



Laurence George Motl

October 22, 1927 - April 28, 2019

Edina--Laurence George Motl, 91, died peacefully on April 28, 2019.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Marion (Molloy) Motl; his two daughters Julia Motl Lowe (Nicholas) and Ann Motl Taylor (Neil) and four grandchildren: William, Charlie, Dylan and Lilly; as well as his beloved nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Born in 1927 in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Lillian (Woolsey) and Charles Motl, Larry was the youngest of four children. Following a brief stint in the army at the end of World War II, he received his BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota. Larry built a successful career in abrasives at 3M, working there for over 40 years. He spent almost a decade in 3M's international division, meeting Marion when he was based in London. He transferred back to the Twin Cities in the mid-1970s.

In his early adulthood, Larry was a favorite uncle to his siblings' and friends' children as well as an active outdoorsman. He was equally happy honing his golf game, skiing the Alps or sailing with friends. The capstone of his adventures was acquiring a sailboat, christened the Chapter 11, with a group of friends and sailing across the Atlantic from Lymington, England to the Azores in 1971.

As he and Marion built their life together in Edina, he relished nothing more than spending time with his family. He could be found at every sports game the girls played and became an enthusiastic 'band dad' when it became clear that Ann and Julia were more musically than athletically inclined.

He never lost his sense of adventure—guiding his family on vacations both within the States and in Europe, ensuring lots of history lessons were sprinkled in with the fun. In addition to travel adventures they had with the girls, Marion and Larry enjoyed many trips together in their retirement: regularly visiting Ann, Julia and their families in Boston as well as friends and family in London and Wales.

Larry never needed to be center stage, but he had a dry sense of humor, a sharp wit and a twinkle in his eye that could light up any room. He was curious about the world and passionate about history. Most of all, he was a kind and gentle man, a loving husband and father, and a wonderful papa.

His funeral will be held on Thursday, June 20 at 2:00 PM, with visitation at 1:00 PM; the Church of St. Patrick, Edina, MN. Contributions in his memory can be made to the Mayo Clinic Foundation (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/giving-to-mayo-clinic>).

Comments



“ Dear Marion,

So sorry & sad to learn of Larry's passing. He was a sweet man and you were a delightful couple. I hope to see you at Larry's visitation & mass. Deepest sympathy to the whole family on your loss. Cherish the memories.

Fondly,
Linda Richardson-Beaird

Linda Richardson-Beaird - Yesterday at 02:13 PM



“ So sad to hear about Uncle Larry, but I also know he lived a great life. Very nice tribute. I think I'll be in Minneapolis for business that week and can make the service. Excited to reconnect with you all.

Patrick McCoy - May 02 at 10:22 PM



“ Dear Marion, Julia, Ann and family,
Sending you my deepest sympathy as you mourn the loss of your wonderful husband and dad.
Larry was such a kind man, soft spoken yet full of wisdom and wit.
May all the sweet memories fill your heart with love.
Sending much love to you all.
Isabelle G.

Isabelle Geurkink - May 02 at 11:14 AM