



## Phillip Larry Boucher

February 26, 1945 - February 22, 2020

1945-2020

Phillip “Larry” Boucher was born July 26, 1945, in Albuquerque, in the era of WWII. While on a naval destroyer, his father, Terry, received news of Larry’s birth. Larry grew up in Belen, and graduated from Belen High School at the young age of 16. He attended Carnegie Tech, now Carnegie Mellon, and eventually transferred to the NM School of Mines in Socorro, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in physics. He later earned a master degree in physics and electrical engineering. Larry worked for Global Star at Johnson Space Center in New Mexico, where he was involved with the satellite program. He later moved to San Jose, Calif., to work for Lockheed Martin’s global communication department, traveling to Europe, Africa and Central and South America to install ground satellite communications. While at Carnegie Tech, Larry became a piper in the Kiltie Band, playing the bagpipes throughout his life. His many hobbies included spelunking, mountain climbing and collecting Native American pottery, which he later donated to New Mexico State University. An avid hot air balloonist, Larry was one of the earliest pilots to fly in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, and taught pilot balloon safety classes nationally. He ultimately owned and flew nine balloons. Not just a pilot, Larry also crewed internationally for the beloved Darth Vader balloon. Larry served in the U.S. Army as a chaplain’s assistant SP5 in Vietnam. While enlisted, he received the National Defense Service

Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Devices, and the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars. Larry was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite of Free Masonry and the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association. After a valiant fight with Parkinson's Disease brought on by Agent Orange exposure while in Vietnam, Larry passed away at 6 p.m. on Feb. 22, 2020, while residing at the Beehive Assisted Living Village in Albuquerque.

Larry is preceded in death by his daughter, Dawna Leigh Boucher; his wife, Marijean Boucher; and his father, Mayo Terry Boucher. He is survived by his mother, Mary Catherine Lake Boucher, of Belen; his sister, Terri Sue Vrabel (Charles); niece, Kim Wickens (Mike); nephew, Robert Boucher; great-nephew, Connor Wickens; stepson, Jeff Balding; stepdaughter, Patty D'Amore (Marc); sister-in-law, Barbara Carmack; aunt, Eleanor Love; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Viewing will be held at 9 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 27, at the First Baptist Church in Belen, followed by a Celebration of Life at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Terrace Grove Cemetery in Belen.

Pallbearers are Robert Boucher, Charles Vrabel, Mike Wickens, Connor Wickens, Dave Wallerstedt, David Lake, Robert Lake and John Love.

The family sincerely thanks Larry's many friends and relatives for their love and friendship. A special thanks to the staff at Beehive Village for their outstanding care during Larry's last years. Special recognition to Chris, Carlos and Chef Brenda for their exceptional attention to Larry, allowing him to face this tragic disease with dignity. Please sign Larry's on line tribute at [romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://romerofuneralhomenm.com).

# Previous Events

## Viewing

FEB 27. 9:00 AM (MT)

First Baptist Church of Belen  
401 Becker Ave  
Belen, NM 87002

## Celebration of Life

FEB 27. 10:00 AM (MT)

First Baptist Church of Belen  
401 Becker Ave  
Belen, NM 87002

## Interment

FEB 27. 11:00 AM (MT)

Terrace Grove Cemetery  
1200 W Aragon Rd  
Belen, NM 87002

# Tribute Wall

AN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Anneke** - February 29, 2020 at 01:50 PM

AN

“ *My sincerest condolences on Larry's passing. I met Larry for the first time in 1990 when I was invited to crew for he and Bob Hammel at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. A window was opened to many adventures and hours of bonding in conversation and shared interests. Trips during Fiesta's 9 days to wonderful places and sights and tapping into Larry's knowledge of Native American pottery, his love of playing his bagpipes (La Cucaracha will be indelibly imprinted in my brain as played by Larry on his bagpipes). So many memories, it would take a while to write them all down. Rest in peace my friend. You will be missed here, but welcomed with loving arms by your beloved Marjjean and Dawna. "Larry Alert" ladies.*

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**Anneke** - February 29, 2020 at 01:47 PM

