



## Lawrence Alan Merkel

August 11, 1946 - February 2, 2026

Lawrence A. Merkel M.D. wrote his own obituary on January 28, 2026. He wrote:

“I was born in 1946 in Annapolis Maryland, shortly thereafter moving to Topeka, Kansas. As I write this I am obviously not dead yet, as you are reading this you aren’t either. I grew up in Topeka Kansas, attending Topeka West High School ‘64, University of Kansas B.A. ‘68 and University of Kansas MD ‘72 with a Family Medicine Residency at Good Samaritan Hospital ‘75 in Phoenix Arizona. Moving to Fort Collins in 1975, shortly thereafter formed Fort Collins Family Physicians later to become part of Associates in Family medicine. Forty years as a family physician allowed me the privilege of caring for children, seniors as well as delivering many babies. I consider my patients as much friends as patients. I had the opportunity to be president of the Larimer County Medical Society, Colorado Foundation for Medical Care, and medical director for Columbine Health Services. Also special, was fifteen summers working part time for Yellowstone Park Medical Services.

I met the most wonderful woman in the world, Sharon Rogers my senior year of medical school, and married 1 year later. We raised four sons, now happily married with five grandchildren.

Throughout the years I enjoyed skiing, jogging, hiking, coaching my sons’

youth baseball as well as playing baseball and basketball until time caught up. Now golf is an adventure that escapes me. I will always be a forever fan of the Chiefs, Royals, Jayhawks and adopted Ram fan. As I approach the 18th hole of life, my bucket list is empty of wishes but full of wonderful times.

While written perfectly, Larry's family would love to add a little more.

Family was everything to Larry. He proposed to the love of his life Sharon Rogers after just two months of dating, he said, "Why would I wait? I knew what I wanted." He was certain he had found his forever love, and he was right. They married a year later. Together for almost 54 years, they built a beautiful life, raising a family full of boys, and later welcoming daughters-in-law and grandchildren. Their life was full of travel, kids, sports games, grandkids, gatherings with friends, and dinners by candlelight. He'd often say, "I am the luckiest" and "How lucky are we to have this family."

Larry was endlessly proud of his children and loved spending time with them. He adored his grandkids, and they brought him more joy than he ever could have imagined. He would often be seen on the sidelines of sports games and swim meets, or cuddled up on the couch making silly jokes with them. He treasured watching them grow into who they are today; celebrating each milestone, each personality, and every moment he was lucky enough to share with them.

To Larry, being a family physician was both a privilege and an honor, one he carried with genuine gratitude and pride. He loved his patients and believed that real care reached beyond exam rooms and office hours. Caring for his patients as friends he'd say "Call me anytime, here's my home number." and he meant it.

Larry's friends were a treasure in his life, and he cherished them deeply. He

was grateful to get to share in the joys and heartache decades of friendship offered him. Together they lived through the seasons of raising families, starting careers, weddings, welcoming grandchildren, retirements, travels around the world, and so much more. Larry knew he was a lucky man, and he never took for granted the gift of those who walked through life with him.

Larry had a special appreciation for life's simple joys. Whether cheering for the Jayhawks or his adopted CSU Rams, he was always happy when there was a game to catch. He loved sunsets, good wine, and dinners on the patio that lingered into the evening. He cherished the times when conversation flowed, laughter filled the air, stories were told, and he was surrounded by the ones he loved most.

Larry often said his bucket list was empty because his life was so full. Cat Stevens, a favorite of his, sang it best, "Look at me, I am old, but I am happy." He felt the same. Lar - Dad - Grandpa, we will love you always!

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ I had the pleasure of working for Dr. Merkel for 17 years. He was such a kind hearted caring person. I was so shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. I ran into him here and there around town and also got to see him as a patient of Dr. Simmons. This is a picture they took with me about 8 years ago. We always had a great time catching up with each other's families. Occasionally Dr. Simmons had to come interrupt to see if he could come in and see his patient!! I loved getting Christmas cards and seeing how his and Sharon's family grew over the years. I am sending my deepest condolences to the family of a human who had a big impact on my life. He is greatly missed.



