



Larry P. Ford

June 2, 1940 - July 17, 2022

Larry Philip Ford left his earthly life at his home in Searcy, Arkansas, surrounded by his family at the age of 82. Larry was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, June 2, 1940, the only child of his parents, Guy and Opal Ford. He was baptized into Christ by his grandfather, Ono Hartsell, at the age of nine and attended church all his life. Larry was a member of Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy.

Larry grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas where he attended Oakhurst Elementary School, West Side Junior High School, and one year at Little Rock High School. He graduated high school from Harding Academy, Searcy, in 1958. He went on to Arkansas A & M, Monticello, where he majored in forestry, graduating in 1962, with a B.S. in Forestry. During summers, he worked for the U.S., Forest Service and began working for the Forest Service full-time in 1962. His work with the Forest Service started in Louisiana and continued in Arkansas, Kentucky, Georgia, Florida and Texas. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service with 39 years of service in 1998 in Texas and worked 14 more years during fire seasons for Texas Forest Service. His field of expertise was fire control. He also worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Zambia on a short term assignment in the early '70's.

Larry is survived by his wife of sixty years, Joyce, daughter Linda Ellen Thames of Huntsville, Alabama and her husband, Philip Thames; daughter

Laura Beth Brown of Searcy and her husband, Richard Brown.; beloved grandchildren, Bethany Brown and Olivia Brown, both of Little Rock, USMC 1st Lt. Daniel LaBore and his wife, Olivia of Fredricksburg, Virginia, and Emily LaBore, Huntsville, Alabama, and one infant great-grandchild, Amelia LaBore of Fredricksburg..

A memorial service will be held to honor his memory on September 5, 2022, at 11:00a.m., at the Powell Funeral Home Chapel in Searcy.

In lieu of flowers or plants, any memorial donations may be directed to CASA of White County in his memory.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. www.powellfuneralhome.net

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Searcy)

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Searcy, AR 72143

(501) 268-7220

searcy@powellfuneralhome.net

<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

Tribute Wall



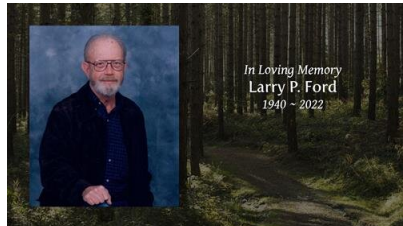
“ *Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Larry P. Ford*



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 05, 2022 at 09:50 AM



“ *Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Larry P. Ford*



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - August 31, 2022 at 11:41 AM

GH

“ Larry was my first Ranger when I moved to Florida in 1986. I was a young Forester and ready to hit the woods. After working all day in the summer heat. I would come in at the end of the day all withered and ready to go home. I would stop by Larry’s office to say goodnight and the conversation would start. Usually two hours later I could walk out the door. I had many great conversations with Larry about everything. He was a man of great knowledge. The thing I remember the most was his slow southern drawl. God bless his soul. May his family Rest In Peace knowing Larry had a life well lived doing things he wanted.

*Gary Hegg
Retired Silviculturist
Apalachicola National Forest*

Gary Hegg - July 28, 2022 at 07:58 AM

BB

“ I remember Larry to always be a wealth of information. He provided me with guidance and counsel many times and we shared many stories together. Hummm seems like his stories always took longer than mine. He was a wealth of knowledge and information. I could always count on him. Reading the notes tonight tells everyone that Larry was always there to help and share his vast knowledge and skills. And, of course he always had the pipe.

*Billy Ball
Special Agent
Retired
National Forest in Texas*

Billy Ball - July 27, 2022 at 07:49 PM

RH

“ To Joyce and family,
So, sadden to hear of Larry's passing, he was such a wonderful man. Living next door to Larry and Joyce for at least 25 years, it brought tears to my eyes to see them move but I knew it was for the best. He was like a grandfather to my boys ever so patient with them, teaching them about guns, ammo, reloading, building projects, even taking them to the gun range. He was never too busy to help you with anything, share his wisdom, tell us a story and of course feed our dog buddy when we were gone. Larry Ford was what you call a true friend, and we will never forget all his kindness. God bless you Larry you were truly one of kind!!
Russell, Doris, Tyler and Ryan Huls
Lufkin, TX

