



Paul L. "Larry" Bales

October 19, 1932 - May 27, 2019

Paul L. "Larry" Bales, age 86 of Mattoon, IL passed away at 12:20 AM, Monday, May 27, 2019 at Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home in Mattoon, IL.

A funeral service in his honor will be held at 2:00 PM, Thursday, May 30, 2019 at Mattoon First United Methodist Church, 1601 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend Michael Smith will officiate and Reverend Robert Clark will assist. A committal service will follow in Roselawn Cemetery in Charleston, IL. The visitation is from noon until the time of service at the church. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home is in charge of services.

Larry was born on October 19, 1932 in Charleston, IL the son of the late Paul E. and M. Marie (Ringo) Bales. He married Shirley J. Moore on December 9, 1956 in Mattoon, IL; she preceded him in death on May 15, 2000. He later married Susan E. Blackford on February 14, 2004 at Mattoon First United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, Susan Bales of Mattoon, IL; two children, David K. Bales and wife Jacqueline of Charleston, IL, Diane K. Smith and husband Michael of Yale, IL; two step-children, Paul E. Beals of Charleston, IL, Rosanne Reynolds and husband Greg of Shelbyville, IL; two grandchildren, Aaron M. and Alyssa M. Bales of Charleston, IL; two step-children, Matthew Helton of Urbana, IL, Aimee Christner and husband Jacob of Shelbyville, IL; and two step great-grandchildren, Silas and Kairi-Jean Christner of Shelbyville, IL.

Larry honorably served our country in the Army from 1954-1956 in Germany. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education from Eastern

Illinois University in Charleston, IL. Larry taught Biology for Carrollton Community Unit School System for thirty-five years before his retirement. He was a former member of First Baptist Church in Carrollton, IL and First Christian Church in Mattoon, IL and member of Mattoon First United Methodist Church. Larry belonged to Lions Club of Mattoon and Carrollton. Larry was known for his green thumb when it came to flower and vegetable gardening. He traveled all over the world to many interesting places; his favorite adventure was an African safari. When not traveling internationally, Larry enjoyed spending his winters in Fort Myers Beach, FL. He was a kind and humble man who loved nothing more than time spent with his friends and family.

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

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

Charleston, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
1601 Charleston Avenue
Mattoon, IL 61938

Service

MAY 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
1601 Charleston Avenue
Mattoon, IL 61938

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul L. "Larry" Bales*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Mr Bales was one of the Best....I had Biology Class with him in the 1960s as did many others at Carrollton High School...He was always kind and respectful. My condolences.*
Bill Flatt

William Flatt - June 21, 2019 at 07:44 PM



“ *Mr. Bales lives on in the hearts and minds of so many students who, like me, had the great good fortune to study biology with him at Carrollton High School. He was a great person and a great teacher who treated everyone with kindness and respect.*
My condolences to his family and friends at his passing.
David Dailey

David Dailey - June 14, 2019 at 06:38 AM



“ *Over the years, both Freddie and I got to know Larry through Susan's dragging him along to Bethany Retired Teachers' Get-togethers. We were all the richer for it. He was a gentleman and will be much missed.*

Susan, we regret not being able to get to the service, but know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

--Stephen Bone

debohun - June 04, 2019 at 09:26 AM

AM

“ *Alfreda Murphy lit a candle in memory of Paul L. "Larry" Bales*



Alfreda Murphy - June 04, 2019 at 09:14 AM

SB

“ *Stephen Bone lit a candle in memory of Paul L. "Larry" Bales*



Stephen Bone - June 04, 2019 at 09:11 AM

HS

“ *Betty and I have fond memories of our friendship with Larry when we were living in Mattoon. We know of his faith and rejoice in that, but we know Larry will be greatly missed here.*

Howard Sallee - May 31, 2019 at 01:11 PM

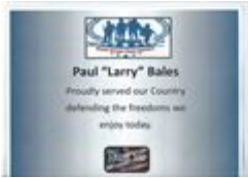
PE

“ *RIP to one of the most respectful and thoughtful teachers ever. I learned my love of biology, nursing and gardening from him years ago and the memory grew and grew. God bless and give comfort to family.*

Penny - May 30, 2019 at 05:28 PM



“ 22 files added to the album Life Tributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - May 29, 2019 at 03:15 PM



“ My biology teacher my sophomore year. One of the greatest teachers I ever had. Understanding and patient in every way! Learned a lot from this wonderful man. Prayers to the family.

Pat Shafer - May 29, 2019 at 01:38 PM



“ I am sad to hear the news of Mr Bales' passing. He was one of my favorite teachers, and his love of science was incredibly obvious. I will always be grateful for his kindness and patience with me as a rebellious freshman who wanted nothing to do with science class. He gave me an appreciation for science, and I'll always remember him fondly. He taught me a lot. My condolences to the family.