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**Amy Hoy** - May 20 at 12:23 PM

RR

“ Hi Sharon and the family

*Lo siento mucho por su pérdida*

*Conocí al Dr Merkel o Lorenzo como él me decía que se llamaba y su esposa Sharon cuando empecé con un pasa tiempo como jardinero que después él me hizo verlo como un negocio con su apoyo y sus recomendaciones y regaños cuando me encontraba haciendo algo sin protección o sin cuidado él me decía que él era doctor y que tenía muchas pastillas pero que él no tenía ninguna que me quitara lo estúpido eso pasó cuando me encontraron internado subir al techo de su casa con una escalera que no llegaba hasta el techo y yo la puse en la pared mi hermano la agarraba y yo subía ese día estaba muy enojado*

*Después pues el me decía que mí pago solo iba a ser con snickers por cuando el iba a hacer algo y me preguntaba que cuanto era yo le decía que no sabía él me decía que yo era un terrible negociante*

*Podría seguir hablando y contando muchas mas cosas y lo maravillosa persona que era y que seguirá siendo como él decía mi amigo Lorenzo*

*Roberto y Magdalena*

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**Roberto Rodriguez** - February 14 at 08:35 PM

ME

“ Sharon and all the family,

*I'm so sorry to hear of Dr. Merkel's passing. I worked as the billing manager for Dr. Merkel and Dr. Carson back in the late 90's. Dr. Merkel was always so friendly and just a good hearted person. He loved to joke around and had a great smile. Sharon, he spoke of you and the boys often while we were at work. He was so proud of the kids. He loved being a husband and a father. My family and I continued to see him as our PCP after I left the practice for a new position. He was always interested in you as a person, not just a patient. He made a difference in people's lives. I hope he knew just how much he meant to so many. In time I hope your sorrow will be replaced by all the wonderful memories.*

*Melissa, Scott and Josh Stoeckle*

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**Melissa** - February 11 at 10:10 PM

SH

“ Hi Sharon an Family,

*I was so sorry to hear of your husband passing away. We are never ready to lose our mates. My husband died coming up on two years ago and I sure miss the big guy. However has time goes along, I am so grateful for the sweet 54 years we had.*

*Hugs,  
Sharon Hartman*

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**Sharon Hartman** - February 09 at 06:27 PM

SM

“ *Dr. Merkel was a true giant in the family medicine landscape in Fort Collins. His caring, common sense approach was emulated by many but actually achieved by very few. He brightened the lives of all who he met; his impact and compassion will never be forgotten.*

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**Steven D Broman MD** - February 09 at 12:14 PM

BB

“ *What great memories and fun was had working for Dr. Merkel. I worked for him when he had first moved to Fort Collins back in the seventies. I thought he and Sharon had just the perfect relationship. L. A., as we called him kept everyone healthy and happy. Sharon always was the best host and was so warm and welcoming to all. It was one of my favorite places to work. Larry always had a joke for the day.  
I'm sure this family has a treasure of good times and memories.*

*Blessings to you all*

*Bette Bodak*

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**Bette Bodak** - February 08 at 09:08 PM

JN

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Joan Norwood** - February 08 at 09:34 AM

JN

*My husband, John and I, are so grateful to have known Dr Merkel as his patients and as friends. We were lucky enough to spend time with him and Sharon during our weekly "Mexican Night" where we enjoyed Mexican food and drinks and talked about our families, our travels (oh how he loved remembering and talking about the places he and Sharon travelled to), as well as other more personal experiences and thoughts about the things, people and events we encounter in our lives. It was a night we all looked forward to. I will always remember Dr. Merkel as being very intelligent, and a most caring friend and physician, but, most of all, I will remember his love for his wife, Sharon, and her love for him. I don't think I've ever met a more devoted couple. They truly lived their vows "in sickness and in health". We will truly miss our Dr. Merkel. Joni and John Norwood*

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**Joan Norwood** - February 08 at 09:59 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Bohlender Funeral Chapel** - February 07 at 04:57 PM

TM

“ I miss you big brother! You were the source of endless wisdom and advice. Always a phone call or text message away to share some tidbit about sports, politics, a distant relative, or life in general. Our ski trips to Steamboat, Winter Park and of course Vail were amazing. And time in Puerto Vallarta was the best. You were my guide to wine selection, golf swing ("keep your head down. I'll watch your ball"), Mexican food, and best of all, the making of a perfect margarita .

