



Lawren D. "Rene" "Larry" Mueller

June 8, 1926 - July 14, 2018

Lawren D. Mueller, age 92 of Saint Jacob, IL, died Saturday, July 14, 2018, at Rosewood Care Center in Alton, IL.

He was born June 08, 1926, in Highland, IL, the son of William and Sedelia (nee Weder) Mueller.

On August 20, 1949, he married Margaret R.E. "Micky" Ratchford at Highland, IL. She passed away on Thursday, August 17, 2006.

He was a member of Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church.

Lawren Mueller was born in Highland, Illinois, on June 8, 1926. Known as Rene as a boy and Larry as an adult, he grew up in Highland and graduated from Highland High School in 1944. Born to be an author, Mueller launched his writing career at the age of 11, publishing a newsletter that featured neighborhood news and national events like the Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling boxing bout. Mueller was a well-known outdoor writer and author of more than a dozen books. As the Hunting Dog Editor for Outdoor Life magazine from 1982 through 2006, he published a monthly dog column and numerous articles on extreme hunting and outdoor adventures. He also wrote articles for the major national outdoor magazines Field & Stream and Sports Afield, and Gun Digest, and for Outdoor Illinois and smaller hunting publications. Mueller

and his wife Micky traveled the country, visiting nearly every state to interview experts for his articles. Mueller's most recent books include "Extreme Outdoor Adventures: Who Survives And Why" and "Bear Attacks of the Century," both published by Lyons Press. The latter was featured in an episode of the ABC-TV series "In An Instant" about a man who survived a grizzly bear attack using survival tips he recalled from Mueller's book. Other publications by Mueller include books on bird dog and retriever training, pet homes, and electrical wiring. His first book, "The Calculating Fisherman," included a unique slide calculator to predict the best fishing conditions based on temperature, barometric pressure, oxygen, weather, light and other variables. His weekly newspaper column "Hunting & Fishing by Larry Mueller" ran in the Highland News Leader and the Belleville News-Democrat for 24 years, beginning in 1958. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Mueller enlisted during World War II just weeks after high school graduation and a day before his 18th birthday. He served as an electrician's mate in the Pacific, with assignments in Sasebo and Nagasaki, Japan, and Leyte in the Philippines. He loved ocean sailing and served two years in the Navy Reserves, spending "vacation" time crossing the Panama Canal. After his Navy service, Mueller earned an associates degree in electronics/electrical engineering and taught at Rankin Technical College. He owned and operated the television repair shop TeleTronics in the 1950s and 1960s. Mueller enjoyed studying the history of his 150-year-old home in St. Jacob and tracing his family ancestry back to Michael Deck (Dyche), who established Deck's Prairie well before settlers came to the Highland area.

Survivors include :

Daughter - Beverly S. Palmer, Aledo, IL

Son - William P. (JoAnne) Mueller, Joppa, MD

Daughter - Mary M. (Anthony) Schanuel, Wentzville, MO

Daughter - Anne P. Cicero, Saint Jacob, IL

Grandchild - Margie (Mike) Wigan

Grandchild - Rachel (Mark) Brown

Grandchild - Jesse Mueller
Grandchild - Melissa (Ed) Burkeley
Grandchild - Mathew J. (Stephanie) Cicero
Grandchild - Adam Mueller
Grandchild - Noel Mueller
Grandchild - Shane Mueller
Grandchild - Conor Mueller
Great Grandchild - Mikaela Hoover
Great Grandchild - Hannah Brown
Great Grandchild - Ethan Brown
Great Grandchild - Aubrey Brown
Great Grandchild - Johnathan M. Cicero
Great Grandchild - Nathan M. Cicero

He was preceded in death by :

Father - William J. P. Mueller

Mother - Sedelia --- Mueller nee Weder - Died 4/6/1987

Wife - Margaret R.E. "Micky" Mueller nee Ratchford - Died 8/17/2006

Daughter - Michele M. Mueller - Died 9/21/1969

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL and from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church in Marine, IL, with Father Paul Hibing officiating.

Interment will be at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made as Masses or to Alton BJC Hospice.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Visitation

JUL 19. 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Tribute Wall

DR

“ 2 files added to the album *Larry's Celebrations*



Diana Rogers - July 18, 2018 at 09:55 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Schanuel - July 17, 2018 at 10:50 PM

MS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Schanuel - July 17, 2018 at 09:57 PM

BP

“ 4 files added to the album bev



Bev Palmer - July 17, 2018 at 03:44 PM

DK

“ Ruthie and I lived in the log cabin {1st house on the right} on four corners Lane.

1985 to 1990.

Mickey and Larry were great neighbors. they would have us over, I remember having pheasant under glass one night.

Larry had our son Mike in one of his articles checking for ticks I believe. to add realism Larry had him wear a slicker and with a squirt bottle added water dripping from his nose. Lots of great memories/

Dave Korte

Dave Korte - July 17, 2018 at 02:46 PM

 Anne
Cicero

You both were great friends to Mom and Dad, and Dad and I loved coming to hear you play!

