



Larry Lee Pendergrass

June 29, 1939 - May 14, 2023

Larry Lee Pendergrass, age 83, passed away peacefully in his sleep early in the morning of Sunday, May 14, 2023, at his home near Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to being a devoted family man and church member, Larry was a respected career Army officer, an exacting teacher, a remarkably successful coach, and an internationally revered officiator for Olympic-style air rifle tournaments. The son of Leonard and Bernetta Pendergrass of Mt. Vernon, Missouri, Larry was born on June 29, 1939. He lettered in football and track at Mt. Vernon High School, played trumpet in the school band, excelled in math when he tried, boxed in regional Golden Gloves tournaments and occasionally drove various fast cars on country roads. Larry went on to attend Southwest Missouri State College (today's Missouri State University). There, he enrolled in the ROTC program for four years, which he found more interesting than his other subjects, except math. At SMS, he met fellow student Patricia (Pat) Critchfield, and they married on March 4, 1961 in St. Louis. Upon graduation with a bachelors degree in mathematics, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant Artillery on August 1, 1961. His military career took him around the world, including a tour of Vietnam in 1967-68, where he served as a commander and staff officer. In addition to various U.S. posts, he was also stationed in Germany, Okinawa and Korea, while he and Pat raised a son and two daughters. After 20 years of service, he retired from Active Duty as a Major on October 1, 1982. He earned multiple awards, including two Bronze Stars, two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, a

National Defense Service Medal, and a Vietnam Service Medal with a silver star (5 campaigns). Making Atlanta the permanent home for his family, Larry then led JROTC programs in Fulton County high schools. At Creekside High School, he coached the Olympic-style air rifle team to a record of five consecutive Georgia State High School Championships. He was named the sport's Coach of the Year for Georgia eight times. After retiring from teaching and coaching in 2002, Larry served for a decade as both Georgia High School Association's Rifle Coordinator and State Championship Match Director. During that time, air rifle expanded rapidly across the state, and Georgia became widely known as the sport's top state nationally. After being invited to be part of the shooting staff for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Larry rose to become a highly respected officiator at both the national and international levels. He served as Chief Range Officer for the NCAA Championships from 2011 through 2019. He officiated trials and finals for multiple World Cups, as well at the Olympics in Atlanta, Rio de Janeiro and Beijing. Larry also served as an ordained deacon and dedicated choir member at Heritage Hills Baptist Church for nearly five decades, including a long tenure chairing the board of deacons. He was always an engaging 'greeter', even on days when it wasn't his assigned role. He refused to let anyone leave the church feeling anything less than fully welcomed, and he was always ready to share a fun story or a corny joke. Larry is survived by Pat, his wife of 62 years, and three children: son Paul and his wife Margaret; daughter Pam (Pendergrass) Kunz and her husband Donald Kunz and son Nathan; and daughter Paige (Pendergrass) Hill and her husband Richard Hill, Jr, daughter Taylor Anne Hill and son Richard Hill III. Visitation will be held Thursday, May 18 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Scot Ward Funeral Home, 699 American Legion Rd., Conyers GA 30012. The funeral service will be held Friday, May 19, at 11:00 am at Heritage Hills Baptist Church, 2987 Hwy. 212, Conyers GA 30094, with visitation preceding at 10am.

Condolences may be submitted on-line at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-

7216.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Visitation

MAY 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Heritage Hills Baptist Church
2987 Highway 212
Conyers, GA 30094
(770) 922-2027

Service

MAY 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Heritage Hills Baptist Church
2987 Highway 212
Conyers, GA 30094
(770) 922-2027

Tribute Wall

EB

“ Miss Pat, Pam, Paul and Paige, I am so sorry for your loss. I have so many great memories of you all from my time at Heritage Hills. My heart and my prayers are with you. He is with the Lord and sharing stories with my dad.