*I take comfort in knowing you are at peace now. It was a beautiful journey! So lucky to have shared some of it with you and Sharon.*

*Tom Merkel, Rosemount Minnesota*



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**Thomas Merkel** - February 07 at 02:57 PM

LE

“ I worked with Dr Merkel for seven years. He was such a great doctor and diagnostician and SOOO fun and funny to work with. We had so many great Christmas parties with gag gifts and laughter. He brought joy to all he touched. Heaven is happier with him in it.  
*LeAnn Thieman*

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**LeAnn** - February 07 at 02:09 PM

CR

“ I believe the year was 1971. Sharon and I shared an apartment. I was teaching and she was a student at KU med getting her masters. I returned to our apartment one late afternoon to something we didn't have very often. Tantalizing smells of food coming from our tiny kitchen. Sharon looked beautiful and while cooking shared that she was hosting that cute young medical student Larry, for dinner. As they say..the rest is history and the day I inherited a brother.

Love you forever Larry

Connie Cerne Rishworth

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**connie rishworth** - February 07 at 12:12 PM

SW

“ I had two very best friends growing up in Topeka, one was Larry. He was clearly the smartest of us and a kind, gentle soul. It's not surprising to me that his patients thought very highly of Larry. His dad, also an MD, took care of our family for many years as well as many others and was also highly respected. Larry was a huge part of my early life and I have such wonderful memories of our time together. I'm certain he'll be missed by his family, friends and patients.

Steve Wanamaker

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**Steve Wanamaker** - February 06 at 11:59 AM

MB

“ Dr. Merkel was my primary care physician for many years. An excellent doctor with a great bedside manner. He was very personable, and had a sense of humor too. Once he said to me, "Well, you're pretty boring. And by that, I mean, you're healthy, I just can't find anything wrong with you." We both laughed. I will remember him fondly. RIP.

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**Michael Bishop** - February 06 at 08:18 AM

SS

“ Dr Merkle was our Dr for many years. We just loved him. I was so sick one year, and he finally got a handle on it. He told me he was ready to take me to Swedish in his car! My husband got really sick. I was doing daycare. He told me to get the kids home, and he told me exactly what I was to do at home. He called that night to check on him, and he called all weekend to check. You don't see that kind of caring anymore. He was truly special, and we loved him a lot. Our deepest condolences go out to his family. We will remember him and all of you in our prayers. God speed Dr Merkle. You are so missed.

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**Sherry Sandoval** - February 05 at 08:18 PM

CD

“ Dr. Merkel was a special doctor, and a special human being. He always treated my whole family with kindness and friendship proclaiming himself not only our Doctor, but our friend. Condolences to the entire Merkel family.

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**Carol Dechand** - February 05 at 05:46 PM

IG

*I am shocked to see Dr Merkel obituary, I'm so sorry to his family for their beloved loss. Dr merkel had such a sense of humor. I was one of his first patient when he started his practice.*

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**Ida Gonzales** - February 05 at 08:16 PM

TD

“ Dr. Merkel was always dedicated to helping me with physical and mental health issues, and he never judged me. I always felt taken care of. He will be very missed. Theresa D.

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**Theresa Dechand** - February 05 at 11:23 AM

JO

“ Dr Merkel was a special person to our family. He delivered all of my children. When my oldest was born a few weeks after Christmas in 1981, the only song I could think of during the last part of labor was Jingle Bells. So I whistled - I guess quite loudly - while Dr Merkel tried to get some shut eye in the room next door. When it was time to deliver my daughter , he entered the room and said “ I was trying to sleep but some woman kept whistling Jingle Bells!” He never let me forget it. Especially when I had my other kids. He would joke with me and ask me if I had any other tunes and could he put in a request.

We loved his sense of humor. My daughter and her dad were roughhousing when she was about 4 and her dad dropped her on her nose- I brought her in to get it checked out. We told Dr Merkel what happened. We told him her Dad felt awful about the accident. He smiled and got out his prescription pad. He wrote her a script and handed it to her. He said “Give this to your Daddy.” The script said “A new bicycle” He had a great sense of humor. I hope these memories put a smile on your faces. We are sorry for your loss.

Joanne and Shawn O’Leary

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Joanne O’Leary - February 05 at 09:16 AM