Anne Cicero - July 17, 2018 at 05:03 PM



“ Larry Mueller was like a Father to me, after I had lost my own Father 4 years before I met him.

He taught me how to Fish & Hunt, the love of camping in the outdoors and many other skills as he would take the time to be a friend, to listen and to share laughs and to impart skills.

We spent the summer of 1974 renovating his house in St. Jacob, IL prior to Mick & him moving in several years later.

He taught me how to do plumbing, electrical, put on a new roof, brick work and sandblasting just to name a few. In 1987 he returned the favor and helped me build my recording studio in Thousand Oaks California, along with the “Best Dog Gone” - Chicken/Duck/Rabbit Pen in the State.

He loved to fish and we shared many memories from fishing in the Pacific Ocean off of Santa Barbara, CA to fishing his ponds in St. Jacob.

It has been great to share these last three Birthday’s with him and the family, and see how he loved Bluegrass Music.

Larry,

You are loved, and sorely missed and you indeed made a difference in this life!

Phil Jost



Phil Jost - July 17, 2018 at 02:39 PM

PS

Great story, i had no idea. Sounds like he was a helluva friend.

Phillip Wayne Sheridan - July 17, 2018 at 06:38 PM

Anne
Cicero

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Anne Cicero - July 17, 2018 at 02:01 PM

Anne
Cicero

This is the Wall of Honor in Highland IL. I purchased a brick for Dad - it is pretty much in the center and in the medium size lighter red stone, touching my son's brick, Captain Mathew Cicero AFA/USAF, and my 4th great 4th great grandfather, Michael Deck.

Anne Cicero - July 17, 2018 at 03:16 PM

Anne
Cicero

I was also able to have Mom's 1st husband and biological father to Beverly Palmer, Walter "Bud" Maden, honored with a large flag and memorial plaque. His memorial is left of the center larger plaque on top of the Wall, and left of the smaller general memorial plaque.

Anne Cicero - July 17, 2018 at 03:19 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Diana Rogers - July 17, 2018 at 01:26 PM



Lawren Dale Mueller, (aka Rene, aka Larry), passed into God's Loving Hands on 7-14-18 at age 92 years, 1 month and 6 days old at Rosewood Care Center in Alton IL. He was born on 6-8-1926 on Cypress Street Highland Illinois 62249 at home to William John Peter Mueller and Sedelia nee Weder Mueller who both predeceased him in 1987 in Highland IL, and was raised on Zschokke Street Highland IL 62249. Lawren's nickname during his formative years was Rene, however, upon the suggestion of a friend in the late 1950's, he chose the name Larry and that became the name under which he wrote. If you asked him about his greatest accomplishment, he would immediately state, Micky, the great love of his life! Micky, (Margaret Ellen Ann nee Ratchford-Maden) and Rene met and it was love at first sight. He found her to be unlike other girls his age, in that she was very intelligent, no drama, or girlish fancies – she was as down-to-earth as he was. He saw a future with this beautiful brunette and set himself on the course to win her over. They married August 20, 1949, and their mutual eternal love lasted until her death August 17, 2006. Now they are reunited in that great love they had - always putting the other first. He graduated from Highland High School on May 24, 1944 at the age of 17. On June 7, 1944, at the age of 17 he entered the United States Navy one day before his 18th birthday, during World War II, serving on the USAT "Sea Cat" crossing the 180 Meridian on January 18, 1945 under the Domain of the Golden Dragon as ruler of the 180 Meridian, and inducted into the "Silent Mysteries of the Far East". He was later inducted under the "IMPERIVIM NEPTVNI-REGIS" via his ship travels with the USAT "Sea Cat" into the "Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep". Larry was in the Artificer Branch of the Navy as an Electrician's Mate 3rd Class (EM3c), graduating in the top 1/3rd of his class. He served in the United States Navy from 1943 – 1946 in the Philippines, at Sasebo, Leyte, and Nagasaki where he witnessed the absolute destruction from the dropping of the Atomic Bomb. Larry was born to be a writer, starting his writing career at the age of 11, with the assistance of his favorite teacher and neighbor, who encouraged and assisted him with the printing of his Neighborhood Newsletter in 1930 on a gel on canvas copier. He covered neighborhood events as well as national events like the Joe Louis fights - famously the Joe Louis vs Max Schmeling bout. While told by a high school teacher that he would never make it as a writer, Larry became world famous in his writing career, with his published numerous articles and some of his 16 books published in other languages and circling the globe in English. He often credited his wife, Micky, with her complete support and diligent belief that he could do anything he wanted to do. He started his professional writing career on April 11, 1958 with his first "Hunting and Fishing by Larry Mueller" column for the Belleville News Democrat and the Highland News Leader, writing this column for 24 years. During that time, he also wrote for numerous magazines, some of which were Outdoor Illinois and the

Big Three: Sports Afield, Outdoor Life, and Field and Stream. He wrote his first book, The Calculating Fisherman, and it was published in 1974. As he transitioned from the business he built at the age of 23, Teletronic's Service Company, a television repair shop, into writing, he and his beloved Micky, traveled the United States in search of new and exciting information to write about. Those trips produced fodder for many Adventure Stories, and as he became more well known for his tight, clean, and exciting writing style, he came to the attention of Clare Connelly, Editor at Outdoor Life Magazine.

