

## LAWRENCE THOMAS FERLAN



Lawrence Thomas Ferlan died peacefully, surrounded by family, on June 3, 2023, in Federal Way, WA following a brief battle with esophageal cancer.

Larry was born on August 20, 1959 in Pittsburgh, PA, to Dr. Lawrence and Joan Ferlan. The first-born of seven children, Larry grew up in Natrona Heights, PA, graduating from St. Joseph's High School in 1977. He attended the Pittsburgh Institute of Art to study

photography, then enlisted in the Navy, serving honorably for six years, which took him to the west coast where he embraced a lifestyle that encouraged adventure. He found a job he loved as a commercial driver for Airgas, earning the "Safe Driver" award for ten years and a Certificate of Excellence. Larry was always grateful for the camaraderie of his coworkers who also became his good friends.

Larry had a number of hobbies: For years, he was a member of a group of "formation" skydivers, earning a "Gold Wings" expert parachutist badge. After two thousand jumps without incident, he felt that he was pushing his luck and stopped that particular hobby. But he had others - Larry loved to scuba-dive at exotic locations around the world and used his underwater photography skills in building an impressive collection of breathtaking photos of sea creatures large and small. He enjoyed mountain biking (until his second clavicle break), exploring Canada, had an impressive beer can collection (over 500), and loved progressive rock music - especially the British prog rock groups - King Crimson, Gentle Giant, and Porcupine Tree to name a few. Larry was quite knowledgeable about them, even driving around in his beloved van whose side panels were airbrushed with some of his favorite album covers. He played bass guitar and loved playing along with recordings of some of his favorite groups. Larry indeed marched to the beat of his own drum - the beat was probably 9/8.

Larry was an exceptional cook and connoisseur of the cuisines of many different nations - making his own ice cream and beer, introducing his siblings to his favorite local restaurants and ethnic dishes, and sharing his famous homemade root beer cookies with friends and family.

Larry was preceded in death by his younger brother, Michael (2014); and his father, Lawrence (2020). He is survived by his mother, Joan; and his siblings: Paul (Becky Ewing) of Charlottesville, VA; Mary (Ed Erway) of Lexington, KY; Virginia of Windsor, CT; Katherine (Andrew) Jackson of Woodbridge, CT; and Mark of Bedford, NH; nieces and nephews, Stuart Erway, Michelle (Chris) Erway Williams, Brett (Kristin) Erway; Elizabeth, Michael, Gigi, and Matt Machon; Claire, Emily, and Drew Jackson; Jack and Audrey Ferlan; and great-nieces and nephews in KY.

Larry's family would like to express their gratitude and appreciation for all his friends on both coasts who were so helpful during his last few months.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Allegheny Valley YMCA ([vpfymca.org](http://vpfymca.org)) or the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches ([avaoc.org](http://avaoc.org)). Larry loved his hometown and would like knowing some good was being done there. Funeral mass to be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 12:30pm, Guardian Angels Parish - Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 800 Montana Ave., Natrona Heights, PA 15065.

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