



William Larson

April 2, 1925 - March 9, 2012

William John Emil Larson was born on April 2, 1925 to William F. and Lillian (Jackson) Larson in Sacred Heart, MN. Bill enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943 serving through 1946, and again from 1951 until his honorable discharge in 1952. Bill and Joyce Marie Stadum were married on August 22, 1953 in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls. They moved to Wadena where he was a teacher, and later a Junior High School principal, in the Wadena Public School District. He dedicated many hours to coaching students in the football, basketball, and track programs. Bill was a Past President of Rotary, a member at the VFW, the Elks Lodge, Wadena Country Club, and of Immanuel Lutheran Church for over 50 years where he had served as church council president. He found pleasure in flower and vegetable gardening, making lefse, hunting, golfing, reading, entertaining, and sharing fellowship with family and friends. With family at his side, Bill passed away on March 9, 2012, at the age of 86, at the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Fergus Falls. He was preceded in death by his wife Joyce on December 1, 2008; parents William and Lillian; and sister Sigrid "Honey" Adelman. He is survived by his children, Maren (Bill) Crabb of Eden Prairie, Krista (Richard) Reynolds of Colorado Springs, CO; and Mark (Judy) of Plymouth; 7 grandchildren: Heidi and Molly Crabb both of Eden Prairie, Paige, Anastasia, and William Reynolds all of Colorado Springs, CO; Kelly and Kacie Larson both of Plymouth; and a host of friends. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on March 15, 2012 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor

Marilyn Breckenridge officiating. Pallbearers were Bob Iken Jr, Bob Grendahl, Mike Finn, John Lindlief, Keith Lang, Mark Roach and Don Quincer. Military honors were provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veteran's of Foreign Wars, Wadena, MN. Burial was in Wadena Cemetery in Wadena.

Tribute Wall

CC

“ We are sad to hear about Bill. He was a great friend - we liked him very much.

We are sorry we will be unable to be with you.

Charlie & Gladys Chase - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Sad to see that Bill passed away. He was a very friendly man and will be remembered by many.

Candice Tellers - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ He was a great teacher. Able to inspire the best of your talents. Great sense of humor and high ideals in teaching. Am saddened to hear of his passing and sure he will be greatly missed.

Larry Gallagher M.D. - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Mr Larson was always a wonderful teacher; he gave up his lunch hours to brown bag with those of us that needed extra help with our algebra. As the years went by and I would visit Wadena from time to time, I often saw him in the Boondocks when I would be eating there. He always inquired as to how I was doing, where I lived etc. Mr Larson was the kind of school teacher we do not have the good fortune of seeing enough of. He left a huge mark on the lives of those that were lucky enough to have known him.

Audrey M Peteresen - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Good teacher-great football coach-A man with a huge sense of humor and dignity.I will never forget that unique way he made my introduction to the lockers in school a lasting impression.
See you some day, old friend.

Jim Stoneman - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Bill Larson was my 9th grade algebra teacher waaay back in the '50s. I was not a math wiz, and hated it. However, I found in Mr. Larson's class that I actually loved algebra! He was a superb teacher! Thanks, Bill!
I know how difficult it is when the last parent passes. My sympathy and prayers, as you continue on without him.....

Cicely Richardson Brill Johnson - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Dear Mark & Family:
Our hearts go out to all of you during this difficult time...it is hard to tell a parent good-bye! "You can remember him only that he is gone, or you can cherish his memory and let it live on." Please know you are in our hearts and prayers.
With Sympathy-
The Kalina's

Mark & Sharon (Krier) Kalina - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ We enjoyed Bill's and Joyce's friendships so much - at Immanuel and in our whist club, for many, many years. Every time we enjoy good lefse we remember them and what delicious lefse and other Scandinavian treats they made. We had the greatest admiration and affection for Bill and his wonderful wife. Our sincere sympathy, All of the Eldevik family

Karl and Carole Eldevik - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ Mark and family, my heartfelt sympathy goes out to you. I remember your dad with great fondness.
Peace,
Lecia

Lecia Heinen Edquist - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Maren and Bill, Sorry to hear of your loss. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Mary & JD Koloc - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Linda and I are thinking of you all at this difficult time.

Kate Erion - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I have fond memories of Bill Larson--as a football coach and 9th grade algebra teacher. The influence of Bill, along with Louise Pleidrup, probably sent me on the way to a career of teaching mathematics. Due to the excellent coaching style of Bill and John Conzemius--attitude and fundamentals-- I also felt comfortable coaching junior high football for many years.