Clare Connelly requested Larry come to New York to discuss a regular column, Hunting Dogs by Larry Mueller, and hired him on the spot. He wrote this column for 24 years. He was also invited to be on the Johnny Carson show, but never seeking the limelight, he politely declined to his 17-year old daughter's chagrin who wanted desperately to go with him to New York. He never considered himself famous, though he was, and was always surprised when a reader of his works saw him at various places in Highland and elsewhere and extolled his writing virtues and delight upon meeting and talking with him. His articles have been included in numerous other books and national publications such as Gun Digest and he was asked to proofread many books from other authors and provide Introductions and Forwards to many of those books – always generous with his time and talent. He was known for his meticulous research on hunting, fishing and other subjects, incorporating his love of dogs fostered at the age of 5 when his father, William Mueller, brought home his first puppy and his mother's, Sedelia (nee Weder) Mueller's, meticulous nature.

Larry was born in a time when hunting was still a valuable life skill, and has hunted nearly every species of winged fowl eligible for hunting during that time, as well as every four-legged animal in the United States as well as poisonous snakes – taking him (and Micky) to all of the contiguous States in the United States. Larry, always the ethical hunter, had great respect and admiration for nature. During much of his life, he had 4-5 various types of hunting dogs reflecting his hunting interests. He wrote articles for Purina, and others on dog health, nutrition, and dog supplements to increase dog's health and intelligence. He worked on dog genetics several decades before the concept of genetics was mainstream - assisting breeders. His training methods were kind and appropriate encouraging dogs to do their best. He inspired titles to other writer's books, wrote introductions and forwards, and was a professional photographer. He openly recognized that "writing is 5% talent and 95% sweat equity", but he loved putting in that "sweat" to make sure his articles were accurate, easy to read and understand, and exciting.

Larry, a respected author, was awarded the title of "Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels" by the Governor of Kentucky, as an ambassador of Good Will and Fellowship Around the World. It is the highest award by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is commissioned for an individual's contribution to his community, state or nation, and for

special achievements. He is a “Colonel” amongst others such as President Lyndon B. Johnson, Winston Churchill, astronaut John Glenn, Muhammad Ali, Betty White, and Elvis Presley to name a few. He attended electricians school in Chicago IL when he was 23 after serving in the United States Navy. He was also in the Naval National Guard and delighted in his “vacation” to the Panama Canal; he loved sailing. In the late 1950’s and early 1960’s, he attended Belleville Area College to foster his writing career, and was an instructor in Electronics at Ranken Technical College, in St. Louis Missouri.

Larry and his daughter, Anne Cicero, spent many years working on his ancestry, tracing one of his lineage lines back to Michael Deck (Dyche) and well beyond to 1639 Hess, Germany. He was proud of his relationship to Michael Deck, his fourth great-grandfather. Anne was able to find his military pension information confirming that family lore was correct – Michael Deck (Micheal Dyche) fought with George Washington as his personal Aid in Yorktown, in the American-Indian War where he found this area to which later return, and with Abraham Lincoln’s grandfather, also named Abraham Lincoln, settling on Deck’s Prairie long before many came to settle in the Highland area.

He loved all of his children: Michele Mary Mueller (deceased 9-21-1969) Anne P. (Mueller) Cicero, Beverly (Ron) Mueller – Palmer, William (Deanna Quast, and Joanne Dobbs) Mueller, and Mary (Phil Jost–Anthony Schanuel) Mueller-Jost-Schanuel, as well as his grandchildren: Mathew Cicero, Rachel Jost-Brown, Margaret (Margie) Palmer-Hoover-Wigans, Melissa Jost-Burley, and Jesse, Adam, Noel, Shane and Conor Mueller. He also delighted in his great grandchildren: Johnathan and Nathan Cicero; Hannah, Ethan, and Aubry Brown, and Mikaela Hoover. On behalf of Dad, I would also want to thank his many friends and family members in the Highland general area, and those across the country, for their friendships, kindnesses, and great times shared. He and my mother never went anywhere, where they did not make a good friend.

Anne Cicero - July 17, 2018 at 02:54 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Diana Rogers - July 17, 2018 at 01:22 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Lawren D. "Rene" "Larry" Mueller.*



July 17, 2018 at 11:43 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Mary Schanuel - July 16, 2018 at 06:20 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Larry's Celebrations*



T Schanuel - July 16, 2018 at 05:56 PM

LO

“ *My earliest recollection of Rene was as a very young girl. My family was spending the evening with Dad's "Uncle Bill". The one who took them hunting and fishing when they were just boys themselves. We were outside the clubhouse that evening when Rene brought some eggs he'd found, and pulled out his pocket knife to open them. They were snake eggs! I jumped back but was intrigued all the same. I'd never seen such a sight. He was a teacher even then. Sending prayers and remembering him fondly.*

Laurie Oestringer - July 16, 2018 at 11:13 AM