

# Larry George Ryder

November 26, 1943 (Rockford, IL) September 17, 2022 (New Prague, MN)



On Saturday, September 17, 2022, **Larry George Ryder**, age 78, of New Prague, MN, died peacefully at home with his loving partner, Mary, at his side. He was born on November 26, 1943, in Rockford, IL to Al and Ethel (Wyse) Ryder.

Larry graduated with the Class of 1961 from Rockford's West High School and earned his BA degree from the University of Illinois. He served 18 months of his two-year military commitment in Vietnam as a Navy Seabee. He worked as a sales representative in the men's clothing industry for 30 years and was a fireworks representative for 20 years. He belonged to the Northwest Buyers Club and was a Past President the Midwest Apparel Club.

Larry was a proud member of both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served in the New Prague Area Veterans Honor Guard, never missing a Service; his duties included setting flags on graves of veterans in area cemeteries on Memorial Day. A true outdoorsman, he was passionate about fishing and hunting. He wholeheartedly supported the New Prague Sportsmen Club, Pheasants Forever, and Ducks Unlimited. He embraced life on the Lake, was active on the Cedar Lake Improvement Association, the Cedar Lake Sailing Club, the Cedar Lake Aeration System, and was a Past President of the Cedar Lake Regatta Club.

Larry loved nothing more than a ride on his pontoon boat or sitting quietly on the shore, enjoying a cocktail and the company of neighbors or throwing a ball for his beloved dog, Georgie Girl. His final ride on the Lake was with his daughter a week before his death. He was a natural conversationalist, with a twinkle in his eye and a ready joke; he made friends easily and always made one feel like they were a friend for life. His signature laugh could be heard across a room. A devoted father, he coached his daughter's middle school softball team. He was also the world's greatest grandpa, providing precious memories at the Lake with his grandsons.

Larry is survived by his loving life partner, Mary Reedy of New Prague; daughter, Shannon (Ben) Dodds of Eagle, CO; grandsons, Sutton, Shaeffer, and Sanders; brother, Kirk (Lucy) Ryder of Nashville, TN; niece, Dr. Rebecca (Charles) Ryder Chivis of Norfolk, VA; nephew, Kirk Ryder, Jr. of Palm Springs, CA; and furry best friend, Georgie Girl. He was predeceased by his parents and infant brother, Jimmy.

A Memorial Celebration of Life will be held Friday, September 30, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at Bruzek Funeral Home. Visitation will begin at 2:00 p.m. Military honors will be accorded by the New Prague Area Veterans Honor Guard immediately following the Service in the mortuary parking lot. A reception will follow at the New Prague Golf Club.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to either Scott County Fishing Derby, an annual youth fishing tournament sponsored by the Scott County Sheriff's Office or Scott County Chapter of "Let's Go Fishing," an organization that arranges fishing and boating excursions for seniors, disabled adults, and Veterans. Larry supported both organizations and was thrilled to see young and old enjoy the Lake.

Scott County Sheriff's Office  
301 Fuller Street South  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
ATTN: Youth Fishing Derby

or

Scott County Chapter of "Let's Go Fishing"  
<https://scottcounty.lgfws.com/>

**Reference:**

[Larry Ryder – Bruzek Funeral Home](#)