



Lawrence Joseph Dunphy

February 20, 1938 - November 28, 2019

Larry J. Dunphy age 81 of Walton died Thursday Nov. 28, 2019 at his home. He was born Feb. 20, 1938 in Dixon, the son of Charles and Eileen (Morrissett) Dunphy. Larry with his wife Carolyn owned and operated Books on First in Dixon since 1998. He Experienced Life and achieved much, remembered as a Renaissance man, a respected and involved member of his community, a great listener, and the best source for the quintessential read. Larry was proud father & grandfather of very talented & responsible individuals, and the "Best-est" Husband in the world.

Larry married Carolyn Chin Feb. 18, 1995 in Chicago. He was preceded in death by his son James. He was also preceded in death by sister Charlene Miles, brothers P.H. Dunphy and Thomas Dunphy and son-in-law Mark Freeman.

Larry is survived by his wife Carolyn, daughters Laurie Dunphy of Chicago and Kelly Dunphy of Harmon, daughter-in-law Elena Accolti-Dunphy of Addison, IL; three grandchildren Jack, Ruby and Valentina; sisters Laneita Dunphy of Wilmington, DE and Bridget (Jim) Barry of Naperville, brother Charles (Linda) Dunphy of Harmon and many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday Dec. 7, 2019 at 1:00 PM at St Mary Catholic Church in (912 Walton Road) Walton. Cremation rites will follow with burial of cremains at a later date at St Patrick Catholic Cemetery in Amboy. Visitation will be on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 12:45 PM at the Church. A memorial has been established to the Franklin Creek Conservation

Assoc.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy

816 Rockyford Rd
Amboy, IL 61310

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 7. 9:00 AM - 12:45 PM (CT)

St. Mary Catholic Church
Walton, IL

Service

DEC 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary Catholic Church
Walton, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence Joseph Dunphy*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Lawrence Joseph Dunphy*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I am traveling through Dixon on business and I thought I would drop in the book store and say hello and perhaps get a cup of coffee. But my client in Dixon said that Larry passed on November of 2019. Interesting guy, I will think of him as I travel. -David Alan Badger*

David Alan Badger - September 15, 2021 at 09:27 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Carolyn Chin - December 30, 2019 at 09:00 PM

RH

“ We loved to visit with Larry after we played music in the wonderful Books On First listening room. In addition to being a fascinating conversationalist and a great friend, Larry was an innovator. His pass-the-hat living-room-concert model was the impetus for at least three of Rockford’s music venues: JustGoods Friday Concert Series, Katie’s Cup Second Thursday Concert Series, and Concerts On The Creek. “Ripple in still water ...” Trinadora (Jannie Nelson and Ron Holm)

Ronald Holm - December 29, 2019 at 08:42 PM

MM

“ God bless, Larry. All good things. You brought so many prime items that weren’t encompassed between pages, namely your beautiful daughters and your man, Jimmy, which I recognize in a small, blessed mousetrap with you...be in peace.

Michael McDonnell - December 12, 2019 at 07:14 PM

PF

“ I appreciate the bookstore and enjoyed Larry’s warm and welcoming personality. My sympathy to Carolyn and the family.

Penney Fillmer - December 10, 2019 at 11:08 AM

KW

“ I will remember how Larry welcomed everyone. When we stopped in to the store during our visits home, it felt like we were visiting family. Larry knew about our lives. He was curious and a good listener, and he wanted to know everyone's story. We will miss him, and always remember how he created a community for everyone around books and coffee.

*Kathryn Wegner, Will Cavert, and kids (Diana and Sam)
St. Paul, MN*

Kathryn Wegner - December 07, 2019 at 11:54 PM

JF

“ So sad to hear the news about Larry. We always made a stop at Books on First when we were in town. He was a treasure to know. Always enjoyed playing music there. My sympathy to Carolyn and the Dunphy family. He will be missed.

Jerry Fitzpatrick - December 07, 2019 at 09:33 AM

MC

“ I will always remember Mr. Dunphy taking Jimmy and I to the farm when we were kids. It was a great time with a great man RIP Mr.D. Malcolm Chambers

Malcolm Chambers - December 07, 2019 at 01:04 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence Joseph Dunphy.



December 06, 2019 at 09:02 AM

GK

“ Dear Carolyn - We were sad to hear that Larry was called from this earth. We are thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers. We have fond memories of many Vassar Club benefits where we were able to spend time with you and Larry. He was a special person who will be missed. May God be with you and others in Larry's family who mourn and provide you comfort and hope. With blessings,
Gilda and Fred

Gilda Karu - December 05, 2019 at 09:31 PM

BB

Going to miss Larry's wit and candor. Smart personable guy. Our condolences. Bob and Patty Balayti

Bob Balayti - December 07, 2019 at 12:11 PM

EB

“ My sympathy to the family of Larry Dunphy. Walton area lost a great person.
Elizabeth A. Bontz

elizabeth bontz - December 05, 2019 at 03:05 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence Joseph Dunphy.



December 05, 2019 at 11:06 AM

SA

“ Wishing Larry’s family comfort with the outpouring of love for this good man. He was so kind to my grandchildren when we entered his wonderful store. Larry will be truly missed.

Sheila K Ames - December 04, 2019 at 06:23 PM

EP

“ I spent many Friday and Saturday evenings at Books on First browsing the books, reading, drinking mocha lattes, and listening to some great live music. I moved away, but when I visit Dixon, I always make it a point to stop in. Larry still remembered my name and always asked about my daughter by name as well. Larry will be missed. My heart goes out to Carolyn and his children.