Ellen Barganier - May 19, 2023 at 08:30 AM

BH

“ Pat, Paul, Pam and Paige, I am so very sorry for your loss. Larry was a wonderful man. No finer friend that was always ready with a joke or a kind word and was always positive with a smile. He will be missed, but we delight that one day we will see him in Heaven. Love, Beth and Vic Hudon

Beth Hudon - May 19, 2023 at 12:17 AM

BH

“ Beth E. Hudon purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Larry Lee
Pendergrass.



Beth E. Hudon - May 18, 2023 at 11:50 PM

MA

“ Marty purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the
family of Larry Lee Pendergrass.



Marty - May 18, 2023 at 04:55 PM

CC

“ Chris and Shannon Culley purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Larry Lee Pendergrass.



Chris and Shannon Culley - May 18, 2023 at 04:23 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Scot Ward Funeral Services - May 18, 2023 at 12:31 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Larry Lee Pendergrass.



May 18, 2023 at 12:26 PM

WC

“ With Love, John & Georgia Coffey purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Larry Lee Pendergrass.

With Love, John & Georgia Coffey - May 18, 2023 at 11:42 AM

WC

“ *With Love, John & Georgia Coffey purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Larry Lee Pendergrass.*



With Love, John & Georgia Coffey - May 18, 2023 at 11:42 AM



“ *55 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Scot Ward Funeral Services - May 18, 2023 at 08:56 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Larry Lee Pendergrass.*



May 17, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Larry Lee Pendergrass.

May 17, 2023 at 07:44 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Larry Lee Pendergrass.



May 17, 2023 at 07:44 AM



“ Major (R) Pendergrass is one of my favorite teachers from Campbell High School (1985-1989). He instilled in me a love for the Army, which I joined, and will be retiring as a Colonel in a few years! He taught me to shoot well, and conduct drill and ceremonies with utmost precision. I remember one day, as he was inspecting me in formation, he told me to "Straighten up your posture, Chester!" I replied, "I am straight, SIR!" To which he responded, "Well, your head must be crooked!"

Larry had the ability to be both intimidating and endearing at the same time. When he would admonish you, you could see a wry smile that said, "You know I do this cause I care for you and want to see you do better." I will never forget him! I look forward to seeing him in the presence of the Lord. May God provide comfort and joy to the family!

Darren Chester - May 16, 2023 at 05:58 PM

PH

Thank you for sharing that story, Darren!

Paige Pendergrass Hill - May 16, 2023 at 10:42 PM

PH

And congratulations on your successful career!

Paige Pendergrass Hill - May 16, 2023 at 10:43 PM

PP

Thank you Darren. Teaching JROTC was a joy in his life and he loved his cadets!

Pat Pendergrass - May 17, 2023 at 09:53 AM

LA

*Mr. Pendergrass will be forever etched in my heart along side Mr Sizemore and Mr. & Mrs. Bacon! My childhood and even adult years are filled with wonderful memories of our families. I cannot really remember a time you all were not there, especially when my Daddy passed. Always a constant source of support and strength. Now they are all together once again! I know it was such a celebration too! We love you all and are here to return the strength and support, praying for peace and standing firm in the truth that God's arms are wrapped around you!
Someone told me to grieve deeply is to have loved fully, it is the culmination of love!
Love you all!
Lisa A.*

Lisa Aaron - May 18, 2023 at 09:11 PM

RL

“ Pat & Family,

Serving with Larry, over the years, as he supported the Early Learning Center was such a privilege. He was so supportive of this ministry and gave such wise advice that the ELC will benefit from for many years to come. To listen to his latest joke or a story made my day.

I loved to watch his facial expressions change when he did not agree with a topic of conversation and the approving nod that he would give me when he did agree. He embodied the true meaning of a leader with a servants heart.

Although we will all miss Larry, I celebrate with you his life and legacy. We lost a great man but Heaven gained one of the best.

*Love,
Robin Lamp*

Robin Lapm - May 16, 2023 at 04:06 PM