Russell Huls - July 23, 2022 at 04:33 PM

BY

“ It is with great sadness that I learned of Larry Ford's passing. We worked together for quite a few years and I learned a lot about fire suppression and the politics of fire. Most cherished were the times when he got going on a long tale. During bad fire times I would go out and visit him and Glenn Hammond at the old dispatch center on Raguet St. here in Lufkin. I last saw Larry when he came out to my home to wish me farewell before leaving for Arkansas. We hugged before he left and that feeling came over me that I may not see him again. My life was better for having known Larry Ford!

Bobby Young - July 21, 2022 at 09:23 PM

BS

“ *Betty Stoddard lit a candle in memory of Larry P. Ford*



Betty Stoddard - July 21, 2022 at 06:40 PM

GC

“ *Just hearing of the passing of my ole Friend and one of my Mentors. I had the pleasure of working with Larry on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. Larry Ford was one of the good guys, and offered great counsel with deep thought. He helped me be the best that I could be. I can still see and hear him with long vocal pauses packing and tapping on his pipe, never seeming to get it lit. Once, I encountered a very serious issue while on a western fire. He said “Greg, you need to talk with Lewis Kearney. That was sound counsel. I never heard the details of what resulted, but heard rest of the stories for years afterwards. I’ll always remember Larry’s laugh and smile. See you soon, my Friend. I can only imagine how wonderful it will be! May God bless you all with peace and comfort, and make your fond memories of him lasting and clear. Greg Cohrs, Sour Lake, Texas*

Greg Cohrs - July 21, 2022 at 04:50 PM

CS

“ I met Larry so many years back, I can't remember. But I'll never forget the many things I learned from him!! Not just about fire and aviation but about being a steady quiet leader. He was indeed my mentor in Aviation Management and I am proud that his signature is in my ATGS taskbook as a final evaluator. I hope I do right by that. Most of all I thought of him as my "fire Dad"! Gods Speed Dad as you fly with above us all and touch the face of God, ...And so each time I here the bell you know I fly for those who fell ... Chris M. Schenck, State Fire Program Leader Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

Chris Schenck - July 21, 2022 at 02:57 PM

JS

“ I had the pleasure of being with Larry at a small airport in the middle of nowhere early in my career. After three weeks huddled under the only shade for 50 miles his endless stories and advice definitely shaped my future career. It was always a comfort on a fast moving fire when you start questioning your actions to hear his calm and slow drawl from up above - "Awe son, just keep doing what you doing.. its all gonna be alright" Passing of a legend. But legends carry on, we'll have Larry stories for another twenty years I'm sure.. There is not enough time, space or words to detail the impact and influence he had over numerous programs and people. But his legacy and influence lives on everyday and in many places.

Jamie Sowell, National Forest and Grasslands in Texas

Jamie Sowell - July 21, 2022 at 01:46 PM

JC

“ On a California fire many years ago I was his helibase manager and he was Air Ops, and he kept staying at the helibase most of the day. I said, "Larry, you are going to miss your meeting at the ICP". "Shouldn't you be over there?" He said, "John they don't understand me... Their heads turn like that RCA Victor dog, but they don't understand me." I ended up making sure air support was there with him to help those folks understand southern.

Yes, he was someone special. Yes he will be missed. That gravelly voice, never forgotten...

John Caffin

John Caffin - July 21, 2022 at 01:08 PM

JF

“ Best Ranger I ever worked for. Learned much, personally and professionally. So many stories, so many laughs, so many lessons...

He corrected me once, saying “ Fort, I don’t talk too slow. You listen too fast.”

Passing of a legend. God bless the family; thank you for sharing him with the rest of us!

John Fort

Wakulla

john fort - July 20, 2022 at 11:11 PM

BR

A very special, unique individual. An outstanding Air Attack on many of my wildfires. I can hear that deep voice giving me updates! It took a while for the information to get said, but the updates and advice were spot on! Always saw Larry messing with his pipe, but I can't recall it ever being lit!

