



## Lawrence M. Radeker

August 3, 1935 - July 7, 2024

Lawrence M. Radeker:

Born 8/3/1935 to Mahlon and Natalie Radeker in New York, Larry to his friends and family, passed after a short illness 7/7/24. Larry is survived by his daughter Brooke Radeker (Joyce Respass) of Bend, and predeceased by his wife Joanne Radeker, and daughter Kara Radeker, both also of Bend.

Larry graduated from Gallia Academy High School in 1954 and spent a short time at Miami University of Ohio before joining the Navy in 1955. He served as a shipsboard Radioman through 1959 when he left the Navy and became a Civilian Communications Operator for the US Air Force for four years before training as a communications operator for the US Department of State in 1964. Larry spent the next 30 years on tours both overseas and in the States before retiring in 1993.

Larry met his wife Joanne in storybook fashion by being assigned by the embassy in Trinidad & Tobago to bail her out of jail when she entered the country carrying all the wrong kind of books. Together they raised two daughters while traveling extensively before settling in Bend in 1987.

Larry loved a good long drive, both with his family in tow and on his own. After he retired he spent some time driving long haul 18 wheelers delivering a variety of goods and then transitioned to delivering Beaver Coaches across the country. He never tired of seeing new places, with a hot cup of black coffee, and loved the open road.

Larry was a deeply quiet person but was wickedly funny when he wanted to

be. He was an intense observer and missed very little. His wife was also his historian and she relayed amazing tales from their life together but Larry was never happier than just being with the people he loved, quietly. After the death of his wife Joanne in 2015, Larry remained at their home here in Bend, living independently with the help of his community of friends and family, until his passing.

He was the definition of a gentleman and he was deeply loved.

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ Hi Brooke, we have fond memories from when we knew your parents and you when we lived next door in Alice Springs, Australia in 1975. Our condolences on your father and mother passing. We have some old video from 8mm film of your parents and you. If you would like to see it please contact me at [jgndpet@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jgndpet@yahoo.com.au)  
Regards  
John

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**John** - November 09, 2024 at 11:24 PM

SP

“ Larry and I have been friends since 1966 when we were both assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Leopoldville, Congo (now called Kinshasa, Democratic republic of the Congo). We kept in contact since that time and then lived in the same town of Bend, Oregon for 30 years. I moved to Idaho in 2018 but frequently visited Bend and Larry several times a year. I last saw Larry in Mid-May 2024 and he was still the good humored guy that we have known all those years. He was more a brother than just a good friend. I will miss him.

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**Scott Powell** - July 15, 2024 at 05:40 PM

WN

“ I was so saddened to hear of the loss of Larry, a friend since our elementary school days in Gallipolis, Ohio. I still have the drawing he made for me when we were in the 6th or 8th grade of a dream house, leading me to think he might become an architect. It was such a joy to visit with Larry at our 50th and 60th high school reunions. Larry was always one of the kindest people I have ever known, the total epitome of a true gentleman. He will be sorely missed by everyone who had the great privilege of knowing him. Brooke, he was so blest to have you nearby. Please know my heartfelt condolences are with you.

*Wanda Folden Newport*

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**Wanda Folden Newport** - July 15, 2024 at 05:20 PM