



## Michael W. Larsen

August 20, 1944 - July 17, 2016

Michael Wallace Larsen, age 71, died on Sunday, July 17, 2016 after a 40 year battle with debilitating Multiple Sclerosis. He fought paralyzing disability with courage, optimism, and nobility of spirit. He was born August 20, 1944 at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, the oldest of 10 children. Parents: Vernon W. Larsen and Margaret Brandley Larsen.

Michael attended High School at Bedford Road Collegiate Institute in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, where he was Student Body President and Captain of the basketball team his senior year; 1962. Because of his rigorous Canadian education, he was admitted to Brigham Young University as a sophomore where he then earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Political Science and Economics. He attended the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania for a Ph.d in Urban and Resource Planning with an emphasis in Strategic Planning and Econometrics. He worked for Westinghouse Research Corporation in Churchill, PA, and for Potlatch Timber and Paper in Spokane, WA. He also taught Economics at the University of Eastern Washington in Spokane. In 1980 he came to Utah to teach in the BYU Business School MBA Program until his Multiple Sclerosis became too debilitating to continue working.

Michael served faithfully in the LDS Church. He was a premier Scoutmaster, High Councilman and President of Seminaries and Institutes in Western Pennsylvania. He also served an honorable mission in French Polynesia (Tahiti), where he is still greatly loved by many church members there.

Michael married Cathryn Christensen in the Salt Lake Temple on August 27, 1969. Together they have seven children (2 daughters and 5 sons): Kristen (Scott) Robinson, Arryn (Steve) Jibson, Jon (Nicole) Larsen, Loran (Merilee) Larsen, Tres (Alaina) Larsen, Gabe (Carolyn) Larsen, and Kyle (Kaylee) Larsen. Their 20th grandchild will be born this year.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 11:00 am at the LDS Hillcrest

6th Ward Chapel, 1120 North 150 West, American Fork, UT, where Viewings will be held Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and prior to services on Thursday from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Interment in Alpine City Cemetery, 400 North Grove Drive, Alpine, UT.

# Cemetery

---

## Alpine City Cemetery

400 North Grove Drive  
Alpine, UT, 84004

# Events

---

**JUL** **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**20**

---

Hillcrest 6th Ward

1120 North 150 West, American Fork, UT, US

**JUL** **Viewing** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

**21**

---

Hillcrest 6th Ward

1120 North 150 West, American Fork, UT, US

**JUL** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**21**

---

Hillcrest 6th Ward

1120 North 150 West, American Fork, UT, US

# Comments

---



“ We just found this notice today. We are so sad at Mike's passing, but know Cathy and he battled courageously for so many years. We wish we had know sooner so we could pay our respects.

Two memories we will share. When Jim and I and Mike and Cathy were first married, we lived downstairs and Mike and Cathy lived upstairs in his parents' home in Orem while they were on sabbatical. Cathy and I were both expecting a baby, Cathy first, within weeks of each other. Cathy was more than ready, but I was just merrily going along when out of the blue, my baby was born first. I don't think Cathy had too long to wait though!

Mike was so smart! I remember him sitting upstairs correcting papers and listening to a BYU game on the radio at the same time, and doing maybe one other thing. He was good at doing many things at once! Cathy had been a dear friend for many years, and we loved her mom and her sisters too. I feel badly that we have lost touch. Maybe we can get together in the near future.

Please accept our love and sympathy in your loss Cathy. Jim and Terrie Telford

**jim-terrie Telford** - September 23, 2016 at 12:24 PM

---



“ After Mike & Cathy Larsen's courageous 40 year battle with his terrible disease -- a disease that rather quickly incapacitated Mike and led to his need for constant care from others -- most of you will know him for his remarkable determination and cheerfulness during those difficult years. Truly they both deserve our admiration and respect. However, it is also unfortunate that most of you did not know the brilliant, passionate young man who succeeded in almost everything he attempted before elements beyond his control robbed him of his professional promise.

