



## John "Larry" Lawson

December 30, 1946 - March 30, 2026

John "Larry" Lawson, age 79 of Mattoon, IL passed away on Monday, March 30, 2026, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, IL.

A funeral service in his honor will be held at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938. Reverend Brad Brown will officiate. Military Rites will be conducted by Mattoon VFW Post 4325. The visitation will begin at 4:00 PM, Monday, April 6, 2026, at the funeral home.

Larry was born on December 30, 1946, in Terre Haute, IN to the late John Carson and Elizabeth Anne (Vogel) Lawson. He married Barbara Jean Askren on November 16, 1973, in Wooddale, IL; she survives and resides in Mattoon, IL. He is also survived by three children: Christine M. Banks and husband Tim of Mattoon, IL, Douglas M. Lawson and wife Jessica of Towanda, IL, Sandra D. Fowler and husband Jim of Normal, IL; four grandchildren: Drew Z. Banks and wife Rhandi of Mattoon, IL, Natalie P. Fowler and fiancé David Hall of Normal, IL, Kiersten L. Fowler of Normal, IL, Carson J. Fowler of Normal, IL; three step grandchildren: Alexis C. Thornton and husband Ben of Bloomington, IL Alyssa N. Woodrum of Eureka, IL, Logan C. Woodrum of Eureka, IL; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Nancy M. Hughes of Danville, IL, and Sally Anne Stanton and husband Bill of Brazil, IN. He was preceded in death by one brother, Charles T. Lawson.

Larry was well known in the Mattoon community as the longtime owner and operator of Lee's Famous Recipe, a business he and his wife Barbara

faithfully ran beginning in 1974. Through the years, he built lasting relationships and became a familiar and respected face to many. Prior to that, he worked for ATEC in Indianapolis out of Wooddale.

Larry proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam era, where he was stationed in Germany at a nuclear site.

He enjoyed staying active and social throughout his life and was involved in many organizations and activities. Larry was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose, Eagles Lodge, VFW, and American Legion. He also enjoyed being part of the Rogala Golf League, Rocking Chair Softball League, Mattoon Bowling League, and as a billiards player.

Larry was a devoted sports fan who rarely missed cheering on his favorite teams, the Chicago Bears, Chicago Cubs, and the Fighting Illini.

Above all, Larry loved his family dearly. They were the center of his world and the greatest joy of his life. He will be remembered for his dedication, his sense of community, his love of sports and fellowship, and the many lives he touched over the years.

Larry will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Memorial donations in his honor may be made to the Mattoon Baseball League, 1000 Richmond Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Please visit [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](http://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 6. 4:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
contact@mitchelljerdan.com  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

## Service

APR 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
contact@mitchelljerdan.com  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Larry was genuinely a wonderful person and boss. My condolences to the family.*

*- Lisa G*

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**Lisa** - April 07 at 07:26 PM



*Larry, Barb, my wife Sue and myself had so many good times together over the years as Lee's franchisees. Lots of laughs, good times, we were great hackers on many golf courses. lol. What a great man, surely he will be missed. God bless the Lawson family, great people. Mike Tellman*

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**Michael Tellman** - April 09 at 07:11 PM



“ *59 files added to the album LifeTributes*



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**Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home** - April 06 at 12:18 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John "Larry" Lawson.*



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April 06 at 10:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John "Larry" Lawson.

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April 06 at 10:20 AM



“ *Kathi Cobble lit a candle in memory of John "Larry" Lawson*



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**kathi cobble** - April 06 at 09:50 AM



“ *Sally A. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John "Larry" Lawson.*



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**Sally A.** - April 03 at 01:21 PM

KC

“ Kelly, Kathy and Kacy Crawford, send our love to Barb and the family. Larry was such a guy and a great friend to me. We were bowling partners, golfing partners, workout buddies at JD's, not to mention downing a few drinks together. He was so much fun and I will miss him. So many great moments. I am going to look for some pictures to share.

Kelly Crawford - April 03 at 02:21 AM

CM

“ Copsy, Parks & McCollums purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John "Larry" Lawson.



Copsy, Parks & McCollums - April 02 at 04:04 PM

CM

“ Copsy, Parks & McCollums planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Larry" Lawson.

Copsy, Parks & McCollums - April 02 at 04:04 PM

WS

“ William S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Larry" Lawson.

William S. - April 02 at 01:05 PM

WS

“ William S. purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of John "Larry" Lawson.



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**William S.** - April 02 at 01:05 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of John "Larry" Lawson.



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April 01 at 04:36 PM

TG

“ Tina Greenwood lit a candle in memory of John "Larry" Lawson



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**Tina Greenwood** - April 01 at 01:20 PM

TG

*I'm so sorry to hear about Larry's passing. I worked for him all through High School and off and on after that when I was between full time jobs. He was a good man and a good boss. I did not always appreciate his sense of humor though. Prayers for Barb and the family. I have lots and lots of happy memories at Lee's Famous Recipe.*

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**Tina Greenwood** - April 01 at 01:24 PM