



Larry L. Spencer

February 9, 1929 - January 18, 2020

Lawrence L. Spencer "Larry", beloved husband, father, grandpa and great-grandpa died January 18, 2020 in Toledo at the age of 90, surrounded by family. Larry was born February 9, 1929 in Syracuse, NY to Charles and Helen Spencer. He attended Fayetteville High School, in New York and Staunton Military Academy, in Virginia. He was a four-sport athlete and a New York sprint champion. Upon graduation, Larry was drafted by The Brooklyn Dodgers but instead chose to attend Wake Forest College on a football scholarship, graduating in 1954. While at Wake Forest, Larry met Mary Finberg. They were married on August 22, 1953 in Wilmington, NC and enjoyed 61 years together. During his football career at Wake Forest, Larry led the nation in kickoff returns, averaging 42.2 yards per return, an NCAA record that held for 22 years. He still holds three Wake Forest football records today. Larry's skill on the football field led to him being drafted by the Detroit Lions in 1953. After his time with the Lions, Larry served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps and was honorably discharged in 1957. Larry then began a long career, with the YMCA, holding various positions throughout New York, relocating to Toledo in 1967. He finished his YMCA career as Executive Director of the South Toledo branch. Larry then worked at Finance Systems of Toledo before retiring in 1996 as the Vice President of Sales & Service.

In addition to being a member and past President of the Downtown Toledo Kiwanis Club, he was a member of First Baptist Church of Greater Toledo for 53 years. He served the church as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Deacons, and the Men's Fellowship. He was also Deacon Emeritus and a member of the Chancel Choir.

While Larry's accomplishments are admirable, he'll be most remembered by those closest to him for being kind in nature, humble in spirit and an unsuspectingly funny man, who above all, deeply loved and cared for his family. Larry is preceded in death by his wife, Mary, his parents and two sisters. He is survived by his four sons, Larry Jr. (Becky) of Jackson, MI; Jay (Monica) of Springfield, OH; Todd (Katy) of Phoenix, AZ; and David (Beth) of Toledo, OH; his grandchildren, Sean Spencer, Shannon Spencer, Courtney (Brian) Wayne, Molly (Alex) Meddock, Alex (Alexa) Spencer, Stephanie Spencer (Matthew Vock), Allison, Emily, Madison, and T.J. Spencer; his great-grandchildren, Gibson, George and Jude Wayne, Spencer and Savannah Opsincs, Rosie and James Meddock, and

Grace Spencer; and his sister, Frances Williams of Zephyrhills, FL.

Friends may visit the family Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Greater Toledo; 6520 Pilliod Rd. Holland, OH 43528. A memorial service will begin at 2 p.m. Memorial donations can be made in his name to First Baptist Church of Greater Toledo or The Deacon Club, Wake Forest University, 499 Deacon Blvd, Winston-Salem, NC 27105.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

25

First Baptist Church of Greater Toledo
6520 Pilliod Road, Holland, OH, US, 43528

JAN **Service** 02:00PM - 02:45PM

25

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6520 Pilliod Road, Holland, OH, US, 43528

Comments



“ Becky- sorry to hear about Larry & our condolences to family. As you know, I worked with Larry for 3 years at the Downtown Toledo YMCA. He was a role model & very considerate person to work for. We crossed paths about a year ago at a Pro Medica lab & I am glad we were able to connect again. Will always remember his passion for the Y and it's programs. Since I go to the Y often, Larry's legacy will be thought of often.

Harry (& Judy) Dewitz

Harry Dewitz - January 27 at 04:02 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Larry L. Spencer.



January 26 at 08:32 PM



“ When they talk about people from the greatest generation, they are talking about people like my grandfather. Achievements almost impossible to believe, but he hardly ever discussed them. His sense of responsibility to his country, his school, his church, his loved ones and his family makes him one of the greatest people I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

Sean Spencer - January 21 at 11:25 PM



“ Larry was a great person to know. He always inspired those people who he knew and always made you feel good about yourself when you had conversations with them.

Nada Grim - January 22 at 09:25 AM



“ When I heard of Larry's passing, I felt sad as he was my childhood hero. My cousin Larry was 15 years older than me and as a young boy he was my idol. I still remember going by train to Philadelphia with my dad, uncles, and grandfather to watch Larry play football for Wake Forest. Over the years when Larry and Mary would come to Syracuse I looked forward to seeing them and sometimes playing a game of golf with him and my dad Larry at Rogues' Roost Golf course. As a caddie at Augusta National, I had chances to talk with Arnold Palmer about Larry, who attended Wake Forest with Larry and Mary in the 50's. Arnie always spoke very highly of their friendship. I will always look to my HERO with great love.

John Spencer

John - January 22 at 10:15 PM



“ As a fellow Kiwanian with Larry for over 20 years it was my good fortune to have known him. He always had the good of the club in mind with everything he did. I also enjoyed Mondays playing in the Kiwanis golf league with him. He was always the GENTLEMAN! He will be missed! My best to the Family.

Lucky Langendorfer - January 25 at 04:38 PM