AW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Alice Ward** - February 28, 2020 at 11:40 PM

AW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Alice Ward** - February 28, 2020 at 11:38 PM

BR

“ *Barbara Romero lit a candle in memory of Phillip Larry Boucher*



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**Barbara Romero** - February 27, 2020 at 12:55 PM

EG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Elsa Glassman** - February 26, 2020 at 11:58 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip Larry Boucher.*



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February 26, 2020 at 10:12 PM

ST

“ Larry was a legendary hot air balloon pilot in the Mesilla Valley. My husband and I crewed for him with his "Old Yeller" balloon. Larry helped us get on the crew for Darth Vader and Yoda special shape balloons, which has been a great adventure and many good times for us. We with think of him often and always when we see a balloon in the sky.

*We are very sorry for your loss of Larry, we send our condolences to all friends and family. He was a gentle person and a good friend to many.*

*Sue Terebenetz and Dan Erhard*



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**Susan Terebenetz** - February 26, 2020 at 09:13 PM

TV

*Thank you so much for telling us of your special connection to Larry. He loved ballooning and had so many wonderful friends in the sport.*

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**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 09:48 PM

SL

“ Larry has given me memories that I carry through my life. We had most of our memories when I was young. As We both moved away and went our separate ways. While we were young, we did many things:

..swimming

..tattoni fights

..sleeping in the orchard in grandpa's tent

..hobo birthday party and got to go into a caboose

..caught crawfish (crawdads)

..sling shot wars (wonder that we made it through our childhood alive.

Just to name a few.

Larry was very smart, always better grades than me. To me he seemed to be working on the forefront of technology.

Larry has gone on to be with Jesus and leaves us with wonderful memories.

My prayers are that the Lord will cover all of you with his Peace, Love and Strength to get through the days ahead.

Cousin Steve Lake

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**Steven Lake** - February 26, 2020 at 07:13 PM

TV

Thank you Steve for sharing these wonderful memories. Love to you and Peggy and family.

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**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 09:52 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Phillip Larry Boucher.



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February 26, 2020 at 06:39 PM

WH

“ with fond memories Patti Havstad purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Phillip Larry Boucher.



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**with fond memories Patti Havstad** - February 26, 2020 at 02:57 PM

LF

“ The Knudson, Wilson, and Fjelseth families are so proud of our cousin Larry. He was an honorable and caring man throughout his life, and even during the months that ended in his life. My latest memory is of Larry at BeeHive Homes organizing, calming, and leading the patients in their daily lives. My husband & I witnessed Larry's loving interactions with others, when we were visiting my brother-in-law. May God bless his mom and family. Skeeter & Don Fjelseth

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**Lorraine (Skeeter) & Don Fjelseth** - February 26, 2020 at 12:37 PM

TV

Thank you so much Skeeter. It was nice to see you at Beehive. What a nice tribute to Larry during such a difficult time in his life.

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**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 06:19 PM

CD

“I remember Larry from school. What a life, and such wonderful accomplishments. Well done Larry . RIP mate, now together again with your daughter and your wife, who I am sure were most happy to great you in heaven.  
My deepest condolences to his mother who has lived long enough to watch over her son.

*CruzAnne Pena-Dziuk Class of '62*

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**CruzAnne Dziuk** - February 26, 2020 at 12:14 PM

TV

*Thank you so much for your comforting words. We love hearing stories of Larry.*

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**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 06:23 PM

DK

“Dave and Linda Kirby purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Phillip Larry Boucher.



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**Dave and Linda Kirby** - February 26, 2020 at 11:40 AM

 Rosabeth  
McConnell  
Singleterry

“Many memories made with Larry as a school classmate and growing up together at First Baptist.....lots of fun times and many more to come! See you in Heaven Larry....lots to catch up on!  
Rosabeth

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**Rosabeth McConnell Singleterry** - February 26, 2020 at 12:10 AM

TV

*Rosabeth, Thank you for your warm greeting for Larry. He'll be there to welcome you! Thank you for notifying his classmates.*

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**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 06:26 PM