Bill Rose - July 21, 2022 at 02:36 PM

GJ

“ *Glenn S Hammond Jr lit a candle in memory of Larry P. Ford*



Glenn S Hammond Jr - July 20, 2022 at 08:27 PM

LH

“ *Larry was a friend and mentor to me. Especially in Aviation. He was always happy to share his knowledge and did so with grace and humor. Just like he tackled everything in life. It was my great pleasure to know and work with you Larry. Rest In Peace my friend.*

Lynne Howard - July 20, 2022 at 07:03 PM

GJ

“ To Larry Ford's family and friends,

I had the privilege of working with Larry for many years when he served as the Fire Staff Officer for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. We both worked out of the Supervisor's Office in Lufkin, TX. If I recall correctly, he retired over 20 years ago from the U.S. Forest Service, but he remained active for many years afterwards by assisting with firefighting efforts around the country. Larry's fire qualifications (I believe he was an Air Tactical Group Supervisor or Air Support Group Supervisor, or perhaps both) meant that he was frequently in demand to help with wildfire suppression, particularly out west whenever there were multiple large fires with lots of aircraft involved. These assignments required Larry to come to Lufkin to update his fire qualifications and complete the necessary forms to allow him to work as a retiree, and I would look forward to his visits. He always had great stories to share and watching him tell them with his great smile was a treat. I wish I had thought to record some of them.

I pray God will comfort you as you grieve Larry's passing and may He help you to remember the good times you shared with Larry.

*Sincerely,
George F. Weick, Jr.
NFGT Forest Silviculturist (retired)
Midlothian, TX*

George F. Weick, Jr. - July 20, 2022 at 04:52 PM

CW

“ Charles "Boo" Walker lit a candle in memory of Larry P. Ford



Charles "Boo" Walker - July 20, 2022 at 04:45 PM

JF

“ Some of my stories are educational. And some of my stories are entertaining. Some are both." I spent a lot of time enjoying every story! I wished i had just one more story. Thanks for the wisdom, the fun, the help! James Flue...coworker, neighbor, friend.

James Flue - July 20, 2022 at 04:29 PM

RM

“ ReShauna Mattox lit a candle in memory of Larry P. Ford



ReShauna Mattox - July 20, 2022 at 04:18 PM

RM

I'm saddened by the news of this passing but I am thankful for the time we spend together as friends and co-workers. His great legacy in fire will forever be remember as one of greatness. He pride himself always on doing a good job and mentor to me as well. My deepest condolences to this family. Praying for peace and comfort during this your time of bereavement.

ReShauna Mattox - July 20, 2022 at 04:24 PM

JR

Larry Ford was a special friend. I always enjoyed his visits to our office in Apple Springs. Prayers for his family!

Jean Rasbeary - July 20, 2022 at 07:07 PM

SB

“ We at *The Range Trading and Supply* send our deepest condolences to Larry’s Family! I can’t say enough about the man that Larry was! He came to our store frequently, sometimes to shoot on the Range or make purchases but many times stopped by just to chat and to see how we were doing. He was a man of great character and of many stories. I don’t believe I heard the same story twice, and all were of great interest! We will miss those stories, the smile, the laughter and just a fantastic human being that Larry was but most of all we will miss our Friend!! Thank You, Larry Ford, for writing on the pages of our lives and making our lives richer just by having the privilege of knowing you!! You are greatly missed! ❤️



*Sammie Byrd
The Range Trading and Supply*

Sammie Byrd - July 19, 2022 at 11:18 AM

RB

I lost a friend and mentor. Thanks Larry for you made a better person , taught me to be better leader and friend to others. You made the Forest Service a better place to work.

*Ron Bertsch
Friend and colleague*

Ron Bertsch - July 20, 2022 at 04:40 PM

RB

“ *This is heartbreaking. Sammie and I met Larry when he moved in from Texas and had an instant connection, or I should say connections. Larry and I both have an appreciation for quality firearms, as well as Milt Sparks leather, which was developed in SW Idaho. When his health allowed Larry was a frequent visitor to our workplace and his visits and friendship will be greatly missed, Ride high and easy my friend until we meet again.*

Roger Byrd - July 19, 2022 at 11:05 AM