

Lawrence Jay Sands, (Larry), was born in Pennsylvania on November 19, 1942. He died in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 23, 2018, where he was receiving treatment for cancer. During the more than one year prior to his death, he tried to maintain life as normal as possible. He spent considerable time in the Jackson Hole area of Wyoming to be near his longtime friend and Physician, Tommy Wilson, and his wife Kay. He was housed and coddled by Jack and Carole Nunn, who also live near his house in Miguel Allende, Mexico.

As time and treatment went on, he alternated his time between his home in San Miguel, Jackson Hole, and the Salt Lake City Cancer Center. His spirits remained high throughout. In fact, his Advance Medical Directive Document finished, in his own hand writing, "It has been an amazing ride. Thank you all!" That is the spirit of Larry Sands. His beloved son Jay and daughter Jenifer were at his side when he died.

Larry served in the U.S. military for 10 years, primarily as a helicopter pilot with the 191st Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) in Viet Nam. He was awarded a Good Conduct Medal, an Air Medal with 15 oak leaf clusters representing a considerable, over and above amount of combat flying time, a Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation medal, and finally, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

He was a true warrior, patriot and leader during his military service. His Commander, Colonel "Bud" Patnode recently wrote, "Larry was the type of person a commander cherishes from the start, a person who took the initiative, was loyal to his buddies and their organization, and added the very special little things that make an organization outstanding."

Upon his honorable discharge, Larry built homes in Pierce County, Washington State, then changed careers and became the owner of a successful advertising agency, L.J. Sands & Associates, for over two decades. His favorite account of 17 years was Puget Sound Honda Dealers. He worked to keep his employees happy and his clients always successful in their campaigns. It was there he met and married his second wife, Camie Fenton, who helped with the agency business. They were together for 33 years.

In the Northwest he loved sailing and river rafting as well as long walks with his dogs in Point Defiance Park. He loved scuba diving, especially in Hawaii. He loved picking up the phone and having it be one of his kids on the other end. In 2000 they moved to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, at the encouragement of Camie's uncle, Don Fenton, the owner and operator of Villa Jacaranda Hotel, now the hotel Matilda. There he began another adventure in his life. As he told it, "I did not want to move to Mexico, much less a small town in the highlands of central Mexico." It took about a year for that to change and he never looked back.

He again became a builder and contractor for new homes and a remodeler of Mexican colonial-style homes with artisanal craftsmanship as he kept a crew gainfully employed for a decade.

He helped form the English-speaking Rotary Club and was instrumental in the formation and growth of the inter-denominational Community Church of San Miguel. With his then-wife of 33 years, Camie Fenton, he helped develop and administrate the San Miguel Walking & Shopping Guide. He acted as a marketing consultant for many charities, always sharing his expertise and empathy for "the cause".

Larry loved Verde, his scotch drinking parrot who was with him for 30 years, his water aerobics group, his Monday morning coffee klatch group, his boys' night out group, comprised of he, Al and Dennis.

During the last year and one half of his life, he was surrounded by friends who supported him with their friendship and prayers. They were so many one could not count. All considered him a "Champion of a Man."

He leaves behind cherished friends and family, including his grandchildren, Taylor and Lucas Martin and Cameron Sands.

Since Larry was a long-time volunteer with Feed the Hungry San Miguel, delivering food for economically disadvantaged school children, that organization was his preferred recipient of donations in his memory.

<http://feedthehungryma.org> Use the orange "donate" button.

Or, U.S. address: FTH San Miguel de Allende. 220 North Zapata Hwy. Box 636. Suite # 11 Laredo, Texas 78043-4464.

Or San Miguel address: C/O La Conexion. Aldama # 3, San Miguel de Allende, GTO Mexico. 37700.