



Paul D. Larson

October 7, 1946 - January 20, 2024

Paul D. Larson passed away on January 20th, 2024 at the age of 77.

Paul was born in Alpena, Michigan on October 7th, 1946 to Josephine and John Larson. He grew up in Oscoda, Michigan and wintered with his family in Sarasota, Florida throughout his childhood.

Paul earned his Bachelor's of Education degree from Florida State University and was a beloved teacher. He spent the majority of his 36 year career with Sarasota County Schools at Booker Elementary, Middle and High School as Athletic Director and P.E. Department Head, finishing the last 11 years as Technology Facilitator. In 1981, Paul, with his college roommate and fellow teacher, Jim Price, coached the Booker High School boys track and field team to a State Championship. His winning team remarkably consisted of eight first year runners coached at a school without a track. He was known by many in town simply as "Coach," and former students would greet him as such years after his retirement.

Paul loved Sarasota for its warm weather and beautiful beaches. He joined the Sarasota Sailing Squadron and quickly found his passion for sailing. He later became Director of the Sarasota Youth Sailing Program, revitalizing the summer camp to a year round competitive program. With wind in his sails, he cruised to many exciting destinations including Cuba, the Bahamas, Belize,

Mexico, the Chesapeake and beyond.

After his retirement from teaching, Paul set his sights on crossing the Atlantic Ocean on his sailboat, Sea Star. In May of 2007, he left Florida to follow his dream, sailing to the Azores with his partner, Cindy, and dear friends, John and Daniel Pether. Paul and Cindy spent 16 years sharing the beauty of the Mediterranean Sea with countless friends and family aboard his two sailboats, Sea Star and À Bientôt.

Paul had a zest for life, finding joy in the beach, traveling, gardening, photography, animals, technology, gadgets, electronics, and coffee at the farmers market. But most of all, Paul enjoyed being with his family, friends and his dog, Mabel. He was a loving and dedicated father, grandfather, friend and partner.

Paul is preceded in death by his brother, John Larson.

He is survived by his partner of 25 years, Cindy Shedden, his daughters Sarah (Cord) Van Nostrand and Megan (Ryan) Parry, and his grandchildren, Lauren, Keaton, Ann, and Reed.

Paul lived life to the fullest and followed his dreams. For the past two years, he valiantly fought stage IV colon cancer and never let his diagnosis get in the way of his travels and shared experiences with family and friends. He is loved by many and will be missed greatly.

A celebration of Paul's life will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 3:30 PM at the Sarasota Yacht Club. 1100 John Ringling Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34236.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his honor to the Fight Colorectal

Cancer organization (FightColorectalCancer.org).

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 10. 3:30 PM (ET)

Sarasota Yacht Club
1100 John Ringling Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34236

Tribute Wall

CR

“ Paul's family & ours go back to the early 50's. His parents owned the home 2 doors from our home on 6th St. Brother Pete & I always looked forward to the Larson's return back to Sarasota. Always good to have another friend back to play hide & seek, baseball, shoot our bow & arrows along with some other mischief we'd get into. Smoking our first cigarettes, were able to buy them at Cheney's market on third street. Had to tell the checkout clerk we were buying them for our parents & then go into the woods near Gillespie park to smoke, hack & cough them. Taught us a good lesson though, as we never did smoke as adults. Paul is one of my oldest dearest friends, he put me up in his 6th street home when I was going through a bad time in my life & we had many fond memories & they will always be a special time in my life.

Chuck Resh - February 10, 2024 at 10:17 AM

GC

“ We give infinite thanks to God because it is a privilege to have met an exceptional person. Even more: it has been an honor for us to be close friends and to experience Paul's love and infinite loyalty. Thanks for everything dearest friend. Gisel and Pipo

Gisel Caridad - February 09, 2024 at 08:22 AM

IG

“ Isabel, Janet, Pipo and Gisel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul D. Larson.

Isabel, Janet, Pipo and Gisel - February 09, 2024 at 01:59 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul D. Larson.



February 09, 2024 at 01:59 AM



“ Everyone Paul met was better off for having known him. He shared his love of nature, sailing, travel, food, wine and life in general with each of us. Paul became our tech coach as well as our dear friend. Some people never really leave you. Paul is one of those people.

Fred & Sally Brumbaugh - February 07, 2024 at 05:33 PM



“ many breakfasts outdoors at WF - discussing the events of the world - such a kind and thoughtful person - the true meaning of friend - lucky me to have been able to share those times - condolences to cindy and family - with love - jane sydney

jane sydney - January 31, 2024 at 11:09 AM



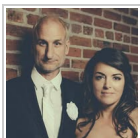
“ Paul and I taught at the same High School. I was the Director of VPA dance department. We enjoyed sharing things that would help make our students better athletes. I always had fun on his sail boat too. Plus, I married his college roommate!! Thank you Paul for all your help and fun times.
Love to all family members and his lovely significant friend Cindy!

Sherry Resh - January 30, 2024 at 05:37 PM

CM

“ I remember coach larsen. He loved his job. We honor him as true tornado '. May GOD bless his family and friends, with his peace. St. John 14chpt. Charlie mack and family.

Charlie mack - January 28, 2024 at 06:57 PM



“ Coach Larsen was such a great guy and a fixture for Booker High School and our Track and Field team, for years. He was super chill and always had that positive mental attitude. Even, though, I had not spoke to him in 30+ years, our condolences to his friends and family.

Jason Lewis - January 28, 2024 at 06:21 PM

CO

“ Keith and I have so many hilarious and heartwarming memories of Paul that we hold so dear. I think the one that makes us chuckle the most is when Paul told Keith to go climb in the bushes and tear off some rosemary sprigs that were growing in the village center during one of our trips to grab groceries for dinner on the boat in Greece. Keith came back with a couple of sprigs and Paul laughed at his measly collection and told him he would need a LOT more for his famous Rosemary Chicken. We love and will miss you, Paul!

Carrie Olson - January 28, 2024 at 04:35 PM

BP

“ There are too many but one that I remember is Paul eating a five hot pepper dinner with the sweat rolling down his face, while he says I LAUGH at hot food!!! This was at a Mexican Restaurant in Lake Tahoe, he impressed the waitress because she had warned him!!

Barbara Price - January 28, 2024 at 09:17 AM

JB

“ you will be missed, one of my greatest trips was with you and Cindy!

Jay W. Berman - January 27, 2024 at 11:03 AM