



## Lawrence J. "Larry" Souza

May 26, 1946 - September 11, 2018

Lawrence J Souza (Larry) passed away unexpectedly on the 11th of September, 2018, in San Antonio, Texas while he was en route by ambulance back to San Antonio Military Medical Center following complications from heart surgery. He was 72 years old.

Larry was born in Downey, California to parents John and Florence Souza. As a little boy, Larry and his friends would ride their bicycles all around East LA while their parents worked. He attended Excelsior High School, where he lettered in football and excelled at baseball and wrestling.

Larry was drafted into the United States Army in 1967 while he was in college. (He believed that his Marine stepfather had been instrumental in getting him drafted because he was not focused in his studies.) He completed Basic Training at Fort Bliss, Texas, Missile Training at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, Clerk School at Fort Bliss, Texas, Infantry Drill Instructor School (NCO Academy) at Biggs Field, Texas.

He was assigned as Operations NCO at Special Training Company, Logan Heights in Fort Bliss, Texas. There he helped administer "Project 100,000", in which individuals were taught reading up to the 5th grade level before being sent to regular army Basic Training. He was honorably discharged in 1969 at the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Larry completed his Bachelors of Art in History at the University of Texas at El Paso in 1970. Judge Woodrow Bean met Larry while he helped with the judge's political campaign in El Paso, and encouraged him to go to Law School. Larry went on to attend St. Mary's University School of Law and graduated in 1973. During law school he worked as an intern for the Bexar County District Attorney's Office in San Antonio. He was hired on as an Assistant District Attorney after graduation and went on to become one of the top prosecutors.

In 1975, he was commissioned in the United States Judge Advocate General Corp as a lawyer. He continued as a JAG until 1994. During his tenure as a JAG, Larry performed services as a Legal Assistance Officer, Medical Records Officer, Casualty Assistance Officer, International Law Officer, taught ROTC classes at University of Texas, Austin, gave briefings, taught military subjects and administered legal assistance.

Larry completed Officer Basic and Advanced Training under the auspices of the Judge Advocate General School in the campus of the University of Virginia. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with retirement from active reserve status in 1994.

Larry worked from 1979 to 1987 in a general practice of law at the firm of Nicholas and Barrera, Inc. San Antonio, Texas. From 1987 to 1996 he was engaged in the private practice of law, specializing in the representation of governmental entities and officials in defense of civil rights cases, and administration of prepaid legal program for local and state police unions. For the last sixteen years he has maintained a solo practice of law in San Antonio.

Larry met his wife, Jean Meyer, while they were both students at St. Mary's University. They were living two doors down from each other in the same

apartment complex. In her absence, Jean's dog was rescued from a flood by Larry. Her dog insisted on scratching on Larry's door every time she went by to do her laundry. Her dog Sherman, was a good matchmaker; Jean and Larry were married in 1975 in Ouray and were blessed with six children. They raised their children on a hill country ranch in Northwest Bexar County, Texas and in southwest Colorado.

Larry could be counted on for sound advice. He had an unwavering loyalty both in his personal life and in his career. He would instill in those he loved an air of perseverance- you could do anything knowing Larry Souza believed in you. And in return, those who loved him would step up to the challenges he set for them in order to not let him down.

He was highly intelligent, well-spoken, and commanded an air of respect. His character was greater than life. His unparalleled wit and sense of humor brought joy to so many. Often he could spring a joke on you so quickly and with such a straight face that it would take a moment to catch up, which he of course found amusing.

In the evening and on weekends, you could find Larry tinkering with his cars, motorcycles, or woodwork projects. He loved a good B-movie or any movie, adored Band of Brothers Series, Lonesome Dove and Firefly. He enjoyed visiting with his kids and eleven grandkids, eating at hole-in-the-wall restaurants around San Antonio, going to flea markets and car shows, traveling with his wife to many countries, and reading anything about military history, philosophy, and world religions.

His pursuit of knowledge was insatiable. In a letter to his daughter Erin, Larry wrote that in his life he tried to abide by a Socratic approach. In everything he would ask:

“What is true? What is good? What is right? What is beautiful?” He also warned her that Socrates was eventually executed for asking those questions, but that he went out with his boots on. Larry asked, “What more can anyone ask?”

