



Lawrence G. "Larry" Kuse

July 19, 1934 - February 19, 2014

The rock of our family, Lawrence Gene Kuse, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, died Feb. 19, 2014, at home with his loved ones. He was 79. Larry was a twin, born July 19, 1934, in St. Louis, Mo., with his brother Bernie, to Virgie Pearl Clukies and Bernard Kuse, There has been a lifelong dispute between the boys as to which of them came into the world first, and we're all sure that Bernie will use the current turn of events to further his point of view. Larry and Bernie's father died when they were toddlers, but his mother remarried Joe Reynolds, who had three children, Lee, Evelyn and Joe Jr., and Larry and his merged family lived most of his childhood in Merriam, Ks. He graduated from Shawnee Mission Rural High School, and went to work for the family business, Overland Park Glass Company, in 1949, where he worked for 47 years until his retirement in 1996. He lived most of his adult life in Overland Park, Ks. Larry was married twice before he met his soul mate, Ruth Widner Wiseman in 1989, when they were introduced at a square dance. They married in 1992 and continued to love to dance until Larry wore out his knees. Larry taught Ruth to shoot and built her a bench rest rifle. They traveled to Florida, Phoenix, Colorado, New Mexico and St. Louis to compete in matches together, and Larry loved to brag to friends and family that Ruth had one point in the Bench Rest Hall of Fame. Larry became Ruth's helpmate, doing almost anything for her, from fixing her sewing machines to shooting the squirrels in the backyard to keep them out of her tomatoes (though it must be noted that he took out a tomato plant or two himself while mowing the lawn).

The story behind a trip to Alaska the couple took is a testimonial to how much Larry was loved. The phone rang one day in 1998. The caller told Larry that someone had given him an all-expenses paid trip to the destination of his choice. Larry told the caller he wasn't interested. She called back the next day, trying to convince him the gift was legitimate, that there were no strings attached, just that the donor wanted to remain anonymous. Several weeks and phone calls later, the donor persevered, and Larry and Ruth went on a two-week cruise to Alaska. The giver of that gift was a childhood friend of one of Larry's children who wanted to return some of the generosity and kindness that Larry was so known for giving to others. That donor still sits in the shadows, but Larry knew who it was, and was deeply and forever touched. As father, Larry was mentor and measuring stick. None of us did anything without considering how it would be measured by Dad. But, oh, how he loved his children. He held them to a high standard, but no higher than the standard he held for himself. We all knew the rules: Be honest. Be loyal. Be kind. Not all of us followed them all of the time, and he was never shy about telling us when we made the wrong choice. But while Dad was a confident man, he was also a humble man, and knew that he, too, had made a few unfortunate choices. It was that part of him that always forgave us, and he took pride in each of us. To his grandchildren, Larry was both tormentor and protector. He took particular delight in warning them about the lion he kept in the closet, and while they were never quite sure whether that lion was real, they knew their Grandpa would never let them come to harm. But before Larry was father and grandfather, he was son. Perhaps the biggest heartbreak of his life came the day his mother died. He had no doubt that his goodness, all of his childhood happiness, came from her, and he spent his life devoted to her, always keeping a favorite sweater of hers nearby after her death. To his friends, Larry was loyalty and generosity personified. He never turned a friend away if he could help it, and if he couldn't, the circle of his friends was so large that he usually knew someone who could. That circle was mostly made from Larry's passion: shooting. In 1961, he met Walt Berger, and they became lifelong

friends, on and off the range. (While their children were young, their families spent many happy summer weekends camping and water-skiing at Lake Pomme de Terre.) It was soon after meeting Walt he began shooting competitive bench rest and later set two world records: the first in 1981 for Heavy Varmint 200 Yard Aggregate; and in 2012 he set the current 100 yard Aggregate Varmint for score record. He was an active member of Mill Creek Rifle Club, serving as treasurer and in other offices, and was appointed director-emeritus for life. He also was a member of the National Bench Rest Shooters Association and National Rifle Association. He served as chairman of the records committee for the NBRSA and was a member of the Varmint for Score records committee. Among those who will miss Larry deeply are his devoted wife, Ruth; his children, Cindy, Mark, Larry Jr., Robbin and Stephen; his step-children, Steve Wiseman, Sheila Stephenson, Eric Wiseman, Kenny Wiseman and Donna Wiseman; his grandchildren Pepsi Vanlerberg Margaret and Benjamin Scanlan; Quintin Kuse; Amber Solwa; Brenden Kuse; Jacob and Brooklyn Wright; Alexis McKenzie; Madi Graves; and 28 more step-grandchildren and great grandchildren; his twin brother Bernie; and dozens, really too many to count, dear friends. A daughter, Lynda, and his parents are predeceased. Visitation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, 3300 Shawnee Dr. in K.C., Ks., with services immediately following. Memorial donations may be made to the Catholic Community Hospice, 9740 W. 87th St., Overland Park, Ks., 66212; or to the Humane Society Of Greater Kansas City. Larry's full obituary may be found at www.maplehillfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24.** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