Elaine palmer - December 04, 2019 at 03:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence Joseph Dunphy.



December 03, 2019 at 11:37 AM

SS

“ Sylvia Egan Schultz lit a candle in memory of Lawrence Joseph Dunphy



Sylvia Egan Schultz - December 02, 2019 at 08:38 PM

ES

“ RIP Larry. You are part of our AHS class of 1956 we will miss you and I'll miss stopping in at Books on First to say Hi when I was back visiting. Regards to all of your Family.

Eunice Schmid - December 02, 2019 at 07:36 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence Joseph Dunphy.



December 02, 2019 at 05:54 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence Joseph Dunphy.



December 02, 2019 at 04:53 PM

CC

“ I can't imagine Autumn on the Prairie at Nachusa Grasslands without Larry at the folding table, selling books. Such a supportive friend to local authors! Jeff and I always planned a trip to Dixon because of Books on First. Larry, you will be missed. Thank you for the work you did for literature, for independent bookstores, and for taking a chance on books by locals. Grateful for your legacy.

Cindy Crosby - December 02, 2019 at 03:31 PM

GD

“ While living in Dixon, Larry and Books On First was the brightest light in town. His participation at the 'Autumn On The Prairie' celebration of Nachusa Grasslands made the event more special. When Larry said, this may be something you want to read...never wrong. Larry will be missed, certainly...Larry will always be remembered, absolutely.

Gerald Mc Dermott

Gerald Mc Dermott - December 02, 2019 at 01:55 PM

KP

“ Goodbye to a long-time friend.
--Ken and Penny (Pierce)

Ken Pierce - December 02, 2019 at 07:13 AM

EA

“ Larry was the best life-long friend I ever had. We grew up together and were students together thru grade school, high school and university years. After that we still kept in contact and when we got together it was like resuming a conversation from yesterday. He was a great individual and we shared many tall tales over the years. He will be missed by many people.

Ed Apple

Ed Apple - December 02, 2019 at 05:30 AM

MR

“ I knew Larry first as a customer of my Chicago tavern in the early 1990's and later as a friend. I looked forward to his occasional visits to Chicago when he often stopped by at our tavern for a beer and conversation. He was a wise and warm heated man who many will miss.

Michael G Roper - December 02, 2019 at 01:46 AM

DS

“ Our thoughts and prayers to family & friends! What a loss for all of us. I have never met a man so personable and able to talk to you about anything. My 15 year old grandson has always been impressed that everytime he went in there he would say Hi Riley! That was Larry! Another Angel has earned His wings today! Fly high Larry

Diane Schnake - December 01, 2019 at 09:31 PM

MD

“ Larry always made us feel welcome and had something interesting to share - whether it was about books, music, Chicago, or Dixon. He was a great supporter of authors and readers. Our family will miss him.

Mary Dixon - December 01, 2019 at 03:15 PM

Mary
Vieregg

“ Always a pleasure to share a few words with Larry when we were in the store. He'll be missed. Mary & Jim Vieregg



Mary Vieregg - December 01, 2019 at 10:57 AM

LG

“ I always looked forward to seeing Larry whenever I went into the store. We would talk motorcycles and just chat. He would always give me a free smoothie cause he knew how much I loved them! I will so miss seeing his face when I go in. He was one hell of a man that's for sure!

Lorie Gallegos - November 30, 2019 at 08:57 PM

KM

“ *Kathy McMunn lit a candle in memory of Lawrence Joseph Dunphy*



Kathy McMunn - November 30, 2019 at 08:23 PM

DS

“ *Books on first was my place to go at 6:30 on weekday mornings for coffee and fellowship with the guys. I checked and was there over 150 mornings this past year. I am pretty sure that Larry knew what each of his regulars ordered. We also attended many of the Saturday night music performances. It was at Books on First. Where I got my picture taken with Ed Asner and where I shook hands with Obama before he became president. I told my wife that except for her, I saw Larry more days in a year than anyone else. I will miss him.*

Daryl Stienstra - November 30, 2019 at 08:09 PM

JK

“ *I'll always remember the first time I met Larry. Todd Lorenc and my self "Jeff Kagay" had just started our band "Flying Fish" 2005. We were playing our first gig at the Next picture show. Larry came down after hearing about us and listened to us play. He said come to BOF and play here. We said yes of course and for the last 15 years we've been playing there. We do solo work now but to play at Larry's was a treat cause it's a intimate concert setting where everyone listens. He was a very cool fella and will be missed very much. He gave so many new artist a chance to get some exposure. RIP Larry, your friend Jeff.....*

Jeff Kagay - November 30, 2019 at 06:23 PM

CB

“ *My sincere sympathy to the entire Dunphy family. Larry will be missed by his many friends as well.*



Carol Biester - November 30, 2019 at 02:31 PM

WH

“ *My Best long distance friend for many years. He and I made a promise..No retirement....He passed away on his day off... He,John Latta and I raced stock cars in Sterling one summer...Larry turned it over. Won a case of beer...We were 18*

william Heath - November 30, 2019 at 01:10 PM

DJ

“ *Sorry for your loss prayers God bless*

debra and dennis. merritt jay - November 30, 2019 at 12:55 PM

FH

“ *RIP Larry, you were a very terrific person. Our class of 1956 Amboy High School will miss you. God be with his wife and children and family. You will be missed greatly. RIP*

Ftances Holbrook - November 30, 2019 at 12:03 PM