



## Charles Lawrence Russell King

July 14, 1950 - February 16, 2024

Charles Lawrence (Larry) King, 73, of Fort Collins, CO passed away on February 16 during a scheduled surgery to try to repair some extensive damage to his heart - one we all know was big enough to move mountains and had endured more than most. He is no doubt, back in cahoots with his partner in mischief, Barb, who has been eagerly waiting for him since her passing in 2021. Anyone who knew the two of them knows that she greeted him with a sarcastic remark (and probably a martini). We can picture his brilliant smile and the twinkle in his baby blue eyes, now lighting up the night sky.

Charles, or Lawrence, or Larry, depending on the day, was anything but ordinary - much like the adventures and life he embraced. Born on July 14, 1950 in Washington, DC. He had a humble childhood and was from a small family, with one sister and parents, who all preceded him in death. Larry was no stranger to getting into mischief in dim lit alleys and dusty side streets and his sly sense of humor blossomed early. His first car was an ambulance that wouldn't pass the safety inspection but still had the functioning lights and logos. He told stories of people pulling over for them as a new driver, while he and his friends would howl in laughter as they drove all over the streets of D.C.

Larry moved to Colorado right after high school and got a teaching degree

from Metro and a Master's Degree from UNC in Greeley. Never one to meet a stranger, he made friends everywhere he went. His open, warm and caring personality was one that left a lasting imprint on so many. Larry had a wonderful sense of wit and loved to laugh – if you got him going, you couldn't stop him. His smile and charm were truly infectious.

Professionally, Larry held many roles over the years. From working night shifts at Ideal Cement Plant to his time at Anheuser Busch. He dedicated nearly three decades to teaching elementary school in Australia and Fort Collins at both Bauder and Johnson Elementary schools before taking on a 'retirement' gig as a Transfort bus driver, where he also occasionally drove the downtown trolley. His social nature keeping him plugged in to the pulse of the community and we know, making folks smile and laugh along the way every day.

Post-retirement, Larry became heavily involved in civic and community service and became the unofficial mayor of the Elk's lodge, where he held multiple leadership roles including serving as Exalted Ruler in 2016. He enjoyed many hours of camaraderie with the friends he made there.

But it was his family and friends (and his beloved dogs) for whom he lived. Always willing to pick up the phone when someone called, he would drop everything to help those in need. Whether it was his family or friends, or someone just down on their luck, Larry was ready with a meal, a hand, a ride, an ear. He always acted with generosity and humility and that spirit deeply impacted so many – it was one of the most endearing things about him.

Larry adored his kids and grandkids and is survived by children Jaime (Brian Sense), Jeff, Andrea and Davis and grandsons Ben (10), Colden (6) and Jackson (6mo).

A Celebration of Larry's Life will be held at The Elks Lodge at 1424 E.

Mulberry St. on March 2nd from 11am-2pm. A short honorary Elks-led service will begin promptly at 11am with time for reflection and stories and a reception and refreshments to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the NoCo Humane Society.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 2. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Elks Lodge  
1424 East Mulberry Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524-3518

# Tribute Wall

BK

“ Benjamin Ray Mireles King lit a candle in memory of Charles Lawrence Russell King



Benjamin Ray Mireles King - May 19, 2025 at 11:53 AM

SJ

“ Mr King was my grade 5 teacher in Australia and he made such an imprint on my life that we kept in contact until not too long ago. I just had a baby and Larry turned up in a dream of mine last night holding my baby beaming with joy. I went to message him and saw he passed last year which is so heart wrenching. I just wanted to say he was such a beautiful man and teacher that I will never forget having the honour of being one of his students. Love to all the family xx

Shae Jackson - March 25, 2025 at 02:11 AM

TT

“ I send condolences to you all. Larry was my great uncle whom I never got the pleasure to meet. He sounds like a great man. God bless him and his people. 💕💕



Tiffany Taylor - March 11, 2024 at 02:29 PM

WC

“ Larry was driving the bus by 2 hearts for lacy one day and stopped in to say hello. He wanted his daughter to come to my school. Then, he decided to help the kids with their math skills so they could pass their GED. He was simply wonderful. Thank you Larry for being such a light on this planet and to me personally. Hugs!!!

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wendy cohen - February 25, 2024 at 08:18 PM

GC

“ Larry, you were one of my most favorite people on the planet. You were so kind to everyone you met. You loved kids and they knew it. You were friends with parents, teachers, and could bring a smile to anyone's face.

I enjoyed teaching Andrea, your sweet daughter. She was just awesome.

I know how much your nephew Andrew Scott loved and respected you. I think part of his great sense of humor comes from you.

I remember one time when we were together at sixth grade Eco Week (not my thing!). I had to take 25 kids on a hike using a compass as our only guide. I could not read a compass. You told me not to worry but remember these things.

Just follow Billy, a boy scout who could read a compass and we would get back safely.

If a black bear came upon us, stand up and holler! But if it was a brown bear, roll up into a ball.

But you said if I just followed Billy, we would be fine. I never let that kid out of my sight. It was the longest 2 hours of my life!

I also remember how you went out of your way to help the kids who did not quite fit in or who needed extra love. First thing you know the whole class was taking extra good care of them.

Your special way of loving, laughing, and enjoying life made such an impact on everyone who got to know you. I feel fortunate to have known you. The world was lucky you were in it.

