



Lawrence (Larry) Meledin Nawrocki

October 31, 1946 - June 4, 2026

Lawrence Meledin Nawrocki (Larry), age 79, passed away peacefully on June 4, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family and friends.

Born in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh, Larry carried the values of his parents, Ted and Helen-hard work, integrity, and kindness-throughout his life. A talented athlete, Larry's love of football began early. He was recruited to the United States Naval Academy by Steve Belichick, the father of famed football coach Bill Belichick, and remained a passionate football fan throughout his life.

A proud Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy, Larry's service to his country led him to Puerto Rico, where he met the love of his life, Mary. What began as a chance meeting at the Officers' Club in San Juan blossomed into a beautiful marriage that spanned 53 years and built a family that became the center of Larry's world. Without fail, he bought Mary red roses for her birthday and their anniversary every year-a cherished tradition he lovingly upheld until the very end.

Following his service in the Navy, Larry attended William Mitchell College of Law, a path that brought him to Minnesota, where he would spend the rest of his life. He went on to build a distinguished career in patent law, establishing his own practice and partnership. While he was proud of his professional

accomplishments, Larry treasured most the friendships, faith community, and lasting relationships he built along the way-connections that became some of the greatest blessings of his life.

Larry and Mary were devoted members of Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights and with his friend Otto Lausten, started the parish's weekly prayer group that continues today. Through the prayer group, they found a cherished circle of friends who became like family. Larry was a beloved leader within the group, known for his wisdom, generosity, and steadfast faith. The Nawrockis' door was always open, and Larry loved bringing people together around the dinner table-his favorite place to share stories, laughter, and time with those he loved. He had a gift for making others feel welcome, and his friendships endured for decades.

Those who knew Larry will remember his quick wit, warm smile, and remarkable sense of humor. He loved to laugh, especially with his children. He was also known for his impeccable handwriting-a skill he took great pride in and one he encouraged his four children to develop. Many family members can still hear him reminding them that good handwriting mattered.

Larry found joy in life's simple pleasures. He loved spending time on the water fishing, and for many years he could be found cycling the roads and trails of Minnesota. Though Parkinson's disease eventually took those activities from him, it never diminished his appreciation for the outdoors and the beauty of God's creation.

Above all, Larry loved his family. He was a devoted husband, a proud father, and an adoring grandfather. Nothing brought him greater happiness than spending time with those he loved, sharing stories, offering guidance, and quoting favorite Nawrocki cult-film lines. "IT'S A SWEATER!"

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Thaddeus and Helen Nawrocki, and his sisters, Mary Ellen and Janet. He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Mary; his brother, John and wife, Heidi; his children, Sofia, Beth, Rosie, and Paul; their spouses, Michael, Drew, Christopher, and Maegan; and his nine cherished grandchildren, Vanessa, Gabe, Veronica, Lucy, Emmett, Samuel, Hayden, Ava, and Macie. He also leaves behind many dear friends and extended family members who were blessed by his kindness, faith, and friendship.

Larry's legacy is one of love, laughter, and unwavering devotion to family and to Christ. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Cemetery Details

Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 30. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
4030 Jackson Street Northeast
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 30. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
4030 Jackson Street Northeast
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Tribute Wall

EF

“ I remember looking at the family photo album with my grandpa Larry when I was in second grade. We sitting on the couch just talking to each other and looking at the book. I also thought it was hilarious whenever he'd crack the corniest dad jokes at the dinner table. He was a kind and loving man. I miss you Grandpa.

Love, Emmett

Emmett Fenton - Yesterday at 10:41 PM

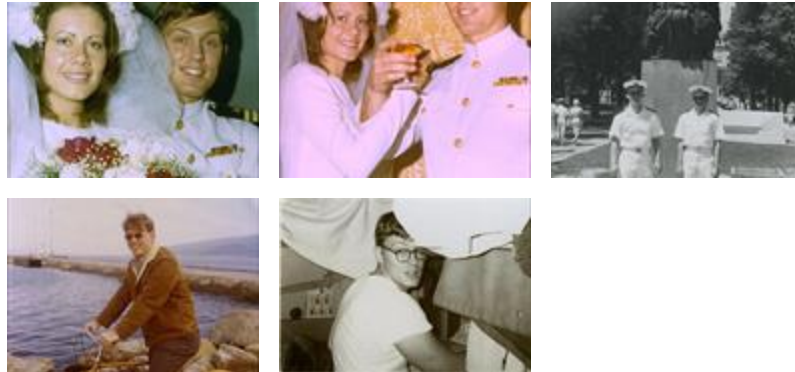
CS

“ My deepest condolences Paul. Prayers for you and your family in this time of change. ✨🕊️✨

Charlene Springer - Yesterday at 08:52 PM

AF

“ 28 files added to the album Larry Nawrocki



Andrew Fenton - Yesterday at 04:52 PM

DN

Cousin Larry was always a kind and top notch man sad to hear of his passing my deepest sympathy

Diane Nawrocki - Yesterday at 07:14 PM