



## Lawrence Hilmar Forster, U.S. Army CW2 (Retired)

March 15, 1933 - March 21, 2024

Lawrence Hilmar Forster, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer W2, was born March 15, 1933 to Ottmar & Hedwig (Tschoepe) Ruehle in the small town of Marion, Texas and was later adopted by his stepfather Rudolph Forster. Lawrence passed away peacefully on March 21, 2024 at the age of 91. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 69 years, Mary Lou Forster. Lawrence was one of six siblings survived by younger brother Sydney Forster and preceded in death by sisters Geraline Tuch, Marjorie Larison, Anna Brown and brother Ottmar Forster.

Lawrence "Larry" attended school through the 8th grade. At the age of 16, he first met Mary Lou Friesenhahn, a memory he could easily recall. It was the third Saturday in June of 1949 at the Luxello Dance Hall near Selma, TX. She was wearing a blue skirt when he asked her to dance and coincidentally the first song they danced to was "The Blue Skirt Waltz." It was destiny in the making. They continued to see each other at local dances and shortly after began dating. Their frequent date spot was going to the movies. In April of 1950, Lawrence joined the U.S. Army. When he returned home from Korea in March of 1952, he got down on one knee and proposed to Mary Lou, the love of his life. They were married on a Wednesday morning at 9am on July 2, 1952 at St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in New Braunfels. The newlyweds lived on a farm in Bulverde while Larry finished his service at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. After three years, Larry decided to leave the army in 1953 and

the couple settled down in New Braunfels. They both worked at the local textile mill. Larry worked as loom repairman and Mary Lou as a weaver. Their first daughter, Sharon, was born in 1954.

In 1955, they decided together that Larry would rejoin the Army for an additional three years. Little did they know this would be the start of Larry's military career and the beginning of their lifetime of traveling adventures. First stop was a military facility in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Soon after, Larry received orders to Okinawa and from there he was sent to Korea. During his leave overseas, Mary Lou returned back to New Braunfels and worked as a dental hygienist. In 1957, Larry returned home from Korea and they made their move to Columbus, Georgia where he was stationed at Fort Benning. The couple's second child, Jerald, was born in 1958. Later that year their little family made the big move to Vicenza, Italy. After two years overseas, they returned to Killeen, Texas where Larry was stationed at Fort Hood. Larry received orders to Germany for the "Berlin Crisis" towards the end of 1961. Mary Lou and the two kids joined him in Germany shortly after in 1962. The family resided in Ansbach & Nuernberg during their time there. In October of 1964, Larry received orders to be stationed in Fort Ord, California. Mary Lou, expecting their third child, flew to New York from Germany then drove the two kids and their dog all the way to Bulverde to meet up with Larry. From there, they continued their drive with a mobile trailer to Shady Oaks Trailer Park in California. Just two months later, in November 1964, their daughter Joni was born in a military hospital at Fort Ord. In 1966 Larry received orders back to Vietnam and Mary Lou moved to New Braunfels, TX with the three kids. In 1967 the family moved back to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland where Larry was once again stationed. Two years later, he was ordered back to Vietnam so Mary Lou and the kids returned Bulverde, TX where the couple had bought a house and had it moved onto some property. Larry returned home from Vietnam in 1971. He commuted back and forth from Fort Hood on the weekends until he finished out his service with the military

and retired in 1972. In 1981 they added on to their home in Bulverde, Tx where Lawrence and Mary Lou lived out the rest of their lives.

Larry's military career was incredibly notable after serving for 21 years. He was ranked highly in the army receiving multiple awards and medals of honor including the bronze star- an award given only to those few who were on the front lines of active combat during the war. During active service he continued his education obtaining his high school GED, learning multiple languages and became skilled at several different trade jobs along the way.

Larry's life after the military was nothing short of spectacular. He worked as an electrician, HVAC technician, mechanic and was really a jack of all trades eventually running his own business "Larry's All Around Service". He also took to ranching and had a herd of fifty cattle that he maintained over the years. In his spare time, he was an avid bowler and a part of the local nine pin bowling league. Larry and Mary Lou were known to many as "The King & Queen of Bowling". He loved fishing down in Corpus Christi at their cabin on the water. He could filet a fish faster than anyone and his homemade fish fries were simply the best. In addition to fishing, Larry also enjoyed hunting everything from local whitetail deer to bear and elk in Wyoming, Montana and Canada. He liked that his hunting could provide food for his family. He and Mary Lou made incredible smoked sausage from scratch and were sure not to waste a single bit. They used the small scraps of meat off the bones to make a traditional german dish- "Pan Haus" which was enjoyed by many.

Larry and Mary Lou weren't fond of flying, but they loved driving and traveling the countryside to visit family & friends. Their travels have taken them all over the world and back again visiting every state in the continental U.S.. Frequent trips included those to Pennsylvania and Missouri to spend time with old army buddies, Alaska and Tennessee to name a few. Larry's love for driving started

in the military with him retrieving vehicles at the front lines and carried on throughout the rest of his life. Even at the age of 90, Larry was making frequent trips up to Montana and was always looking for a reason to go on another road trip. One of his last big trips was in August of 2023 when he was invited on the Veteran's Honor Flight to Washington D.C with his son in law, Kyle. He was given the honor of placing the ceremonial wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier. His trip ended with a parade of thousands of people who came out to honor his service to our country and was a moment that had him feeling the recognition and gratitude that was long overdue.

