



Larry Roy Olpin

June 4, 1938 - May 24, 2024

Larry Roy Olpin passed away at home on May 24, 2024. Larry was 85 years old. Larry was born in Fillmore, Utah on June 4, 1938, to Roy D. and Arlene C. Olpin. He grew up in Fillmore with his three brothers in the funeral home of the family's mortuary business. Larry is preceded in death by his older brothers Roger and Owen. Larry is survived by his younger brother Ed.

After graduating from Millard High School, in Fillmore, Larry attended Utah State University in Logan, Utah, where he met the love of his life, Margaret Gayle Muir. Margaret and Larry were married in Logan on August 10, 1962, and shared their lives together for over 61 years and had four children, Rex, Alan, Matt and Ann. Larry continued his education at the University of Utah, where he discovered his love for literature. He graduated with both a bachelor and master degree in English from the University of Utah. Larry and Margaret travelled across the country to pursue a PhD in English at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The focus of his dissertation was the poetry of Emily Dickinson.

Larry began his teaching career in 1969 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri where he taught continuously until his retirement in 2001, except for two years when he taught at Bosphorus University in Istanbul, Turkey, as a Fulbright Scholar in American Literature and a semester abroad in London. During his time teaching, he spent time leading the English

department as the chair of the department. During his career, Larry spent time searching used bookstores for rare books to add to his personal home library. He also became one of the top collectors of Civil War Novels, specifically novels set in Missouri. Over the years, he built an impressive collection of rare Emily Dickinson books, Civil War novels and a collection of books based on rivers in the United States.

In retirement Larry spent his time focused on his hobbies. Larry established himself in the local community as a Master Gardener and member of the local tree board and spent countless hours working in the yard with Margaret at their home in Warrensburg and shared many vegetables with neighbors. Birding became a passion for Larry as he pursued birds around the country, eventually seeing 600 different species of birds. Larry and Margaret also travelled the country to see the adventures of their 13 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

The family appreciates the outpouring of love and well wishes extended at this time. Larry will be missed by all who knew him, and all would agree that he was a jolly good fellow.

Tribute Wall

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“ My sincerest condolences to Margaret and family. Larry was deeply loved by family and friends. His warmth, wit, and charm will be greatly missed. I birded with Larry on several occasions including Burroughs Audubon Society field trips to Knob Noster SP and on area Christmas Bird Counts. Larry was an excellent birder and a wonderful field companion. On one occasion, Larry, Tom Gaines and myself pulled off of a highway into a rural church parking lot to get a better view of several Bobolinks. As we had our binoculars on the birds, a man pulled into the parking lot, got out of his vehicle and approached with his right hand slightly behind his back. He asked us what we were doing, and Larry explained that we had seen Bobolinks as we passed by the church and doubled back to have a closer look. Seeing that the man still had his hand partially hidden, Larry asked "Is that a gun you're wearing?" (He was) The man relaxed and said that he was the pastor and that there had been a number of recent break ins. After introductions and some small talk, Larry showed the pastor the Bobolinks through his binoculars, and we continued on our way.

Mike Stoakes - June 04, 2024 at 10:35 AM