Larry lived a full and exciting life. One that is very hard to capture into the short spaces allowed for an obituary. His life had many adventures, twists and turns, highs and lows, that if set to paper could likely challenge any Michael Crichton novel. Many of the encounters in his life really evoked the common saying that “truth is stranger than fiction.”

He had always been such a force to be reckoned with; and we all believed that he would prevail over any difficulty or health complication thrown at him. No previous obstacles had ever stopped him before from continuing to support his family in any way he could.

We will all miss this great man, loving husband, father, and friend.

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Lawrence J Souza is survived by his wife Jean, children Alexis Souza, Andrea Souza, Erin and Matthew Lewis, Lauren and Corey Keller, Charlotte and Michael Kelly, and Michael Souza. Grandchildren Kendall and Aaron Schooley, Tyler Boyd and Gracie Cramer, Evan and Conor Lewis, Cameron, Berkeley, and Leighton Keller, and Owen and Renee Kelly. Step-mother Gloria Smith of Montrose, CO. Sister Terry Souza Largent of Lake Powell, UT, Brother in law Gary Meyer of Fort Worth, TX. Nephew Stefan Vann and wife Angel Waters of Austin, TX and his niece, Amy Ryan Poerschke of Houston, TX.

He was preceded in death by his Mother Florence Mucklow Smith, Step-father

Merlin Smith, Father John Souza and step-mother Lois Souza.

A Viewing and Visitation with Family will be held at:

Mission Park Funeral Chapel North  
Wednesday, September 19th at 6:30 PM.

A full graveside Caisson service with military honors will be held at:

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in the Assembly Pavilion.  
Thursday, September 20th, at 9:30 am.

In lieu of flowers please send donations in memory of Lawrence J Souza to  
The Community Justice Program of SABA, [www.sanantoniobar.org](http://www.sanantoniobar.org) or to The  
American Heart Association [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

# Cemetery Details

## **Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery**

1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Previous Events

## **Visitation**

SEP **19**. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## **Graveside Service with Full Military Honors**

SEP **20**. 9:30 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ I worked with Larry, professionally and personally. He was a great guy. Always willing to help, offer advice or life knowledge, or personal experience.. either way, he would always ended with a joke. So sorry to here he passed.

Mark Kedrowski - August 23, 2024 at 11:21 PM

JG

“ MR.LARRY WON MY CASE..He was the best lawyer in town! He told me "kid" I believe in you and you gonna do good in life, never stop telling the truth! The work he did for me shows he really care and he has a heart and this is not just a job. He all went above and beyond when working on my case. Thank you again for your hard work and working extra hard to ensure my success. REST IN PEACE MR.LARRY AND THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING! I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU 🙏

JENNIFER GACASA - April 04, 2024 at 10:12 PM

JD

“ I thought the world of Larry. He was an excellent lawyer and really cared about his clients. I am very grateful for all he did to help my brother, Leonard. Larry was a devoted to his family and a loyal friend. I will never forget his kindness.

Janie Littke Duplsntis - October 29, 2021 at 09:51 AM

JD

My deepest sympathy to Larry's family.

Janie Little Duplantis - October 29, 2021 at 09:54 AM

JD

*My deepest sympathy to Larry's family.*

Janie Little Duplantis - October 29, 2021 at 09:55 AM

CW

“ *Larry was one of the most kind, gracious and all around great guys I ever knew and I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. I first met Larry when we were classmates in law school at St. Mary's and we stayed friends long after law school, including working in the DA's office together. Even though I didn't get to see him that much after I moved from San Antonio, he always remained a good friend. My deepest sympathies to Jeannie and all his family but always know that Larry Souza will never be forgotten.*

*God Bless.....Charlie Willette*

Charlie Willette - September 19, 2018 at 10:42 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence J. "Larry" Souza.*



September 18, 2018 at 08:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence J. "Larry" Souza.*



September 18, 2018 at 04:19 PM

ES

“ *Everyone at Keller Custom Signs purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Lawrence J. "Larry" Souza.*



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**Everyone at Keller Custom Signs** - September 17, 2018 at 01:09 PM

EC

“ *We send our deepest sympathy to Jean and the children. Larry was our best friend and he will be greatly missed. RIP Larry.*

*Carol and Ernie*

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**Ernie and Carol** - September 17, 2018 at 10:36 AM