



Lawrence R. "Larry" Frey

September 2, 1942 - January 23, 2026

Lawrence R. "Larry" Frey, age 83 of Highland, IL, died Friday, January 23, 2026, at Banner Hospital - South in Tucson, AZ.

He was born on Wednesday, September 2, 1942, in Highland, IL, the son of Lawrence Paul and Clarice Dorothy (nee Kayser) Frey.

On Saturday, March 30, 1985, he married Kathy (nee Gooch) Frey in Tucson, Arizona, who survives.

He was a member of Saint Paul Catholic Church. He was also a member of V.F.W. Post #5694, American Legion Post #439 and Experimental Aircraft Association.

Larry graduated from St. Paul High School in 1960 and enlisted in the US Air Force. He spent four years in the military as a surface-to-air missile electronics technician. After the Air Force, he joined IBM in Chicago as a field engineer. During his career he traveled all over the US, living in Chicago, Poughkeepsie, St. Louis, Springfield, IL & MO., Tucson and Dallas retiring as a senior engineering manager.

As a young man, he was an Eagle Scout, managed the Highland Swimming Pool and was very active in the community. He always loved airplanes. In the

second and third grades, he spent more time with the Principal for drawing airplane pictures rather than listening in class. He learned to fly in the early 70's, flew with the French Connection Aerobatic Team, built his own RV-7A and retired from flying after 52 years earning the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

During his retirement from IBM, he and his wife spent four years traveling and living in their motorhome. They moved to Highland in 2001 and joined the American Legion Post 439 and VFW Posts 5694 where he served on the Honor Guard team.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy, sons Brently Frey of Ft. Lauderdale and Blake Frey of St. Louis, brothers Dwight (Audré) Frey of Grand Rapids & Rick (Debra) Frey of Highland. Many wonderful nieces, nephews and cousins also survive.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence P. Frey (died 11/14/2003) and Clarice D. Frey, nee Kayser (died 7/16/2005).

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

Memorial and visitation Saturday, May 9, 12:00 to 4:00 at the Highland VFW Post 5694 with military honors at 2:00. Graveside service Monday, May 11, 10:00 at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Catholic School Foundation or Highland Area Community Foundation.

Upcoming Events

Memorial Service

MAY 9. 12:00 PM (CT)

Highland VFW Post #5694
1900 VFW Rd
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-6367

Military Honors

MAY 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Highland VFW Post #5694
1900 VFW Rd
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-6367

Graveside

MAY 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery
Michael Road
Highland, IL 62249

Tribute Wall

EC

“We here at Wicks Aircraft & Motorsports would like to extend our deepest condolences. Larry visited us many times over the years, and he will be greatly missed.”

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