



Larry Henley

JUN 30, 1937 - DEC 18, 2014



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Rader

FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Larry Henley

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Nashville Singer-Songwriter Larry Henley died in Nashville on December 18, 2014 at the age of 77. He was born on June 30, 1937 to Carl and Helen Henley.

Larry was the “falsetto” voice in the popular 60’s group, The Newbeats. He went on to become an accomplished songwriter and wrote many popular songs including: “Til I Get It Right” by Tammy Wynette in 1973; “Lizzie And The Rainman” by Tanya Tucker in 1975 and “Is It Still Over” by Randy Travis in 1989. Larry also co-wrote the song, “The Wind Beneath My Wings”, by Gary Morris in 1983. The song was named the CMA and ACM Country Song of the Year in 1984. Bette Midler recorded the song in 1989 for the movie “Beaches”, taking it to No. 1 on the pop charts and earning Larry the Grammy Award for Song of the Year. Larry was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2012.

Larry had a kind, gracious, and giving soul. He will always be remembered for his quick-witted humor. He loved life, music, friends and most of all family. To know Larry, is to love him.

He is survived by his four children, Jason Henley and his wife Sheila of Brentwood, TN; Shannon Smith and her husband Stephen of Longview, TX; Tony Padgett of Waco, TX; Michael Daniel of CA; sister, Barbara Henley of MI; ten grandchildren, Justin and Brooke Henley, Rylie and Kaylie Smith; Jessica Reynolds, Nicole Gallegos, Haylie Padgett, Crystal Henley, Michael and Tyler Daniel; as well as nine great-grandchildren; and many longtime family and friends including Virginia Henley of Longview, TX, Charlie Andrews and Sarah DiGregorio of Nashville, TN. He was preceded in death by his parents Carl Henley and Helen Quinn; sisters Pam Henley, Jeanette Chisholm; brother, Reggie Henley; and son, Joey Henley.

Visitation will be held Monday, December 22, 2014 from six thirty to eight o’clock in the evening at Rader Funeral Home in Longview, TX, with a graveside service on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 at two o’clock in the afternoon at Kelsey Cemetery in Gilmer, TX. A celebration of Larry’s life will be scheduled after the first of the year and will be held in Nashville, TN.



Obituary

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In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Nashville's Alive Hospice, 1710 Patterson Street, Nashville, TN 37203.

Dad, you will forever be "The Wind Beneath Our Wings."

A memorial guestbook may be signed online at www.raderfh.com.




Events


Larry Henley

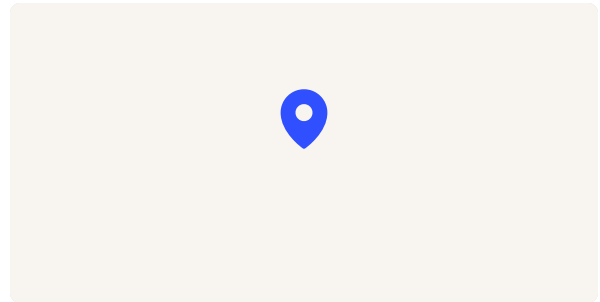
JUN 30, 1937 - DEC 18, 2014

Graveside Service


 **Tuesday**, December 23, 2014

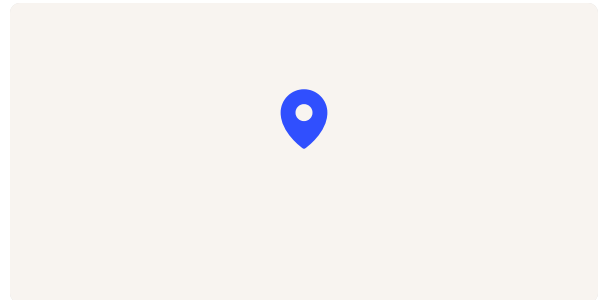
 2:00 PM CT

 **Kelsey Cemetery**
Upshur County TX



Cemetery Details

 **Kelsey Cemetery**
Upshur County TX





Tribute Wall

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MG

Mark W. Graves posted:

I remember Larry would always stop in Shreveport, when he could, to visit when while on his way back to Nashville. He would go home to visit his mom, my Aunt Qupie, my mother's sister, Larry's Aunt Daisy an Uncle Gus. He wouldn't get to stay long, but he stopped, and we would all sit around telling stories and reminiscing of days gone by. He truly was a gentle soul. Of all the times I got to see him, no matter the level of his life and success, he was always humble, caring and loved us all just like we saw each other every day. Love You Larry, been missing ya since you been gone, but we'll see each other again, I'll meet you all at the gate ...Love Ya, Mark Graves 151 Platt Drive Haughton, Louisiana 71037