Tom Smith - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

IB

“ Dear Bill, Maren, & Family-

We are so very sorry to hear of your Dad's death and also sorry we did not have the honor of meeting your Dad. Our prayer is that you will invite Our Loving Lord to comfort you through your grief and that his services will truly be a celebration of his life.

We are thinking of you and praying for you and your family. Until we are able to deliver big hugs in person.....may God bless & keep you in His loving arms.

*Ike & Barbie
Lake City*

Ike & Barbie - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ I will miss the ever-booming voice of Mr. Larson saying, "Phillips!" every time he saw me - it didn't matter where - to the last time I saw him. It was always the same greeting, "Phillips!"

My best recollection from high school is Bill as a football coach. His seriousness and demeanor on the football field were as strong as you can get: "You davenport commandos, get out there and tackle somebody!" After football practice and once we left the field, it was a different deal. Football was football, and that stayed there. I liked that about him - when it was over, it was over. I will certainly miss Mr. Larson and his big, booming voice.

We are in Florida at this time; sorry we can't be there for the service.

Sam Phillips

sam w phillips - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ God truly blessed me when he allowed me the privelege to grow up on 3rd Street in Wadena, just 2 doors down from the Larson family! Maren, Krista and Mark: I am looking forward to seeing you later this week and celebrating the life of your Dad. I know the heartache of letting him go but the image of him embracing your Mom when he entered Heaven is something that brings a smile to my face. I shall forever remember how he made me laugh as a child, feel special as a teen, and successful as an adult. When visiting Wadena and I would get to see him, he always took such interest in how I was doing and sincerely seemed proud of me! He truly had a gift like no others. God Bless the Larsons!

Shannon Schlecht O'Keefe - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ We remember "Mr Larson" fondly as someone with great strength of character. A wonderful role model to his students!

Russ and Mary Lynk - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Best wishes and prayers to the Larson Family. I had the pleasure of getting to know Mr. Larson quite well in Jr. High as out of necessity I spent quite a bit of time in (actually sent to) his office during and after school.

He was a wonderful leader in the community that left a positive mark on many generations of students and others.

He will also be remembered as a great football coach who made the activity a lot of fun. (For years, he has left me wondering if I actually was as slow as his grandmother?) Celebrate Bill's life, it was a great one!

Thomas and Cathy Schloeder - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ wonderful man -made me toe the line when I really needed it

gary sliter - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Bill was a superb teacher and earned respect of all his students. I can still see him in the classroom. Good Memories. I know how difficult it is to lose a parent and how important it is to cherish all those memories. I was fortunate to have moved back to Wadena and be able to see more of Bill. He enjoyed his spot at Fair Oaks and I felt he could advertise for Fair Oaks with all his good comments and love of the place. Nice he liked his home away from home. Whenever I saw Bill he always called me "Sandra" He will be greatly missed. Sandi

Sandi & Barry Pratt - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Mr. Larson was a person of great integrity who genuinely cared about people, especially students. He also lived out his values on a daily basis. Setting that kind of example is a tremendous gift to us all.

John Hamerlinck - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Mr. "Bill" Larson was one of my favorite teachers and role models. He was the favorite teacher that the Wadena HS Class 1961 dedicated their yearbook to, "The Indian Trails". He attended several of our reunions with his lovely wife, Joyce, and I often saw him when I returned to Wadena.

Henrietta Borchardt Smith - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Bill was a great friend and he also was my 9th. grade Algebra teacher. He was a no-nonsense, good teacher. He would come into the store with his family and say, " What's going on Tubandt?" He was a loyal customer and will be missed. Bob

Bob Tubandt - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ Sorry to hear of Bill's passing, but he is now at peace. I suspect that somewhere in heaven there is a new emphasis on coaching the fundamentals. It seems like yesterday that Bill had a grip on my facemask and was giving me some one-on-one instruction on the meaning of life. He commanded and deserved the utmost respect, and all of us who played for him will never forget him. I am sorry that I am in Colorado and unable to attend his funeral, but my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Good job, Coach!

Steve and Jan Nelson - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ True leaders are not those who strive to be first but those who are first to strive and give all for the success of the team. You were that leader, Coach. Through your leadership and actions, you taught me about life, and I tried to pattern my coaching after you. Rest in peace Coach! To Bill's family...Know that you have many thoughts and prayers with you at this time. Please accept my sincere sympathy. God bless you!

March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He hired me back in 1969. I soon grew very fond of this wonderful man and leader. The education world needs more Bill Larsons. He taught kids to respect, to learn and most important to take responsibility. The Wadena community was truly a better place because of Bill. Although I can not be at the funeral I will be thinking of him and his family.