FEB **24.** 3:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Lawrence G. "Larry" Kuse*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - February 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Lawrence G. "Larry" Kuse*

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Lawrence G. "Larry" Kuse*

September 17, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *Sure miss my POP!*

Larry Kuse Jr. - August 05, 2014 at 02:41 AM

MB

“ Larry shot quite often at the Okie Shooter's range at Luther. Quite often after the match, my shooting buddy, Joe Archer, my son, Josh and I would stop at a little barbeque joint in Arcadia. Larry and Ruth would have beat us there. Larry told us that the blackberry cobbler was quite good. We got to stopping there later just for the blackberry cobbler. Every time we stopped there would be Larry and Ruth. We found out later that the barbeque joint had moved closer to Edmond just across on the west side of I-35. We made plans to stop there after the match. We walked in and sure enough, there was Larry and Ruth. We looked forward to seeing them there just as much as eating the blackberry cobbler. We will miss Larry at the matches, but count it a pleasure to have known Larry and Ruth for all those years.

Keeping your family in our prayers,

Mike Bryant

Mike Bryant - February 25, 2014 at 02:17 PM

SP

“ My heart aches while reading Larry's tribute. We lived next door to Larry for many many years when I was growing up (I even babysat Pepsi when she was an infant/toddler). Many times I tried to re-connect with Cindy, Mark, Robbin and Steve so I could get caught up with the happenings of their life. I still want to re-connect with them and catch up !!

I remember many summer neighborhood water balloon fights that were AWESOMEtalk about a kid at heart I'm not sure who had more fun us kids or Larry :) May you rest in peace dear friend you will be missed by many while your flying high with the angels and watching over us all.....With Love.....

Shane Rippetoe Purvis

shane rippetoe purvis - February 25, 2014 at 07:45 AM

PL

“ *Patti Levenson lit a candle in memory of Lawrence G. "Larry" Kuse*



patti levenson - February 24, 2014 at 04:45 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Lawrence G. "Larry" Kuse.*



February 24, 2014 at 11:02 AM

AW

“ *What a man! The biggest sweetheart I ever met. Was thinking of Larry, reading his obituary and telling stories with my mom (Chris Gordon) tonight. I got to thinking about times with Larry and his family. My two favorites are Larry teaching me to waterski (very patient with a newbie teenager) at Smithville lake and being teased at their house, because they had a dog named Amber. Larry was also very helpful after my stepfather, Marty Gordon's death in 2000. Marty had several guns that we later decided to sell and I wouldn't have felt confident in our decisions and info without Larry's guidance. You'll be greatly missed Larry! Amber Wiens (Hastings, Nebraska)*

Amber Wiens - February 23, 2014 at 07:42 PM

CK

“ I have a lot of great memories of Larry! He was a wonderful and true friend to my husband, Marty Gordon, and myself. Larry taught Marty a lot about benchrest shooting, Larry was an expert and Marty was so intersted in the game - they were fast friends. Larry was Marty's best man in our wedding. Marty always said, "Larry loves fried chicken! Larry can put a drumstick in one side of his mouth and pull a polished bone out the other side." Chris Gordon (Hamburg, Iowa)

Christine Gordon Karg - February 23, 2014 at 07:36 PM

PL

“ 5 files added to the album our friend Larry



Patti Levenson - February 22, 2014 at 04:47 PM

PL

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Patti Levenson - February 22, 2014 at 04:45 PM

TL

“ *Larry didn't call today. I would talk to Larry just about every day. We'd talk about chambering barrels, bullet making, matches, our friends and families. Some days it was a short chat, other days it was finding out what the other planned for that day. He taught me a lot about shooting and chambering barrels. He shared his considerable knowledge without reservation. The last thing he taught all of us was how to face the end of your life with dignity and strength. Ruth and his family will miss him. So will Patti and I*

Tony Levenson

Tony Levenson - February 22, 2014 at 04:25 PM

PL

“ Larry didn't call today. I would talk to Larry just about every day. We'd talk about chambering barrels, bullet making, matches, our friends and families. Some days it was a short chat, other days it was finding out what the other planned for that day. He taught me a lot about shooting and chambering barrels. He shared his considerable knowledge without reservation. The last thing he taught all of us was how to face the end of your life with dignity and strength. Ruth and his family will miss him. So will Patti and I

Tony Levenson

Patti Levenson - February 22, 2014 at 12:56 PM

AS

“ I remember him bowling in a league with my parents at King Louie West. Robbin and Larry would be in the daycare area with me and my sister. Good times.

Angela Morris Schnabl

Angela Schnabl - February 20, 2014 at 09:40 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Lawrence G. "Larry" Kuse.



February 20, 2014 at 02:00 PM