

Larry Wayne Sasser

August 19, 1947 - September 29, 2021

Larry Wayne Sasser, age 74 of Conyers, passed away Wednesday, September 29, 2021. He is preceded in death by his parents, Wayne Sasser and Stella White; son, Stacey Sasser, brother, Edwin Wofford; and sister, Sharmin Barton. Survived by his wife, Evelyn Sasser; son and daughter-in-law, Tommy Francis (Lisa); grandchildren, Jordan and Thomas Francis, III; sisters and brothers-in-law, Gayle Kreckman (Chuck), Sonja O'Neal (Rick), Trina DeRosia (Clint) as well as many nieces and nephews. Larry was married to his loving wife, Evelyn, for 29 wonderful years.

He was a very accomplished musician, accompanying many prestigious artists. In 1968, Larry moved to Nashville and became a member of the American Federation of Musicians.

His first big break came 1969, when he landed a full time job with Del Reeves. Del was a Grand Ole Opry star and had his own TV show. Larry worked with Del for several years.

He joined the Ray Stevens band in 1974, and got to do all of Ray's tour dates, play on some of his records and even tour the world. Larry described Ray and his high caliber players as a class act that he felt very lucky to be part of.

Larry's next stop. . . Jerry Reed. Larry refers to Jerry's amazing guitar talent, and as in Ray's band, the other members were very accomplished players.

Larry played on Jerry's records and since Jerry was also an actor, Jerry also played in movies such as "Smoky and the Bandit" with Bert Reynolds, "High Rollin'" with Peter Fonda, the "Concert Cowboy" series of movies with Tom Selick and Jerry Reed. Larry said Jerry was very much like the characters he portrayed in the movies, and that playing in the Reed Band was quite an experience.

Larry also played in a few other bands with such artists as Charlie Rich, Johnny Rodriguez, Johnny Duncan, Tanya Tucker, Lynn Anderson and played on the road with Ernest Tubb one time.

In 1983, The Nashville Network (TNN) was formed. The flagship show was called "Nashville Now" and was to be hosted by Ralph Emery. Larry became a member of The Nashville Now Band and worked with hundreds of artists of all types of music. Artists such as Johnny Cash, Barbara Mandrel, Roy Acuff, Minnie Pearl, Reba McIntire, Randy Travis, Kitty Wells, Grandpa Jones, Patty Loveless, Vince Gill, Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw. During this time, the Nashville Now Band was voted the #1 Band (non-touring) in country music five years in a row, 1985, 86, 87, 88 and 89 by the Academy of Country Music.

After 42 years, Larry was forced into retirement because of illness. From his first session in 1959 until his premature retirement in 1993, Larry Sasser played hundreds of record sessions, tour concerts and TV shows.

During Larry's outstanding career he was awarded the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Super Pickers Award, 1974 No Charge by Melba Montgomery, and the 1977 East Bound and Down by Jerry Reed. He received the Pedal Steel Guitar Association Inc. Appreciation Award, 1992; he was also inducted into the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame 1997; the Atlanta Society of Entertainers - Lifetime Achievement, 1997; The North American Country Music International Hall of Fame (Instrumentalist/Studio Musician)

1999; Northwest Georgia Steel Guitar - Wall of Honor 2005; Georgia Steel Guitar Association - Legend Award 2006; Nashville Tennessee Steel Guitar Association - Legends Award 2009; and the International Steel Guitar Hall of Fame - 2011 Inductee.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org. Chapel services will be held Monday, October 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at Green Meadow Chapel with Pastor Howard Greer officiating. Family will accept friends on Sunday, October 3, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Condolences may be submitted online at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Rd., Conyers, GA. 770-483-7216.

Cemetery Details

Green Meadow Memorial Gardens

677 American Legion Rd.
Conyers, GA 30012

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 3. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

OCT 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Tribute Wall



“ *Scot Ward Funeral Services created a Webcast in memory of Larry Wayne Sasser*



Scot Ward Funeral Services - October 04, 2021 at 01:20 PM

JW

“ *Served with Larry in the Military Police Corps in US Army in 1968. Served with a special TDY unit with the Nashville Metro Police from 553rd MP Co, Ft Campbell, KY. Great MP and even a better person. RIP dear friend and brother veteran.*

Jim Woodrum - December 05, 2021 at 09:39 PM

GK

“ *1 file added to the album Family Memories*



Gayle Kreckman - November 17, 2021 at 07:52 PM

LH

“ *Evelyn, sorry for the passing of Larry, respectfully
Larry hancock*

Larry Hancock - October 21, 2021 at 09:37 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Larry Wayne Sasser.*



October 04, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ *With loving memories...Elaine Harvill Nix purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Larry Wayne Sasser.*



