



Lawrence Sasaki

January 8, 1937 - November 5, 2018

Lawrence Mitsuaki Sasaki, 81, of Florida, Ohio, died November 5, 2018 after a long illness.

Larry Sasaki was born in Kealahou, Hawaii on January 8, 1937 to Walter Hakaru and Elsie Fujine (Morikami) Sasaki. The family moved to the Ka'u Sugar Company Plantation when Larry was 100 days old. He attended Ka'u High School in Pahala, Hawaii. Larry achieved much success as an athlete in Hawaii, especially with baseball, football and wrestling. He was also active in the Boy Scouts of America, eventually earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Larry attended the University of Hawaii, Hilo Branch, and graduated from Ohio University in 1959 with a B.S in Education. He earned an M. S. in Education in 1964, also from Ohio University, and obtained his license in guidance counseling.

While attending O.U., Larry was active in the fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE).

Larry began his teaching career at Florida High School in 1959 as a science teacher. Larry had no family in Northwest Ohio at the time, but fortune smiled on Larry, and the young educator was taken in as a boarder by Mona and Julius Walter, Sr. of Florida, OH. The Walter family embraced the young man from Hawaii and eventually "adopted" the Sasaki family as part of their own.

Larry added guidance counseling to his duties starting in 1965. In addition to science and counseling, Larry taught many Napoleon High School students how to drive in the NHS Drivers Education program. Later, he volunteered his time, giving evening counseling sessions to college-bound students and their parents. As a counselor he served on the Admissions Advisory Boards for the Ohio State University, The University of Toledo, and Miami University. Larry finished his career as a counselor at Napoleon High School in 1996 after 37 years in education.

Larry coached baseball and basketball for the Florida High School Blue Jays and served as Varsity Baseball Coach for the Napoleon High School Wildcats for more than 30 years. He also coached Freshman Football and Wrestling during his tenure at NHS. Coach Sasaki was inducted into the Napoleon High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

Larry was also active in the community. He and wife, Bonnie, worked to raise money for the United Way, and Larry served on the Henry County United Way Board. Larry also served on the Florida Village Water Board and sang in the St. Peter Lutheran Church Choir.

Larry enjoyed fishing, golfing, baseball, and spending time with his friends and his three daughters. Out of a desire to provide an authentic Hawaiian experience for friends from Northwest Ohio, Larry organized the Sasaki Paradise Tours. Larry served as tour director and was able to share his love of the Hawaiian Islands with tour groups on several summer trips. Larry was beloved by students, faculty, family and friends for the stories he could tell and his generous "Aloha" spirit.

Larry is survived by his wife of 54 years, Bonnie (Townsend) Sasaki of Florida, OH, and his three daughters, Laralyn Sasaki Dearing of Columbus, OH, Laryce (Samuel) McMurray of Sylvania, OH, and Larann (Glenn) Soffner of Napoleon, OH.

Other surviving family members include his sister, Susan (John) Uliveto of Findlay, OH, two aunts, Margaret Sasaki Kihara of Kailua-Kona and Fumie (Nobuyuki) Sasaki of Kailua-Kona, and several beloved Hawaiian cousins and friends.

Larry is also survived by his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Richard and Diana (Townsend) Lilly of Warren, OH, two nieces, Heidi (Karl) Grimsley of Midlothian, VA and Jodi Merchant of Austintown, OH, and a nephew, David Andrew Lilly of Detroit, MI.

Larry also leaves behind his loving "Ohana," or extended family from the Napoleon area who made Larry part of their families and community, in particular the family of Meta Walter, the family of Marvin Michaelis, and his close teaching colleagues of the Napoleon area.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Hakaru and Fujine (Morikami) Sasaki, and a brother, Joji (George) Sasaki.

The Sasaki family is very grateful for the love and support shown to Larry and the family throughout the last years of Larry's illness.

funeral services will be at 11a.m Thursday, November 8 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Florida, Ohio, with interment to follow at the Florida Cemetery in Florida, Ohio.

Visitation hours are 2-7p.m. Wednesday, at Rodenberger Funeral Home in Napoleon, Ohio and one hour prior to the service at St. Peter's.

In lieu of flowers, please considering making a donation to one of the following

charitable organizations:

The Henry County Retired Teachers Foundation

The Henry County Transportation Network

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Florida, Ohio

Online condolences may be made at www.rodembergerfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Florida Cemetery

Florida, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Napoleon Funeral Home
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545
(419) 592-2333
help@rodenbergergray.com

Visitation

NOV 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church-Florida, Ohio
K980 County Road 17D
Napoleon, OH 43545

Service

NOV 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church-Florida, Ohio
K980 County Road 17D
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Bonnie and Family,*

I was so very sorry to hear about Larry's passing. He was a fine man and wonderful teacher. My deepest sympathy to you all.

