



Lawrence T Messick, Sr.

JAN 16, 1922 - JUL 23, 2016



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Lawrence Thomas Messick, Sr. of Rehoboth Beach, formerly of Wilmington, Delaware died Saturday, July 23, 2016 at home surrounded by his loving family. He was 94 years old.

Larry was born in Clarksboro, New Jersey to Arthur Benjamin Franklin Messick and his wife Teresa Holsinger Messick. His siblings Beatrice, Franklin, Robert and Janice predeceased him.

He graduated from Swedesboro High School in 1939 where he was an accomplished trumpet player. While working for his father's home building business to earn money for medical school he was drafted into the Army. He was part of the force liberating France landing on Utah Beach, Normandy. After serving in the Signal Corps he was chosen to play in Gen. George Patton's band where he completed his military service.

Returning to Temple University he graduated in 1950 with an Education degree and then the University of Pennsylvania for his Master's of Education. Larry became a music educator and Director of the Wilmington All-City Orchestra. He retired from teaching in 1977.

For a second career, Larry built custom homes for clients throughout Delaware. He pursued his passion for music with his Dixieland band. Avidly interested in civic causes, he served as Chairman of the Board of Elections. After losing a close election to Joe Biden in 1970 for New Castle County Council, it was a source of pride that they remained friends over the years capped by a memorable visit with Joe to the White House in May, 2016.

Larry Messick was a gentleman. Until the day he died, he possessed intellectual curiosity, resourcefulness and optimism. He was a participant rather than an observer of life. He was a sweet and caring all-around good guy.

Larry is survived by his devoted wife and most cherished best friend, Blanche Pack



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Messick and their children Andrea Scott and her husband, Rodney, Daniel Stokes and his wife Susan Henderson, Mimi Otto and her husband, Thomas, Valarie Elliott and her husband, Richard, and L. Thomas Messick, Jr. and his wife Alice Bennett and grandchildren Megan Martz, Peter Martz, Molly Scott, Nat Scott, Susanna Gewirtz, Katherine Stokes, Nick Stokes, Dr. Alex Otto Newhook, Tyler Messick and Victoria Messick and six great- grandchildren.

Larry was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church. A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday Aug. 11, 2016 at 11 a.m. at Rehoboth Beach Country Club. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children or Delaware Hospice.

Arrangements handled by Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Lewes, DE.

Please sign Mr. Messick's online guestbook.



Tribute Wall

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FH

Floyd James Handley posted:

Mr. Messick was my splendid piano teacher -- I walked across Centerville Rd to their house in Brookmeade II. He taught me both classical music and popular tunes that I still play.

October 18 at 4:37 PM

BM

Bob & Kathrine Mergl posted:

Bob and I had the opportunity to spend time with Larry and Blanche only a few times, mostly at their granddaughter Alex and Tim's wedding a few years ago. It did not take long to be part of their family and enjoy the spirit of life that both exuded. Larry will be missed by many, not only his closest family members and friends, but also those of us who were just getting to know him. Condolences to all family members. Bob and Kathrine Mergl

August 10 at 4:18 PM

CA

Claudia Aden lit a candle in honor of Lawrence.

Larry and Blanche were lifelong friends of my parents, Dodie and Bruce Aden. I got to know the Messicks during my visits to Milford. I have never met warmer people. Their love extended to everyone lucky enough to know them. Beau Biden'f Foundation has another supporter in Larry's honor. Sending Blanche my love, Claudia



August 3 at 6:00 AM

BJ

Bill Jefferson posted:

Our condolences to Blanche and her wonderful family. Larry was "SPECIAL" A wise and good friend with a great smile and "what a head of hair". He will be missed but we are blessed with wonderful memories. Norma and Bill Jefferson

August 2 at 6:25 AM

AM

Amy Matarese posted:

Mr. Messick was our music teacher at Colwyck School and Rose Hill school in the 1950s. We send our condolences; we are thinking of Mr. Messick and his family. -Richard Snyder and Anthony Piovoso

August 1 at 7:14 AM



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RS

Richard Snyder posted:

Richard Snyder and Anthony Piovoso send our condolences to mr. Messiest family. He was our music teacher in rose hill and colwyck schools, in new castle Delaware.

July 30 at 10:39 AM

MA

Marge Altergott posted:

Here's a memory from a bit ago...after their trip to New Orleans, Larry made us our very first Bananas Foster, complete with flames and elegant presentation!! And then there's sitting with Blanche at one of Larry's beach venues to hear him play. Fritz and I are so blessed to have visited and shared memories just a few days ago. Sitting now in our breakfast room Larry converted from an open porch, my favorite room in our old house. Our love to the whole family. Marge and Fritz

July 30 at 7:56 AM

CK

Carolee Burton Kunz posted:

I believe Mr. Messick was my music teacher at Heritage Elementary School c. 1975, and I remember his class vividly. He exposed us to interesting instruments like the ukulele, and he patiently indulged us in our love of pop music. I don't think it was an easy job, but he worked hard at teaching and I won't forget him!- Carolee Burton Kunz

July 29 at 3:46 AM

LP

Linda Messick Parrish posted:

What a lovely tribute to a wonderful man ! My favorite memory is when I went up to New Jersey to visit family on my 50th birthday. We went over to Lawrence and Blanche's house in Wilmington for a family dinner. After, he got out his trumpet and played for us. Such a talented man. He was my favorite Uncle. I didn't live near him most of my life, but enjoyed when we all got together, especially at my Grandmom's house. Now, he is up there with his brothers and sisters looking down on us as our Guardian Angel. Peace and love for all the family.

July 28 at 4:58 AM

SD

Sandy Dixon posted:

I just wanted to express my condolences to Blanche, Danny, Mimi and Andy, who were so gracious to me as the new kid on the block in Seabreeze. Sandy (Obier) Dixon

July 27 at 9:02 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Lawrence by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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