Anyone who came to visit Larry, knew they could find him at the kitchen bar playing card games, specifically solitaire, for hours on end. If he wasn't there, he was relaxing in his TV room watching old western movies that he had seen each at least a few dozen times or searching the internet for antique cars that he dreamed of owning when he was younger.

In addition to it all, Larry was involved in many aspects of his community. He was an active member of their church, St Joseph's Honey Creek Catholic Church where he helped cook a variety of authentic german foods to feed hundreds of the parishioners at their annual church festivals. He held the office of secretary for Anhalt's German Farmers Verein for many years. Larry was also a member of the men's Alter society, the Knights of Columbus, National Rifle association and lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Like his travels, his life has seen the best of times and the difficult ones, yet he would not have traded any of that time. It has been an investment that has produced many fruitful returns. He was a beloved brother, father, uncle and "Opa" to many who will cherish the memory of him: three children, ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Children :

1. Sharon & husband Dwayne Carpenter
2. Jerry & wife Kelley Forster
3. Joni & husband Kyle Kellar

Grandchildren :

- Sharon G.
- Jeremy Forster
- Brandon Forster
- Jason Carpenter
- Derek Forster
- Colbe Forster
- Morgan Carpenter
- Katerina Kellar MD
- Kwin Kellar
- Grant Kellar

Military Awards & Decorations:

Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal x3, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal for Korea, Army Meritorious Unit Citation, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal & Vietnam Campaign Medal

1st Enlistment: April 10 1950-April 10 1953

Re-Enlistment: March 9 1955-March 31st 1972

Foreign Service Campaign

December 14, 1950 - February 27, 1952 Korea

October 11, 1955 - March 18, 1957 Okinawa & Korea

June 16, 1958 - March 9, 1961 Italy

October 23, 1961 - October 3, 1964 Germany

July 27, 1966 - July 25, 1967 Vietnam

July 8, 1969 - July 7, 1970 Vietnam

VISITATION :

MONDAY - APRIL 8, 2024

6:00PM

7:00PM - ROSARY

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH HONEY CREEK

25781 HWY 46

SPRING BRANCH, TX 78070

GRAVESIDE SERVICE :

TUESDAY - APRIL 9, 2024

11:00AM

FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

1520 HARRY WURZBACH ROAD

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 8. 6:00 PM (CT)

The Chapel at St. Joseph of Honey Creek Catholic Church  
25781 State Hwy 46 West  
Spring Branch, TX 78070

## Rosary

APR 8. 7:00 PM (CT)

The Chapel at St. Joseph of Honey Creek Catholic Church  
25781 State Hwy 46 West  
Spring Branch, TX 78070

## Graveside Service with Full Military Honors

APR 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Tribute Wall



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence Hilmar Forster, U.S. Army CW2 (Retired).



April 08, 2024 at 02:01 PM

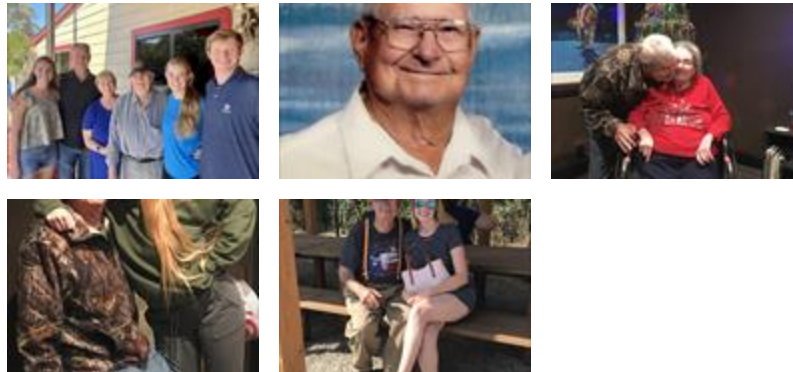


“ The Krueger Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lawrence Hilmar Forster, U.S. Army CW2 (Retired).

The Krueger Family - April 08, 2024 at 02:01 PM



“ 59 files added to the tribute wall



Joni Kellar - April 08, 2024 at 11:22 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence Hilmar Forster, U.S. Army CW2 (Retired).



April 08, 2024 at 10:57 AM



“ Rest in Peace Larry. Our condolences to all of his family & friends.

Ruben Rose & Aubri Guerra - April 03, 2024 at 10:47 AM



“ Ruben, Rose & Aubriana Guerra planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lawrence Hilmar Forster, U.S. Army CW2 (Retired).

Ruben, Rose & Aubriana Guerra - April 03, 2024 at 10:42 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lawrence Hilmar Forster, U.S. Army CW2 (Retired).



April 03, 2024 at 10:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Route to the Assembly Area at Fort Sam Houston*



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - April 03, 2024 at 10:29 AM

MA

*These is the route to the Assembly Area at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.*

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**Martin** - April 03, 2024 at 02:34 PM

MF

*So saddened to learn that Mr. Larry passed away on Norvin's birthday! I had the great pleasure to get to know him and always enjoyed visiting with the family. May he rest in peace in the arms of our Lord! He was a wonderful proud veteran!! Peace to his family as he celebrated a great Easter in heaven!! Love,*

*Mary Friesenhahn*

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**Mary Friesenhahn** - April 13, 2024 at 02:08 AM

GA

“ *My sincere condolences to the entire immediate and extended family of Lawrence. May God bless both Larry and Mary Lou. What a wonderful and fulfilling life they had. Peace be with us all.*

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**Guy Anderson** - April 03, 2024 at 08:40 AM