



Larry Downey Snyder

March 28, 1943 - May 21, 2026

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home/Valley Funeral Service sends condolences to the family of Larry Downey Snyder.

Larry Downey Snyder, 83, lived a life full of grit, loyalty, humor, and heart. Born March 28, 1943, in Moorefield, WV, he was the third son of Maude and Carson Snyder and grew up with five brothers: Jim, Jack, Douglas “Wink,” Steve, and William “Bo.” Life was not easy for the Snyder boys, but their bond was iron-strong. Larry is preceded in death by Jim, Jack, and Wink, and survived by Steve and Bo, along with his devoted sister-in-law, Marsha.

After high school, Larry joined the U.S. Navy and served 22 years, including three tours in Vietnam. He was deeply patriotic, the kind of man whose eyes would well when he spoke of his service. The Navy showed him the world, but Fort Valley was where he belonged.

Larry never married and lived exactly the way he pleased. His great loves were his cats and the many animals he fostered and fed over the years. His bond with his late dog Wolfy remained with him always. He enjoyed auctions, good bargains, and keeping up with the Northern Virginia Daily and The Valley Trader. He lived without cable, internet, or a cell phone – proof that a simple life can be a full one.

Larry built a second family through loyalty and decades of shared work. Jeff Green spent nearly 40 years at his side – cutting wood, hunting, and forming a bond that never needed many words. Even during chemo, Larry surprised Jeff by splitting wood on a rare good day, determined to show he still could.

Susan Barb was right there with them – hunting, caring for the land, and never missing a Sunday when Larry needed her. Larry respected her deeply for her loyalty and work ethic.

He also cherished watching Chase Kerns, Brianna Murden, and Conner Richman grow up. Chase remembers him as hardworking, with a heart of gold and someone who truly would give you the shirt off his back. Brianna saw him as a kind-hearted old soul who loved wildlife, gardening, and caring for his land. Conner was just beginning to look up to Larry, learning the value of work and earning money from him.

And then, in the late summer of 2025, Larry received a miracle. A young girl found a class ring on a walking path – his ring, lost in 1962. After 63 years, it was returned to him. When Marsha placed it in his hand, Larry was speechless and smiling. It became one of his most treasured possessions.

In the end, that ring's long journey back to Larry felt like life returning something precious to a man who had given so much of himself to others. Nothing truly meaningful is ever lost – not a ring, not a memory, not a man like Larry Snyder. His stories will keep finding their way back to us for the rest of our lives. The ring's journey ended in his hands – and his story continues in ours.

“The righteous care for the needs of God’s creatures, and blessed are those who help them.”

Inspired by Proverbs 12:10

In this spirit, Larry Cave stepped in from the very first day in Larry's time of need and never once wavered. He promised he would walk with us through it all – and he kept that promise. Now that Larry Snyder's journey has come to its end, Larry Cave remains by our side, steady and faithful, knowing how much we still carry. His kindness has been a blessing beyond measure.

Larry Snyder chose not to have a service. He wanted to be cremated and his ashes strewn over his beloved land.

Online condolences may be left at www.valleyfs.com

Arrangements are in the care of Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.