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Ginny Conahan - February 25, 2024 at 11:04 AM

KB

*Ginny, Andrew's mom here! I agree completely about your memories of Larry. You and Larry teaching together must have been dynamite for the kids. I adore both of you! Kathleen*

**kathleen bailey** - February 27, 2024 at 10:59 AM

GC

*Thank you Kathleen. I loved Larry and you know I love Andrew! Hugs to all of you. Ginny Conahan*

**Ginny Conahan** - March 03, 2024 at 09:42 PM

DH

*“ Larry, I will miss you also. We had a great visit recently in Denver, chatting about our jaunts in “The Heights”, S,E, D.C. I'll always remember that ride in your ambulance back when we had no cares at all. And our visits in Florida, you and your love Barb; and the fun we had showing you 2 the back roads of Vermont. Oh, the good old days.*

*You will always be in my heart, my friend.*

*Condolences to your whole family, and thank you Jeff for the call to let me know.*

*David Harris*

**David Harris** - February 23, 2024 at 12:48 PM

DZ

*“ Larry I will miss you , you are a dear friend and brother in-law . I think I was the first person in the family to know you and proud of that . I broke you in on your first job at The cement plant ( Cooler cotrell and uptakes along with kiln shelf cleaning . I helped your future wife Barb get a job there , the rest history! Thank you for always being there when I needed someone to talk to and someone who cared , my kids are all heart broken, they love you a lot we all love you !*

**David Zander** - February 21, 2024 at 08:29 PM

BS

*Larry, you will be missed by so many. You were my bonus dad my whole childhood and nearly every trip to the zoo was with you. Thank you for loving me like one of your own and always making me laugh. I love to think of you and Barb reunited 🥰 smiling and laughing together no doubt.*

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**Brittany Springer** - February 22, 2024 at 09:03 AM

EM

*I'm pleased that we were in touch late last year reminiscing about old times in S.E. D.C. with my brother, Nelson and myself over 60 years ago. You were loved by our entire family and you will always be remembered.*

*I'm grateful that we had a couple chats last year and you'll always remain in our thoughts and prayers. Love you, Larry 🙏❤️*

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**Ellen Ng Miller** - February 22, 2024 at 12:40 PM

JH

Larry,

*It was a joy to know you as a peer, parent, and friend! How fortunate for students, and staff when you came to Bauder. Students and parents loved you! It was a pleasure for me to work with you when your fourth and sixth grade classes became Reading Buddies with my first grade classes. You were always willing to participate in fun activities with the kids from making Witches Gorp at Halloween, reading to the kids using character voices, playing fun games, and more. Learning was fun for your students due to your warmhearted personality and expertise. You were kind, generous, caring, and a good friend. Everyone loved Mr. King!*

*Working with you and Barb as parents was enjoyable and most appreciated. When I first had Andrea in class and then Davis, both of you were always supportive of them and their endeavors inside and outside the classroom. I always knew that family was first in your lives.*

*I will miss your friendly greeting and smile. You brought sunshine into many lives and will be missed.*

*My deepest sympathy to Jamie, Jeff, Andrea, Davis, and Family. Your dad was a very special person leaving many memories that will remain in my heart and the hearts of many others.*

*Love and hugs to all of you. ❤️*

*Joyce Hubka*

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**Joyce Jerry Hubka** - February 22, 2024 at 04:46 PM

JC

*Charles, Larry, Kingsan,  
When we first met in Townsville Australia in 1975, on your teaching exchange, did we think that we would remain good friends for the next 49 years. It appears so.*

*Our chance meeting for dinner continued to a joint "tinnie" boat purchase together and a cross continent friendship lasting all those years.*

*So many memories and memorable times be they normal, abnormal, hilarious or just downright ridiculous.*

*Our first boat excursion to the Local Baratta creeks to catch "muddies" eating cold home made Aussie pies in the boat with mud crabs roaming around our bare feet. He loved them. We repeated the excursion in 2018, a little more civilised though as Barb accompanied us that time.*

*Camping on a deserted Island with huge cane toads, running out of beer and returning to the mainland in choppy seas to replenish.*

*A re-bonding trip to the Rockies camping, fishing and burning a broken timber guide post to keep warm with a bottle of Bundy rum.*

*So many more during the cross continent trips ten in total, the last in Ft. Collins late last year.*

*So glad to have had that time again with you, family and friends.*

*Larry was our Daughter Frances' first babysitter when she was around 3/4 months old. (1776/7)*

*So so sad to say farewell to one of my best mates. I know you will pass on my love to Barb as you have Martini's and drinks at the Garden Party with two other Aussie Mates Macca and Heggy who heve moved on, as well as the many many other people who were privileged know you.*

*Love to Jamie (Brian), Jeff, Davis and Andrea and the rest of your family and friends.*

*Our hearts are with you.*

*Jim Cartwright.*

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**Jim Cartwright** - February 22, 2024 at 08:55 PM

BK

*you probably and most definitely were the best grandpa anyone could ask for I am going to miss you every second of my life until it ends and I will be with you again. you always knew how to make me smile and I always have wanted to be around you. when Dad broke the knees to me I cried for 2 hours and I still haven't gotten over it. I wish you were here and I hope you are happy with grandma up there. I hope I can see you again one day.*

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**Benjamin Ray Mireles King** - May 19, 2025 at 11:49 AM

BK

*news I mean in the 5th line 2nd word*

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**Benjamin Ray Mireles King** - May 19, 2025 at 11:50 AM

BK

*I'm 12 btw*

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**Benjamin Ray Mireles King** - May 19, 2025 at 11:52 AM