Darlene Bevelhymer - November 08, 2018 at 08:13 PM

LO

“ *Dear Bonnie and family,*

I will always remember Larry as a kind and generous man. It was easy to see how much he loved his family and friends. He will be missed by so many.

I think of you often and miss our visits.

Lori Musselman and family

lori - November 08, 2018 at 06:17 AM

RR

“ *Seeing Larry today reminded me of how much I loved the man. He was more than a coach or my counselor, but a friend, mentor and father figure to me. I owe a great deal of my success to Larry's influence in my life. Now as a school counselor, I find myself with the opportunity to pay forward what he invested in me. I'm forever blessed and grateful to have him as a part of my life. Aloha, Coach.*

Rick Rettig - November 07, 2018 at 08:59 PM

MM

“ *Our deepest sympathies go out to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers from Tom and Mary Miley.*

Marc Miley - November 07, 2018 at 06:24 PM

CD

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Bonnie and Family. Joe and I spent out 21st. Anniversary visiting 5 Hawaiian Islands with Larry and Bonnie in 1980 and it was the most memorable trip of our lifetime. We had beautiful flowers every day. Larry and Bonnie were the very best hosts one could ask for. We grew to love them both. They are true friends. Larry was the most gentle, loving, kind man and always there to help if he could. He will surly be missed by many. Sending Peace and Love to your Family,
Carma DeCair



Carma DeCair - November 07, 2018 at 11:35 AM

RP

“ Robert Rogers and the staff at Prolime purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Lawrence Sasaki.



Robert Rogers and the staff at Prolime - November 07, 2018 at 08:47 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence Sasaki.



November 07, 2018 at 06:19 AM

DS

“ Larry was a friend, colleague and mentor during my time at Napoleon. I will always remember his support and willingness to help anyone at any time. I was fortunate to be a part of the music department along with his wife, Bonnie. Lots of fond memories. My thoughts and prayers for Bonnie, Laralyn, Laryce, and Larann. He will be greatly missed.
Dale Schubert

Dale Schubert - November 06, 2018 at 10:00 PM

TS

“ Larry was a frater in the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at Ohio University. He was also a very close friend. My wife, Callie, and I send our blessings and love to Bonnie and the girls. We have lost a good man and true gentleman.

Tom Schmidt - November 06, 2018 at 09:33 PM



“ When I transferred to NHS from Defiance High School, Mr. Sasaki greeted me with a smile and challenged me academically. He also advocated for me to the Admissions Board at Ohio University. Without his speaking on my behalf, I'm not certain I would not have been accepted. I will be forever grateful. May your family experience the Peace that only God can give during this difficult time.

~ Mandra Moorehead Wirick
Raleigh, NC

Mandra Wirick - November 06, 2018 at 04:18 PM

LB

“ *To Mr. Sasaki's family,
I have many great memories of my school years at Napoleon and
many memories of Mr. Sasaki and his guidance and advice. He
helped guide me thru and start my journey in this life. You all are in
my thoughts and prayers.
Lori (Middleton) Burch and Scott Burch*

Lori Burch - November 06, 2018 at 01:29 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Lawrence Sasaki.*



November 06, 2018 at 12:53 PM

DF

“ *Mahalo Coach Sasaki...you taught me many things, about baseball
and about life. I thank you sincerely and remember you well and
often. My wife, children and all my friends have heard multiple
Coach Sasaki stories. There is a warm spot in my heart for you and
great appreciation.*

Dan Fry - November 06, 2018 at 11:32 AM

KH

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Sasaki family. I will never forget Larry's
sage advice when choosing a college and ensuring I understood the
real life ahead in adulthood. Prayers of comfort during this difficult
time to Bonnie and the family.
Kristen Huener*

Kristen Huener - November 06, 2018 at 09:36 AM

CW

“ I will never forget my first year at NHS, and as some of you know that was a very unusual year for the NAS. I had Mr. Sasaki as a student, and when I started working in the guidance office, he became my mentor. A truly wonderful man, kind, caring and always there for the kids. Working into the night to hand write each student schedule!! He would remember me every Christmas with a beautiful flower arrangement and when I retired - flowers from Hawaii. A truly loved man by me and my family. I will miss him. Great humor and a love of family!!



Char Weber - November 06, 2018 at 09:21 AM

RS

“ Mr. Sasaki was a great mentor for those who chose teaching and coaching as a profession. We enjoyed the opportunity to "pick" his brain before our first trip to Hawaii. Mr. Sasaki was an enthusiastic and true Wildcat and Florida Falcon.
With sincere sympathy,
Ron Stevens

Ron Stevens - November 06, 2018 at 08:35 AM

YF

“ Your Little Sis, husband John and Family purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Lawrence Sasaki.



Your Little Sis, husband John and Family - November 06, 2018 at 07:05 AM

LJ

“ *Love, Richard, Carol and Erika Jinbo purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Lawrence Sasaki.*



Love, Richard, Carol and Erika Jinbo - November 05, 2018 at
07:40 PM