As one privileged to be among his teachers from 50 years ago, my memories of Mike are not of his illness. I wish you had known that young man. You would have been amazed and captivated by this rising young scholar. He remains one of my brightest students, a young man of incredible enthusiasm, curiosity, and excitement for new ideas. He had a passion for his studies of economics and econometrics that he carried into the classroom as a student and then as a teacher. Every class, every semester he set a standard that most of us could only hope to emulate. He constantly received among the highest student evaluations in the department. There seemed to be no limit to his success.

Perhaps partly because of our confidence in his professional promise, we were all stunned to see that energy and passion channeled in a totally different direction. And yet, it must have been that same drive and will of young Mike Larsen that has kept him alive over these many years. His ultimate success was to outlive the disease so that he might see his children excel and establish themselves academically,

professionally, and with families of their own.

A life history of Mike Larsen would serve as a beacon for us all.

Larry Wimmer

Larry Wimmer - August 02, 2016 at 12:32 AM

---



“ I just heard of Mike's passing today. I am so saddened by the news. I was on occasion a caretaker for Mike on several memorable days. I jumped at the chance to have Mike on my schedule because he was just such a good person and such an inspiration to me. I remember our last visit because Mike was suffering an infection at the time and wasn't his normal upbeat self. Although I never knew Mike to ever feel sorry for himself or ask the question "why me?" He helped me so much with my own personal struggles with anxiety. I just want his family to know how much I was touched by him. I will miss him greatly. Daneen Booth

Daneen Booth - July 29, 2016 at 05:17 PM

---



“ CATHY - just heard via my son Kevin--Arryns age --about Mike. My deepest condolences and sympathy---to you-- Kristen an Arryn-who I know and remember-- and to all five of their brothers--who Rose and I would have gotten to know--if you had stayed next door. I know Rose would be deeply hurt by hearing this and would be grieving with you. she considered you among her best of friends and you and family were sorely missed .

Mike will be remembered here --he was an outstanding individual and his personal fight for all those years is a tribute to his love of life and family. I can assure --I and my children know how you and your family are feeling right now.

Part of the information I received was a photograph of you and Mike and family. IT IS A --GREAT PHOTO I CAN SEE AND FEEL THE LOVE AND HAPPINESS YOU ALL SHARED TOGETHER. KAL KALUPSON--704 Bittersweet Drive

Carey "KAL" Kalupson - July 25, 2016 at 09:36 AM

---



“ Dear Cathy & family...we have been out of town & just heard about Mike. He was always the epitome of an upbeat, positive, happy person dealing with such difficulties. I remember how much he loved to spend time in our pool & the friends that would bring him to swim. He was always concerned about how my sister was doing...(she also battled MS for almost as many years.) May your warm memories soften your sadness. Remember, what is LOVED remains always in your heart. May you feel our Heavenly Father's loving arms encircle you. We love you, Robyn Kaelin

& family

**Robyn Kaelin** - July 24, 2016 at 08:03 PM

---



“ I just found out the day of the viewing and the funeral services at 12: 00 P.M. on Thursday. I knew your dad had died on Sunday, but I hadn't been on my computer until today when I found out all the details. I so wanted to attend and support you five boys and the whole family. Your dad was an inspiration to me every time I saw him. He always had a smile on his face no matter what was going on really in his life. Your mother took care of him for many years and was a great wife and a great mother to you children. You all have turned out to be great people with successful lives because of your parents. Your father will not have too suffer with MS any longer in this life, and he made an impression on everyone in his life. You had a good dad.... Mr. Brown.

**Jack Brown Mr. Brown** - July 21, 2016 at 01:06 PM

---



“ We will sure miss his smiling face and sweet testimony at church. --The Crow Family

**Malinda Crow** - July 20, 2016 at 06:58 PM

---



“ Michael Frame is following this tribute.

**Michael Frame** - July 20, 2016 at 01:10 PM