



Captain Stephen H. Larrabee, Jr.

May 16, 1942 - January 14, 2025

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home/Valley Funeral Service sends condolences to the family of Captain Stephen H. Larrabee, Jr.

Captain Stephen H. Larrabee, Jr. aged 82, died January 14, 2025, at his home. Born on May 16, 1942, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, son of Stephen Harris Larrabee of Scarborough, Maine and Isabel Latimer Larrabee of Watkins Glen, New York, Captain Larrabee was a 28 year veteran of the US Navy, a Naval Aviator (pilot) and Naval Officer. He traveled the world with challenging assignments and flying. He dearly loved his God, nature, his family and friends and tried his best in all things.

Captain Larrabee was a Mission Commander, Plane Commander, and Instructor/check pilot with thousands of flight hours in the P-3 Orion A/B/C versions of the Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft. He deployed worldwide, served in four continents, and was a Vietnam War veteran who flew "Operation Market Time" missions out of Cam Rahn Bay and Thailand. He also served two years as a flight instructor and check pilot in the T-28B/C aircraft teaching "nugget" Naval Aviators how to fly.

With a B.A. degree in Economics and a Masters in International Relations, Captain Larabee was a Distinguished Graduate of the Naval War College, Newport, RI, and a graduate of the National War College at Ft. McNair,

Washington DC. He served in the Executive of the Operations Branch of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, and later on the Plans and Policy staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Pentagon. He was Commanding Officer of Aircraft Ferry Squadron 31 in Norfolk, VA in 1984-1985. Fluent in Spanish, he served as the Academic Dean of the Inter-American Defense College at Fort McNair and left Naval service in 1993. He asks that his country never forgets the sacrifices of those veterans that served and died to preserve our freedoms for over two hundred years of our republic.

He used to say he never had a bad day in the Navy for 28 years, and was a natural pilot who dearly loved to fly. When he retired to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley in 2001, he tried to fly as many friends and neighbors as he could, low and slow, so they could appreciate the Valley's beauty from the air. He dearly loved his new home and friends in the unique and very special Valley.

An active amateur radio operator, "ham", for over 60 years, his other hobbies included flying privately, reading history, collecting and restoring antique radios, golf, motorcycling, and nature. He was a member of the Timberville Church of the Brethren, twice chairman of the Property Committee, and contributed many years to the Church Disaster Response Team trips and projects.

He is survived by his loving wife for over 20 years, Linda Elizabeth Utterback Larrabee, and was most proud of his daughters, Kelly Larrabee Sherwood, PA-C (Steve) of San Francisco, CA and Marly Larrabee Biermann, M.D. (Josh) of Portland, Maine, and his son, Jefferey Smith (Susie), of Fredericksburg, VA. He greatly loved and missed his wonderful granddaughter bright lights Sophia Claire and Gretta Gwendolyn in San Francisco and his grandson Luke Larrabee Biermann and granddaughters Lola Larrabee

Biermann and Lily Larrabee Biermann in Portland, Maine and granddaughter Jacqueline Danielle Peterson in Fredericksburg. His great-grandchildren Cassie and BJ Elliot in Fredericksburg, VA were special to him. They all gave him great joy and pride, and he loved them very, very much and wanted them to know how very much they meant to him: God's miracle gifts to the world which is a better place because they are here.

Captain Larrabee has asked to be cremated and his urn be interred at the Black Point Cemetery, Scarborough, Maine in the family plot. His memorial service will be private. In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions to the Shriners' Hospitals for Children and the Literacy Alliance of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Online condolences may be left at www.valleyfs.com

Arrangements by Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.

