



Laurence L. Teal

February 11, 1928 - March 25, 2024

Laurence Lyon Teal, age 96, passed away March 25, 2024 after an enthusiastically lived life. Larry was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 11, 1928 to Laurence Teal and Margaret Cramer Teal. A music lover since he was a boy, Larry played saxophone, flute and clarinet. After high school graduation from Northern High School in Detroit, he served in the army where he played in the band. In June 1951, he married Patricia FitzGerald. After his discharge, Larry attended Wayne State University, majoring in music, then became a band director in several Detroit high schools while attaining a masters in music. Once he finished teaching, he served as the principal of two Detroit schools, and went on to become the Executive Director of the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts as well as serving on the Michigan Council for the Arts. During his entire career, Larry also played and at times directed a jazz band (Bob Durant) which performed in many Detroit parks on magical summer evenings. He also had the opportunity to play for many superb singers, including Rosemary Clooney, Dinah Shore, and Jack Jones, and played with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. After retirement, he and four friends formed the group, World's Oldest Living Sax Section, and recorded several albums. As a sax player, his tone was unique and unforgettable.

Larry was passionate about every step of his career, devoted to his students and sharing his love of music, as well as being a talented tennis player who played and coached until the seasoned age of 88.

He and Pat had six children: Claudia (Don) Whitsitt, Timothy Teal, David (Kathy) Teal, Robert Teal, Paul Teal and Jonathan (Jessica) Teal, countless grandchildren and great grandchildren. Larry was an incredibly special man in his devotion to his family. He had a wonderful relationship with each of his kids, grands and great grands, who he mentored, supported, and offered sage advice. He also took pride in his children's musical talent, and they often accompanied him when he played gigs.

Larry will be remembered for his athletic and musical talents, passion for the arts, devotion to his family, keen wit and sharp mind. Just last week he taught a music class at his independent living facility where he had an impact on so many.

His family is blessed to have so many wonderful memories of him, his humor, love of nature and all the simple pleasures, a scotch and soda with lime, a decent glass of cabernet, a NYT crossword puzzle, a day watching sports, a Hershey bar, time with nature and writing poetry. He truly treasured every moment. Life without his indelible spirit leaves all who loved him with a hole in their heart. His pride in his family is endlessly precious and he leaves us with a legacy life doesn't provide to all.

Larry was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Patricia, and son Robert.

A celebration of life will be held in June, 2024.

Tribute Wall

MA

“*RIP Mr. Teal! You and your family should be proud to know the impact you made on so many lives during your teaching career. I was never able to have a career in music but because of my time in your band class, reading music and performances, , I am a good audience and have an appreciation for music of all kinds and venues.*

Marcia Elliott Alexander - March 28, 2024 at 11:08 AM

GR

“*I was blessed to have him in my life throughout my time at OHS. Words will never capture his passion and gift of music to all that were fortunate enough to spend time with him. I consider him what of the most influential people in my life and will never forget him.*

Gary Rezeppa - March 28, 2024 at 11:01 AM

JM

“*My sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Teal. As a student back at Osborn High School, class of 67, I was fortunate enough to be in choir and stage plays co-directed by him. The most memorable play was Bye Bye Birdie. He was a great teacher and mentor to so many students, many of which have gone on to pursue careers in music. His kindness and teaching legacy will surely live on. Sincerely, Joe Marino*

Joe Marino - March 28, 2024 at 09:57 AM

AM

“ *My condolences to the family, Larry & Pat were friends in Florida. Over 15 yrs, our admiration for L&P grew. It was a joy to be in their company. Larry’s saxophone talent as well as tennis abilities were witnessed by many who loved L&P. It was a privilege to know them.*
A&A

Andrew Ludwig Mulzer - March 27, 2024 at 08:48 PM