With loving memories...Elaine Harvill Nix - October 04, 2021 at 12:52 AM



“ *Larry played pedal steel and lap steel on many jingles that I produced in Nashville and nailed it every time. It was an honor to know him and work with him. RIP Larry.*

Don Wirth - October 03, 2021 at 04:39 PM



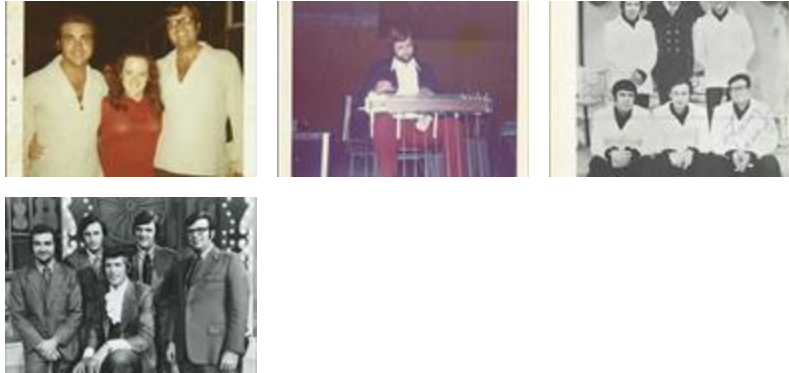
“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Pam Sell - October 02, 2021 at 12:50 PM

PS

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Pam Sell - October 02, 2021 at 12:39 PM



“ *Rainbow Reflections Basket* was purchased for the family of Larry Wayne Sasser.



October 01, 2021 at 10:20 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Larry Wayne Sasser.



October 01, 2021 at 02:07 PM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



Scot Ward Funeral Services - October 01, 2021 at 12:00 PM

PC

Gayle, I am so sorry about Larry. He was a fun and very talented man. I remember when you got him and your Dad to come over to play for our Teen Club. We thought that was great having real musicians play for us. You and your family are in my prayers.

Peggy Chase - October 01, 2021 at 02:35 PM

GK

Thank you, Peggy.

Gayle Sasser Kreckman - October 01, 2021 at 11:30 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Larry Wayne Sasser.



October 01, 2021 at 11:49 AM

AL

“ I am so sorry for your loss.
I remember my first time meeting Larry in 1988 at Jeff Newman's place..he had a steel guitar gathering, and my husband had just started taking lessons from Jeff.
Larry was so kind and had such a loving spirit.
Always smiling.
I will be praying for the family.
He will be missed..
Anne and Bill Lawson
Jacksonville Florida

anne Lawson - October 01, 2021 at 07:23 AM

GA

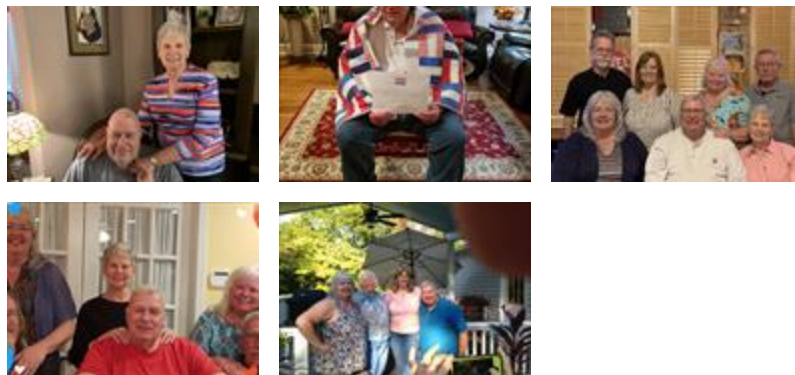
“ 1 file added to the album Videos



Gayle - September 30, 2021 at 11:03 PM

SO

“ 15 files added to the album Family Memories



Sonja O'Neal - September 30, 2021 at 09:55 PM

LS

“ So many wonderful memories of Larry around one of our tables throughout the years or just sitting around talking about the good old days at RCHS. Larry could tell the most wonderful stories of his time in Nashville playing in the bands for so many country music stars. He was an amazing man and we all loved him dearly. We will miss you Larry. Praying for Evelyn and the family during this difficult time.

Love you,
Linda & Al

Linda Surfus - September 30, 2021 at 09:06 PM

PK

“ Evelyn, we are so sorry for your loss of Larry. We know this is a difficult time for you and your loved ones. We will be thinking of you all and praying for our Lord's peace and comfort.

In His Love, Peggy and Ernest Kirkpatrick

Rabun Gap, Georgia

Peggy S. Kirkpatrick - September 30, 2021 at 04:46 PM

SC

I am so sorry about Larry. When all of us were school I remember he was always smiling. I also knew his Dad when we drove in Rockdale County. Evelyn and family, I am praying for all of you.

serita capes - October 03, 2021 at 04:45 AM