Samantha Schofield West - May 29, 2019 at 06:18 AM



“ As my brother John said we were neighbors of the Bales family in Carrollton -such a nice family to have as neighbors — my condolences and prayers for your loss.

Pat Anderson Ludwig - May 28, 2019 at 11:56 PM

SS

“ *Mr. Bales was one of my j teachers in high school. Always one nice and professional teachers. One time he had said something jokingly and winked at me and his face immediately became red. We girls all thought him very cute. This would have been I. 1958 and he wouldn't have been out of college all that long. Shirley was our music teacher while I was attending grade school in Eldred. Both great people. Deepest sympathy to the family. Sherryl and Vob Shannon*

sherryl Shannon - May 28, 2019 at 11:18 PM



“ *What a wonderful human being. I lived next door to the Bales family when I was in grade school. Larry and Shirley gave me my first set of oil paints. Recently my family and I were going through things and my Dad's house after he passed. I found the first oil painting I did. I was in Larry's biology class too. I have only heard good things from my fellow students. He was a gifted teacher as well. David and Dianne, it's been many years since I have seen you. I am so sorry for your loss.*

John Anderson - May 28, 2019 at 10:43 PM

GO

“ *We only have the fondest memories of Mr. Bales. He was patient, kind, humble and so intelligent. You have our deepest sympathy.*

Greg & Carol Nolan Olmstead

Greg & Carol Nolan Olmstead - May 28, 2019 at 10:32 PM

GO

“ Greg & Carol Nolan Olmstead lit a candle in memory of Paul L. "Larry" Bales



Greg & Carol Nolan Olmstead - May 28, 2019 at 10:29 PM

RM

“ Condolences to the family (esp Diane and David). Even though we both taught science, there wasn't much time to link the jr. high with the high school, so I did not get to know Mr. Bales as well as I would have liked. I do know he was a caring teacher and mild mannered man who raised some very well behaved kids. He was always willing to help me with any project where I needed extra people (science fairs for example). Teachers like him are special.

Richard Mattis - May 28, 2019 at 10:06 PM

SH

my deepest sympathy for the family. Mr Bales. Was a great teacher. Diane I am truly sorry for you and Davids loss. Sharon Hunnicutt Mast

sharon - May 28, 2019 at 10:43 PM

KG

“ So sorry to hear the news. I had Mr. Bales, Biology teacher in the 70's. Great teacher and friend. Except for the day he sent me down the hall for something and on my return his pet salamander had found its way on my table/book and blended in well. I layer my hand on that creepy lil guy and to this day don't know how it survived. Mr. Bales thought that was the funniest thing ever. To this day I dislike them very much. 🙏👩🏻🙏👩🏻 Hugs and prayers to you all.



Kathy Weber Grizzle - May 28, 2019 at 08:04 PM

BG

“ *Many happy memories of working with Larry at Carrollton High School. Sending sympathy and prayers to all the family.*
John and Billye Griswold

Billye Griswold - May 28, 2019 at 07:33 PM

DD

“ *So many memories but my favorite is probably the time we co-taught the Creationism vs Evolution class when I led The Truthfinders at FBC-Carrollton. I couldn't have done it without him! He was a great teacher with a wonderful sense of humor! My condolences to Diane and David.*



Diane Meek Darnell - May 28, 2019 at 05:20 PM

DD

P.S., my maiden name was Meek.

Diane Meek Darnell - May 28, 2019 at 05:22 PM



“ *I breezed through my college biology class because of how much I learned in Mr. Bales's class. I often thought I should personally thank him and wish now that I had. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Cheri Griffith Boss - May 28, 2019 at 05:14 PM

DW

Great biology teacher sorry for your loss david

dennis wright - May 28, 2019 at 07:21 PM

LC

“ *Mr. Bales was an outstanding biology teacher as well as an awesome role model for all students at Carrollton High School. Prayers to the family during this time.*

Lynn Carter - May 28, 2019 at 05:07 PM

C(

“ *Mr. Bales was a wonderful teacher! He had a wonderful sense of humor and made learning fun! Prayers for your families.*

Cathy (Borman)Davis - May 28, 2019 at 04:01 PM

TC

“ *Mr Bales was an awesome Biology teacher. He made learning fun. Diane and David, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Sorry for your loss.*

Tracy Camden - May 28, 2019 at 02:01 PM

RF

Mr. Bales and I taught across the hall from each other at CHS; The other teachers and I nicknamed him Mr. Rogers for he was such a kind man. My sympathy to all.

Ruth Ficker - May 29, 2019 at 09:58 AM



Kind, humble, quiet, but could keep a room full of high school kids interested and excited. He led many many young people to a path of success. A life well lived. I found a snake frozen in the ice and I was convinced we could revive it....he came and helped!

Bob Klunk - May 29, 2019 at 09:20 PM