela Johnson

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**David Johnson** - November 06, 2023 at 05:00 PM

AV

“ Alan Vandell lit a candle in memory of David Lee Larson



Alan Vandell - November 06, 2023 at 08:45 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of David Lee Larson.



November 06, 2023 at 08:44 AM

SE

“ Steward E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Lee Larson.

Steward E. - November 03, 2023 at 08:59 AM



“ Christine Ainsworth lit a candle in memory of David Lee Larson



Christine Ainsworth - November 03, 2023 at 12:44 AM

AC

“ Anita Barber - DOT/NHTSA/OAM Co-worker purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of David Lee Larson.



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**Anita Barber - DOT/NHTSA/OAM Co-worker** - November 02, 2023 at 02:24 PM

AC

“ Anita Barber - DOT/NHTSA/OAM Co-worker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Lee Larson.

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**Anita Barber - DOT/NHTSA/OAM Co-worker** - November 02, 2023 at 02:24 PM

SA

“ Sending my deepest condolences and sincerest prayers of comfort to the family! David was awesome to work with.



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**Sabrina** - November 02, 2023 at 10:55 AM

CW

“ Chris Whitford lit a candle in memory of David Lee Larson



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**Chris Whitford** - November 02, 2023 at 08:35 AM

CW

“ I met Dave in Bagram Afghanistan in May of 2002. I was looking at all the coalition flags at the airfield and noticed that the American flag pole was 30' higher than all the others. After a closer look, I saw that it was just recently concreted in place and the pole was so long because it was welded together to form this 80' pole. As I stood there admiring American ingenuity an American Soldier approached me and asked if everything was alright. It was Dave, he thought I was a 1SG/SGM coming over to give him shit. When I explained I was an Army Reservist and NYPD officer from NYC he said I want to show you something. Then he took me to the aviation conex used as their TOC and it had the following picture on the wall as I entered. We have remained friends ever since and Dave often visited NYC through the years.



Chris Whitford - November 02, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of David Lee Larson.



November 02, 2023 at 06:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David Lee Larson.

November 02, 2023 at 06:43 AM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of David Lee Larson.*



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November 02, 2023 at 04:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David Lee Larson.

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November 02, 2023 at 04:26 AM



“ *David was an extraordinarily gifted person, and an unforgettable colleague. His uncanny humor and infectious spirit will truly be missed. NHTSA/OAM will never be the same! I fondly remember how resilient Dave was as he continued to be of service to NHTSA and his colleagues in OAM, while undergoing chemo. David will always be our hero! We send so much love to his Queen, Janie, and pray that the days ahead be filled with comfort and love.*



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**Anoko Zankli** - November 01, 2023 at 10:16 PM

WF

“ 3 files added to the album Dave Larson



Whitford Family - November 01, 2023 at 03:18 PM

AJ

“ Angela Johnson lit a candle in memory of David Lee Larson



Angela Johnson - November 01, 2023 at 03:06 PM

TF

“ The WHITFORD FAMILY purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of David Lee Larson.



The WHITFORD FAMILY - November 01, 2023 at 02:54 PM

NH

“ NHTSA purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of David Lee Larson.



NHTSA - November 01, 2023 at 01:54 PM

NH

“ NHTSA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Lee Larson.

NHTSA - November 01, 2023 at 01:54 PM

PB

“ I had the honor of serving with Dave. He will be missed. Sending prayers.

Patrick Beatty - November 01, 2023 at 10:48 AM

RE

“ I miss my friend, colleague, and running motivator. Dave was more than a great and funny friend who liked to banter. Even in his need, he was there for us with his kindness and support. We had hoped to meet her as he truly adored his wife, Janie. May you find peace in the many great memories.

*With much love, Ruth and David Muir.*

Ruth Esteban-Muir - November 01, 2023 at 08:50 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Lee Larson.



October 31, 2023 at 04:40 PM

LM

“ Dear Larson Family,  
One thing I'll never forget about David is his love for all things related to Washington, DC. Whether it was history, entertainment, politics, or even obscure tourist traps, he really enjoyed hearing about places he could add to his list of "must visit locations." He was funny, kind, and compassionate. Wishing you and your family peace, comfort, courage, and lots of love during this time of sorrow.  
Sincerely, Lori Gabrielle Millen



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**Lori Gabrielle Millen** - October 31, 2023 at 03:58 PM

KI

“ David loved his Pittsburgh Penguins. And I love my Capitals. Needless to say this led to some passionate discussions and I loved them all! I will miss our conversations, David. Please rest in peace.



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**Kil-Jae** - October 31, 2023 at 01:58 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of David Lee Larson.



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October 31, 2023 at 01:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David Lee Larson.

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October 31, 2023 at 01:31 PM

CP

“ *Cindy Parker purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of David Lee Larson.*



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**Cindy Parker** - October 31, 2023 at 01:25 PM

CP

“ *Cindy Parker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Lee Larson.*

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**Cindy Parker** - October 31, 2023 at 01:25 PM

CP

“ *I will always remember Dave as one of the most outstanding people I had the pleasure to work with and know. During my time as CFO at NHTSA Dave was someone I could always count on in Contracting and he always made time to support whatever we had going on. I could count on him to handle every situation with a calming influence and a willingness to pitch in and help get anything done. I used to always love talking to him about anything, especially hearing about his running. My thoughts and prayers go out to Janie and the rest of his family. He was a bright star that shined here on earth and now that star has risen to Heaven and he will be sorely missed. ~Cindy Parker*

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**Cynthia Parker** - October 31, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Lee Larson.*



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October 31, 2023 at 12:17 PM



“ *David was a shining example of a person who always sought to do his best at everything he took on. I often think of him and the team we had on our shop in the ARMY. He will always be remembered. I pray God will put His arms around your family David and make Himself known to them.*

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**Brian Byrd** - October 31, 2023 at 08:40 AM



“ *David was a true ambassador of our Marathon Maniac Running community & the sport overall. He was also a genuinely kind, supportive, caring person who lived life to the fullest and gave so much of himself to helping others. I will miss his wicked funny sense of humor too. Run in peace my friend. Medal Mondays will never be the same without you. :(*



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**Christine Ainsworth** - October 31, 2023 at 12:17 AM

JG

“ You are loved & missed my friend. I can't articulate the impact you had on my life. I'll miss your sense of humor, seeing your photos, & I'll miss your encouraging words. I pray that our thoughts and memories of you will bring comfort to your family and friends.



Journey Gordon - October 30, 2023 at 10:10 PM

MM

“ Dave was a good friend. Always willing to help. We ran the NYC marathon together and Dave made that happen because he was connected with so many people. He was always able to make and maintain connections. He will be missed.



Marty Moreno - October 30, 2023 at 08:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Lee Larson.



October 30, 2023 at 08:31 PM