October 16 at 8:38 AM

PF

Patricia Farley posted:

I believe Larry was a friend of my late husband Lloyd Farley (deceased 27 July, 1983). Lloyd visited him in February, 1983 near the Gulf of Mexico on a yacht there. Today I am reminded of this visit because I watched 'Beaches' and the song was such a sweet memory of Lloyd. I wish I had contacted Larry sooner. Love, Patti Farley, 716 Wendell Ave., Lewistown, MT . 59457

July 14 at 10:30 AM

AC

Alie Michael Campbell posted:

I loved Larry. Simply stated. As a manager, I worked with Larry for several years and loved every minute....he was so funny, so kind and incredibly gracious and generous. A "moment", I invited him to a "celeb" fishing tournament in WI for some other clients. I got there early and as I watched one of the sponsor introduction video...there it was..."Wind Beneath My Wings" used as the underlay for the entire video....without permission of course! :) As I gently explained to the sponsor there are copy write laws AND on of the writers will be here in a day...the room went silent. :) I called Larry before he arrived and we decided to have some fun with it all to the dismay of the sponsors who didn't know :)After an hour or so,Larry and I began to laugh and of course, everything was settled amicably and in great fun...that was Larry, funny, talented and with a huge heart. So many stories and so many wonderful memories to cherish...In closing as in the beginning I love you Larry....RIP

July 10 at 7:26 PM



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DE

Dena Parker Ellis posted:

I had the Priviledge of meeting Larry at the old 3rd coast in Nashville around 1989-1990, introduced to him with my sister by Dino Zimmerman and we became great friends! He was a very gentle and loving soul and I had the chance to spend quality time with him in "the ole days". May you rest in peace Larry, you will be missed by many.

January 9 at 5:10 AM

RS

Rj Stillwell posted:

So proud to have known Larry; a gifted songwriter and gracious, witty and kind man. Sweet serendipity placed me in St. Simons Island in 1990 (our first meeting) where I had the privilege to perform Honor Larry for his recent Grammy win and perform the song as he danced to it for the first time. This past May, at the home of his beloved, Laurie Norton, I was once again blessed to accompany Larry as he sang his wonderful standard for the last time. What a poignant moment and moving performance (can be viewed on Facebook.) Rest in peace, dear Larry. You will be missed. RJ Stillwell

December 26 at 5:02 AM

DM

Duane & Ginger Mitchell posted:

So sorry to hear of the great loss. He was a good friend and great talent. So glad we seen him on his 75th birthday! Much love to the family. Duane and Ginger Mitchell, Abilene,Tx

December 23 at 6:40 AM

RA

Renee Shafer-Allison posted:

"You'll cast a mighty long shadow."

December 22 at 2:13 PM



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ST

Sandra Tamburin posted:

Larry! You will be sorely missed my friend. I am proud to have known you all these many years and your legacy as a kind soul, a witty story teller not to mention an extraordinarily talented songwriter will forever stay in the hearts of ALL OF US whose lives you touched. There were so many wonderful get together's full of music and singing, but I am especially grateful for the evening we all were together at Laurie's for her Annual 2014 Memorial Day cookout. That evening magic was in the air, and you sang, most likely for the last time with RJ Stilwell accompanying you on guitar, "Wind Beneath My Wings". Everyone there was completely awestruck, it was so moving and you sang with such stylization and emotion! It was truly magical and the memory is a treasure. I can't watch the video without tears welling up in my eyes, even prior to your passing! Rest well my friend, you have given us a lifetime of memories that death cannot erase. I will miss you and your stories, your friendship and your generosity! I know Laurie, your beloved Butch and I along with legions of fans will always carry you with us until we meet again! Love you dearly, Sam Tamburin Nashville, TN

December 22 at 8:25 AM

KS

Kevin Stewart posted:

I met Larry when I first arrived in Nashville in 1988 through our mutual friend Charlie Andrews. He gave me work transcribing his song catalog and also kept me afloat with his great and relentless humor. He will be very much missed. Kevin Stewart

December 22 at 4:08 AM

JR

Jerry Reynolds posted:

Larry and I grew up together in Odessa, Texas. We met when we were 10 ten years old. We became fast fiends and have been friends all these years. As young men we went our separate ways, he to Hollywood and i to college, but we always kept in touch. Sorry we didn't make it back to Cuba. (That was a trip!!) I love you brother. We'll meet again. Jerry Reynolds

December 21 at 5:47 PM

BC

Bruce Channel posted:

Larry and I were born less than 30 miles apart in East Texas. He was born in Arp, and I was born in Jacksonville. We followed similar paths to Nashville where we met in 1980 and stayed great friends, and spent many great years collaborating in life, and music. Thanks for sharing your most wonderful talents, Larry. Love you Bruh! God Bless. Bruce and Christine Channel.