JW

“ *My thoughts and prayers to this family, especially our friends, Terri and Charles. Although I only knew of your brother from you, it is obvious what a special person Larry was. May your memories help to comfort you at this time. Love and prayers. Jan Wilson.*

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**Jan Wilson** - February 25, 2020 at 11:18 PM

TV

*Jan, thank you dear friend. Your kind words touched my heart.*

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**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 06:27 PM

EG

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Elsa Glassman** - February 25, 2020 at 09:08 PM

EG

*Larry was so generous and enjoyed sharing his love of hot-air ballooning . . .*

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**Elsa Glassman** - February 25, 2020 at 09:12 PM

EG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Elsa Glassman** - February 25, 2020 at 08:35 PM

EG

*I have fantastically fond memories of years of crewing for American Flyer and Bear Claw around the state and am so grateful to Larry (and his good buddy and co-pilot, Bob) for giving me those opportunities; I especially cherish the memory of Larry playing his bagpipes at Malcom's funeral - that was such a generous gift to both Malcom and me! I have Larry and his crew to thank for my decision to move to New Mexico from Boston almost 30 years ago - a life-changing and uplifting decision (literally and figuratively). Sometimes people walk into your life and leave footprints on your heart . . . Larry was one of those people for me. - Elsa Glassman*

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**Elsa Glassman** - February 25, 2020 at 09:03 PM

TV

*Thank you, Elsa, for such a touching tribute. It means so much to my mother and me to read these tributes to my brother, Larry.*

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**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 06:32 PM

MS

“ I met Larry in 1969 at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. While at the school he shared his interest in music and presented me with a small gift from his leather-crafts. Time separated my family from Larry but we met up again in Las Cruces when he landed a job at the Test Facility where my then husband worked. Our friendship continued and included his new bride, Mary Jean. Time again separated the two families but we kept in touch over the years. After he moved back to NM, I visited with Larry every time he came to Albuquerque for the Balloon Fiesta. We went to the Indian Market in Santa Fe so he could contact a pottery dealer for some of his collection. I lost contact with him as Parkinson's impacted his life. His mother, Mary, was instrumental in connecting me to Larry at Beehive, where I visited him. I will remember how he would walk me to the door when it was time for me to leave. Good bye Larry.



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**Marilynn Szydowski** - February 25, 2020 at 07:05 PM

TV

Marilynn, thank you for this tribute to Larry. Mother and I are touched reading these stories about Larry. I know he cherished your friendship. Thank you.

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**Terri Sue Boucher Vrael** - February 26, 2020 at 06:36 PM

PR

“ Mary and Terri Sue, I am so sorry to hear of Larry's passing. Many prayers and blessings to each of you. Pat Rahn (Patsy Roberts)



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**Pat Rahn** - February 25, 2020 at 02:57 PM

TV

*Patsy, thank you so much for your thoughtful message. It's such a blessing to us.*

Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel - February 26, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ *Yellow & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip Larry Boucher.*



February 25, 2020 at 02:49 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Phillip Larry Boucher*



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - February 25, 2020 at 12:29 PM

TV

*Thank you for your thoughtfulness. It means so much. Also thank you for the loving care and devotion you have shone our family. God Bless You and your family.*

Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel - February 26, 2020 at 06:42 PM

SC

“ *My prayers are with his family at this time of great sadness. Sending hugs from Texas.*

Susan Cook - February 25, 2020 at 08:42 AM

DS

*I was saddened to hear of Larry's passing. We worked in the same section at the White Sands Test Facility for a number of years. My condolences to his family*

**Don Saunders** - February 26, 2020 at 05:33 PM

TV

*Thank you so much, Susan, for your lovely message and also for posting the obituary. I had not seen it on the Internet before your post and was so happy to see it.*

**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 06:45 PM

TV

*Don, so happy to hear from one of Larry's work companions. Thank you for your kind words.*

**Terri Sue Boucher Vrabel** - February 26, 2020 at 06:48 PM

WD

*Terri Sue, I hadn't known Larry had been sick and was surprised and saddened to read of his passing. My most sincere condolences to you all, and a special hug to your mother for me.*

**Wendy Max Dunford** - February 27, 2020 at 08:40 AM