



Larry Wayne Christensen

February 16, 1946 - September 5, 2025

Larry Wayne Christensen, 79, of Muskogee, was born February 16, 1946, to Ernest and Evelyn (Mattern) Christensen in Minot, North Dakota and peacefully passed away on Friday, September 5, 2025, in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Larry was an accomplished individual who proudly earned both his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of North Dakota, showcasing his dedication to education and personal growth. On March 7, 1969, he joined the United States Army, demonstrating a strong sense of duty as he served faithfully in the Vietnam War. His unwavering commitment to his country and fellow soldiers during this challenging time exemplified his resilient spirit and patriotic heart. After honorably completing his service and being discharged on December 29, 1970, Larry returned home with a profound sense of pride and accomplishment, having made a lasting impact on the lives of those around him.

Larry met and married his best friend, Paula Engh, the love of his life, on July 28, 1969, in Sherwood, North Dakota.

He was a hardworking and resourceful individual who began his journey as a carpenter alongside his dad, diligently paying for college with his skilled hands and determination. After earning his degree, he embarked on an impressive 40-year career in business and retail, where his commitment to excellence and strong work ethic shone brightly. He retired as a respected manager of Muskogee KMART after 23 dedicated years. Following this, he spent 17

rewarding years at Hobby Lobby, ultimately retiring as a beloved manager. Larry's dedication to his work and integrity will be fondly remembered by those who had the privilege of working alongside him. Larry was a devoted member of the St. Paul United Methodist Church.

He was a dedicated and passionate man who thrived in his hobbies of carpentry, gardening, and golfing. Larry was a family-oriented individual who embraced every opportunity to be an active and involved father and grandfather, savoring the laughter and joy that surrounded him. Most importantly, he relished watching and critiquing the sporting events of his grandchildren. Larry's commitment to family and love for life created a warm and nurturing environment where everyone felt valued. Larry played to win, radiating a fierce determination and zest for competition that will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

He is lovingly survived by his wife, Paula Christensen of the home; his beloved dog, Remi; sons, Leathan Christensen and wife Tabitha of Fayetteville, AR, and Shawn Christensen and wife Jamie of Fort Gibson, OK; daughter, Cara Pemberton and husband Ben of Fort Gibson, OK; grandchildren, Tate Christensen and Mia Christensen both of Fayetteville, AR, Karsen Pemberton, Maddox Pemberton, Caleb Christensen, Emily Christensen, and Benjamin Parker-Christensen all of Fort Gibson, OK; brother, Reverend Ernest Christensen and wife Kathy of Mentor, MN; sisters, Lorraine Christensen and Lorna Easton, both of Williston, ND; niece, Rachel Roggenbuck of Mentor, MN; extended family and many friends.

Larry is now reunited with his parents; nephew, Kurt Christensen; and brother-in-law, Del Easton.

A visitation will be held for Mr. Christensen on Thursday, September 11, 2025, with family receiving friends from 5PM - 7PM at Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory in Muskogee.

Larry's life will be celebrated 11AM, Friday, September 12, 2025, at St. Paul Rowsey Chapel in Muskogee with Reverend Dylan Ward and Reverend David Burris officiating. Committal prayers and interment will follow at Fort Gibson

National Cemetery with Caleb Christensen, Benjamin Parker-Christensen, Tate Christensen, and Maddox Pemberton serving as casket bearers.

The family of Larry Wayne Christensen has entrusted his care, service, and burial to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory, Muskogee. 918-910-8883. Online condolences may be left for the family at clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Road
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Previous Events

Visitation with Family to Greet Friends

SEP 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory (Muskogee)
1020 West Okmulgee Ave
Muskogee, OK 74401
(918) 910-8883

Celebration of Life

SEP 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Paul Rowsey Chapel
2130 W Okmulgee Ave
Muskogee , OK 74401

Tribute Wall

GT

“ Sending love to Paula, Shawn, Laethan & Cara from The Tye Family. I am so sad to hear of Larry's passing. He was such a wonderful, fun, upbeat person. My family met the Christensens at First Lutheran Church in the 70s and enjoyed many good times with them in that close knit church family. I will never forget the kindness Larry & Paula showed to ours when mom and dad passed. I wish I could bring you a big pan of chicken spaghetti, like they did for us!

Ginger Tye - September 15, 2025 at 01:32 PM

TG

“ Larry & Paula were the Best first friends and neighbor we had when we moved to Muskogee. It was like we had known them all our lives. Larry always included us in the Christmas Kmart shopping event. There was always a Santa visit in their home for their kids & our daughters. The Best Neighbor Ever!

Terral Graybill - September 11, 2025 at 04:27 PM

TW

“ What a wonderful man and boss. He always stood up for his employees. It was a pleasure to know and work under him.

Terri Wilson - September 10, 2025 at 03:52 PM

PT

“ I send my deepest sympathy to the Christensen family. I worked with Larry at KMart for over 20 years. He was the best boss I ever had. He had a way of making you feel like family. He will be greatly missed. He had a great sense of humor. RIP Mr. C from Pat Throgmorton # 37

Pat Throgmorton - September 10, 2025 at 12:57 PM

LJ

“ Thinking of you and your family, Polly, at this sad time. You have our sympathy and prayers

Lorie and Gene

Lorie Johnson - September 10, 2025 at 09:35 AM

CW

“ I worked for Larry at hobby lobby for a little over 10 years. He was and always will be the best, funniest, sneakiest bosses I'll probably ever have. I thoroughly enjoyed working for him. He was pretty easy going, yet sometimes a little hard to follow his instructions, he would start mid thought and act hurt when you had no idea what he was talking about lol he knew his train of thought was hard to keep up with. I lasted 6 months at hobby lobby after her retired, it wasn't the same store anymore in fact it was never the store it was always Larry. He was just fun to work for I learned a lot about standards and work ethic from him that I carry with me all these years later. RIP Boss Man❤️

Christy Ward - September 09, 2025 at 11:48 PM

DE

“ Larry was one of the best bosses I had in all my years at Kmart. He and his family were good to all of us and treated us like family. I am sorry to see that he has passed.

Delsie - September 08, 2025 at 01:01 PM