Tribute Wall

TG

“ I met Steve and Linda on a flight to Las Vegas in 2020. I had the incredible good fortune of having a seat next to him. It was like two old friends who had not seen each other in many years even though we had just met. Our conversation was non-stop for the entire flight, mostly about aviation and Steve's experiences as a P-3 pilot. Thus began a relationship that continued from my home in China. Captain Larrabee's humility impressed me greatly. He was truly accomplished. He was a regular, nice guy who did great things. It is May 24 and I just learned of Steve's passing but he told me back in December it was coming. I apologize for my late condolence. I have three photographs that he sent me since we met that I will keep and cherish. My sincere condolences to Linda and Steve's family who he spoke about with deep affection. I am truly honored and humbled that I was Steve's friend. I will remember him warmly for the rest of my days. Thomas Gorton - Nanning, China, formerly Falmouth, Massachusetts

Thomas Gorton - May 24, 2025 at 07:55 AM

JU

“ Screenshot of an old photo showing Steve in his heyday. Thanks for everything Steve. It was bliss. “See you in the morning.”



Julie - February 08, 2025 at 01:33 PM

JU

I wish I was in his arms tonight.

Julie - July 02, 2025 at 07:31 AM

DA

“ I was shocked and saddened to learn of Steve’s passing. He was such a friendly man. We always shared Navy stories from each other’s careers and I remember when my son went in the Navy, Steve always asked how he was doing, he liked the connection. Steve will definitely be missed by many. Dave Adsit, KG4BIR

David Adsit - February 06, 2025 at 09:06 AM

DS

“ Captain Larrabee and I go back some 40 years. Back to VP-26 flying the Navy P-3. He was the Pilot in command and senior Officer. I was the his Flight Engineer. With a crew of 5 officers and 13 enlisted, we flew the missions and traveled the world. He was a great leader and great pilot. I will miss my friend and I hope he is at the controls of his last flight.

*ADCS David P. Schorn
US NAVY, retired*

David Schorn - January 25, 2025 at 04:15 AM

LK

“ Steve was a great guy and a good friend and will be missed by so many. Our condolences go out to his family. Rest In Peace, Steve.
Lou & Jan Kocon

Lou & Jan Kocon - January 24, 2025 at 11:57 AM

LH

“ We are so saddened to learn of Steve's passing. He was such a kind and dignified man and we always enjoyed seeing him (and always learned something from him). Our deepest condolences to his family, we will remember him fondly. Lynn and Todd Holtzman

Lynn and Todd Holtzman - January 23, 2025 at 08:13 AM

WF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Wayne Frye - January 18, 2025 at 03:16 PM

MF

“ *My condolences to Linda and the family. Steve was a dear friend of my dad, Jesse Wine, and now they are reunited. The world will miss Steve and his many good works.*

Mary Sue France - January 18, 2025 at 03:11 PM

JG

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. My good friend and travel buddy will be sorely missed! God Speed Steve 🙏💙💜*

Joseph Giuffre - January 17, 2025 at 01:28 PM

HS

“ Steve arrived in fourth grade from Argentina like an exotic breath of fresh air. I have known him ever since. He had a joy of living unlike anyone else I knew. Typical of his leadership, he took me flying one day. He asked if I would like to take the controls. I declined, content to watch the passing landscape. Suddenly, he released the controls to "look" for something on the floor. I said, "I've got it," and we flew on. Throughout our friendship, he spurred me into new adventures. He did the landing though.



Hugh Savage - January 17, 2025 at 10:23 AM

MH

“ I used to attend church with Steve and Linda and I can say he was one of the kindest and nicest people I ever knew..my children who knew Steve thought the world of him...the world was a better place with you in it sir...you will be missed..
rest in peace Steve...Mike Hinegardner

michael hinegardner - January 17, 2025 at 08:59 AM

KF

“ Prayers for peace and comfort for family and friends. There are far too few men in this world like Steve. I didn't know him as Captain but just plain Steve, the down to Earth radio guy and motorcyclist (we had that in common). He never came across as a superior individual to anyone but always knew how to handle a difficult situation calmly. He was immensely proud of his family's accomplishments and would let you know what they had achieved. Steve is flying higher now than he ever flew before, in the Highest Heaven with Jesus!

Kevin Foltz - January 16, 2025 at 05:59 PM

WK

“ I'm going to miss your humor and jokes even though I was the butt of most of them. Loved you bro.

Wayne Koehler KE4PMS - January 16, 2025 at 02:26 PM