



Larry G. Donley

April 6, 1937 - October 30, 2021

"The Drummer"

Larry G. Donley, 84, entered into rest peacefully October 30, 2021, at Lancaster General Hospital. Son of the late George and Mae (Long) Donley and brother to the late Bertha Mummaw, Florida.

A lifetime resident of Lancaster, graduated from JP Mccaskey High School. Larry was a professional percussionist which, he attended Philadelphia Institute of Music for three years. Went on to studied with Jim Chapin, a Jazz Drummer and Educator in New York for seven years. Larry played with numerous bands until 1974, then went on to form his own band "Open End". During that time, he gave private drum lessons at Park City Center until he moved the practice to his home studio and continued this for over 50 years teaching his passion for music.

Larry was an Army Veteran between 1960-62, station in Germany. He was a member of the VFW Mountville, PA and a member of The Church of Apostles. Larry is survived by his wife Betty (Kishbaugh), a stepdaughter Robyn Stoltzfus of Gap, husband Bob, two step grandchildren Bronson Jackson of Narvon, wife Dawn, and Amy Blessing of Paradise. Many great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A private service for family and friends will be held at Sheetz Funeral Home, Mount Joy, Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the VFW, 48 E. Main St., Mountville, PA 17554.

Tribute Wall

TR

“ I am so sad to see that Larry has passed on. I drove past Chestnut View Drive a few days ago, hoping to recognize his house where I had seen him just a few years ago by chance when he was out front as I passed by. I had drum lessons from Larry many years ago at Tiny Wrights Music Shop when I was probably in only 4th grade, about 1967. I continued for at least 3 or 4 more years of lessons and played in the MT orchestra and marching band. I still have a full drum set which I play along with records and CD's.

Unfortunately, we had not kept in touch. But I did meet him once again when he played at the Mountville Church of the Brethren, Sunday night concerts a few (maybe more than a few) years ago,

Larry is still a person that I hold dear to me and consider him to be a very influential part of my life. Truly wish that I could have spoken to him at least one more time.

My thoughts and sympathy to his family. He was a "GEM". Sorry that this is so late in coming.

Todd Rosier - May 01, 2022 at 12:07 AM

KB

“ Larry was the drum teacher of my sons, Ricky and Chad. I am not sure how many years ago that was, but it was a lot. The boys really bonded with Larry as he really took an interest in them. It wasn't long before Larry and Betty both became almost like a part of the family. They always were nice enough to show up to our family events and my children grew up with Larry and Betty present in their lives. My daughter, when she was little, actually asked them why they were always at our family events and whether they were related somehow. We all got a real chuckle out of that. I would often see Larry at Stauffer's or when I was walking the dogs or my grandbabies in the neighborhood and we would stop in to chat. Larry was always in an upbeat mood, friendly, kind and caring. He was an extraordinary man and will be missed terribly. Betty, our hearts go out to you and we are here for whatever we can do.

Kathy Brooks & family

Kathy Brooks - November 19, 2021 at 07:38 PM

 Shawn
O'Neal

“ Larry was my drum teacher in the mid 70's to early 80's in the basement of Park City. I still play drums in a couple of bands today and often think of him when practicing certain rudiments. I eventually saw him play a few times in my 20's and really enjoyed his skill as a jazz drummer. I still have a drum kit that he sold my parents when I was 12 or 13.

I only saw him a few times over the last couple decades but he always was interested in what I was doing and playing and I appreciated that. He will be missed by many...Thanks Larry.

Shawn O'Neal, Lancaster

Shawn O'Neal - November 07, 2021 at 09:47 PM

KF

My husband and I are regulars at Dipco in Lancaster. We used to see Larry every Saturday for lunch after our trip to market. Enjoyed his stories and his sense of humor. First saw him back in the 60's at Wimpys in York with the Dick Hamilton Trio. Will miss you my friend.

Karen Flick - November 08, 2021 at 07:39 PM

JM

“*Larry gave me drum lessons at Tiny Wright's in Lancaster when I was a teenager. I still play drums to this day and credit him for the love of the craft. Every time he saw me he would say "Are you still playing that country music?" He will be missed. Our condolences to your family and friends. John Miller, Paradise.*

John Miller - November 07, 2021 at 09:33 AM

AG

Larry and his parents were our wonderful neighbors growing up on Hamilton St. Larry would always tell me the story of when I was learning to walk how he would stand me up against the refrigerator and try to get me to walk to him. I will never forget that story. Betty you are in my thoughts and prayers. Aileen Garner

Aileen Garnet - November 07, 2021 at 10:49 AM

JK

Larry was my cousin, son of my Aunt Mae. Although I didn't know him real well, we always referred to him as 'the drummer'. I knew he was a gifted and talented musician. Betty, I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Jane Christ Koch

Jane Koch - November 10, 2021 at 07:50 PM