December 21 at 3:53 PM



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RY

Rob Ybanez posted:

I met him with at Winners and it meant the world to me that he liked my song The Cowboy in me as he ask me to sing it to him very sweet man Via Con Dios Amigo

December 21 at 3:31 PM

CK

Casey Kelly posted:

I met Larry in the mid-60's when his group, the Newbeats and the group I played in, the Greek Fountains played on several big rock & roll shows in Louisiana and Mississippi featuring the big touring English and American acts of the day. We both ended up in Nashville years later writing songs at House of Gold, hanging out and occasionally performing. He was a gifted singer and songwriter and I treasure the times and work we shared.

December 21 at 6:09 AM

JB

John Biord posted:

I was do privileged to have met Larry six yrs ago after moving to Nashville. In that short time period I was so honored to be considered a friend. Accompanying Larry a few times while he sang were huge highs. He was such a giving man, always so supportive, always encouraging. I loved him and thank him for spending time with me. I wish we could get him back.

December 21 at 5:42 AM

JC

Juan Contreras posted:

I met Larry on New Year's Eve in 1964. That was fifty years ago. Larry was one of the funniest, quick witted people I have ever met. We made each other laugh constantly. He was talented beyond words. He will be missed by so Many. Rest in peace my friend. Say hi to Victoria for me.
Juan Contreras

December 20 at 7:38 PM



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WN

Wood Newton posted:

We were friends and co-writers at House of Gold, then Warner Brothers Music with the Late Great Bob Montgomery , and all the gang. It was one of the most creative periods in the history of Music Row Nashville. Larry was always a big positive part of that team. He was a life long golfer, which I suppose was the Good Lords way to try to keep him humble. Don't know if he played as much as he should've, who does? We will miss you Larry. Wood Newton

December 20 at 12:23 PM

DL

Dyan Lawyer posted:

Deepest Sympathy to Larrys Family. Larry was the Loveliest man I've ever met. He was a friend to everyone. He will be missed by All. RIP Darlin ❤️🎸🎸 Forever Hugs, Dyan Lawyer

December 20 at 9:28 AM

DF

Debbie Frazier posted:

Will miss your sweet and kind nature. How you brighten my heart when I'd see your face. Will always Love you. Say Hi to Wilson and Johnny. Debbie Frazier

December 20 at 8:25 AM



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ST

Sharon Tognietti posted:

Met Larry many years ago in Puerto Vallarta where he often sat in to sing with the house band at our restayrant, La Cuiza. My husband, Marty golfed with Larry when he was here. We had lots of fun times with Larry, Laurie and Butch. He loved that dog and Laurie. It was obitHe will be missed.

December 20 at 8:01 AM

KH

Kenneth Hari March 5 at 8:16 PM

I was just notified about Larry' s passing upon my return from China. Bucky Wilken wrote me. I painted Larry's portrait in Nashville ,Ten , 28 years ago.. His wonderful work will always live on...and of course when I eat bread and butter I think of him .He was a wonderful patron of my art. Maestro Larry Henley will always be in my heart.Kenneth Hari

SD

Shirley Humphrey Dawson December 23 at 2:17 PM

Larry was a great person. He was a great singer. Loved Bread and Butter. My heart goes out to Larry and his family. We saw him in Bossier City, La. when the strip was there and he was singing. Ole days. Never forgotten. God bless, Shirley/Robert Dawson

TH

Tammy Lynn Hill December 21 at 5:33 PM

I agree. Laurie should have been mentioned as His LIFE PARTNER

SA

Sid Apps December 20 at 7:51 PM

...so proud to be able to call this man my "friend"...godspeed larry...godspeed...

ST

Sharon Tognietti December 20 at 8:03 AM

Sorry, it was obvious meant to say

TM

Tom Mitchell posted:

My kindest condolences to the family - and Godspeed Larry Henley.Pretty sure I still have a 45 copy of "Bread and Butter" in my archives. Had no idea Larry was from Gilmer/Longview area.May all your memories be happy ones.a child of those times, tom mitchell

December 20 at 4:33 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Larry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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