Dennis Kaatz - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Maren, Krista & Mark & families,

I have the utmost respect for both of your parents! Your Mother was my kindergarden teacher in 1955 & your Dad taught me math. They were both excellent in their professions but that was only part of their leadership. They lived their lives with dignity, grace & caring. They were wonderful friends to my folks & were always ready to help in any way.

Cherish the rich memories that they left you & know that they always spoke very lovingly of all of you!

Take gentle care!

Jeanne Bottemiller LeFevere

Jeanne Bottemiller LeFevere - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *one of the good guys*

duane percival - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *Back in the 50s I was an algebra student of Mr. Larson just as he was called to serve in Korea. He made the math class tolerable for me. And the class of '55 often spoke highly of Mr. Larson at reunions. Little did I know I would grow up, attend his alma mater - St. Cloud Teachers College - and eventually serve on the faculty in Wadena. He was such a good man. I remember seeing him in the hall near the cafeteria, telling the boys to tuck in their shirt tails. He expected some decorum from those junior high students. It makes me smile just to think of him. It was also fun to hear about the kids and grandkids from Bill and Joyce. They cherished them all. My heart goes out to all of you. Mary Ellen Kennedy Kollodge*

Mary Eillen Kennedy Kollodge - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *To Maren, Krista, Mark and families, My sympathies to you on the loss of your dad..As you know he played a big part of my family's life in Wadena. He and your mom were such good friends of my parents and were so kind to them... There were a lot of fun times shared and many good memories made. Your dad touched the lives of many and will be greatly missed. Joyce Crozier*

Joyce (Lundell) Crozier - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ I was so sorry to hear of Mr. Larson's passing It seemed to go so quickly. I had seen him several times at the VA in Fergus and he was always cheerful and ready to talk. He was such a part of every day life at WDC when we were there-it's hard to think he won't be around anymore, My prayers are with all of his family.

Gwen Anderson - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ I was saddened to hear from my sister that your dad had passed away. I feel very confident in saying that all 8 of the kids in our family from John on down through Kathy, as well as our parents, thought a lot of Mr. Larson. I remember a beagle pup he gave to our family many years ago. We had always had german shepherd farm dogs, and this was an adorable little town dog named Bingo. We loved that dog, and were so saddened when it got hit by a visitor's car. We begged and begged our mom to take him to the vet to see if he could be saved. We knew the chances of getting vet care for a farm pet were slim, at best, but mom took him in. The vet did surgery and Bingo had to have his mouth wired shut for quite a while. We lovingly sat by him, talked and petted him, and spoon-fed him that summer, and he lived until winter, as I recall, but he was never the same fun-loving energetic dog he had been. It probably would have been kinder to let him go after he got hit, but we couldn't bear that. He had brought us a lot of joy, and I still smile when I think of how lucky we were that your dad gave him to us. Whenever I sing B-I-N-G-O with my kindergarten students, I think of that dog, and of your dad. Thank you, Mr. Larson!

I didn't know he had been a Marine; that makes me respect him even more. My son is in the Marine Corps now. The poem "The Dash" that speaks of the importance of the time spent between one's birth and death, would be fitting for your parents, as they both lived thier "dash" well, to the good fortune of so many. Prayers go out to you.

Nancy (Rohr) Hendrickx - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ My late husband, Dale Peterson, and I enjoyed meeting Bill and Joyce for lunch in Little Falls or here in St. Cloud. About 15 years ago Bill showed us the map of Norway and where he and Joyce were going on a trip from Concordia college. We decided that we would also like to go, and we were able to do so. We had a good time finding out about Norway, and also enjoying the companionship of Bill and Joyce.

Bill and I shared ancestors from Sweden and family members in this country also. I remember Bill as a good story teller with a neat sense of humor.

My condolences to his family members. I was sorry that I was unable to attend his funeral.

Cousin Patricia Jensen

Patricia Jensen - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear Maren, I'm saying goodbye to Bill. My mom Louise and he enjoyed many a good laugh up at Fair Oaks...and perhaps they have resumed that tradition wherever they are now. I enjoyed visiting with Bill at Fair Oaks. And certainly, I remember him being a very stern, scarey but likeable HS principal!

I also recall your mom and dad, after hearing that I really liked lefse, stopping by Louise's home to bring me some delicious sample, and leave me with their recipe, which I still have.

Best wishes to you and family. I'll be visiting Wadena and Mpls this summer. --Jane Hulting

Jane Hulting - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM