

# Michael Stevens Larsen

*November 27, 1941 ~ July 2, 2021*

Michael Stevens Larsen passed away in his home on 7-2-2021 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

He was born on 11-27-1941 to John Alvin and Leone Hope Larsen. Mike came from a family of 10 children and is survived by Opal, John, Jan and Eric.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Jerry, Douglas, Robert and his sisters Laural and Carol.

He has 4 cherished children from his first marriage Tamara, Kimberly, Brandon and Cameron. Cameron and his sweet wife, Angela, brought two beautiful and caring granddaughters into the world, Isis and Marceline. They loved their Grampa dearly.

Mike finally found the love of his life and married Susan on June 13, 1997. Mike said getting married on the 13th would make it a lucky marriage. With Sue, he helped raise two wonderful stepsons, Alexander and Edward. Mike always said the two boys “are sons in my heart.”

Alexander and his wife, Casey, brought him a new granddaughter, Elyse Claire, on March 5th, 2021. He said of Elyse “I know her life will be great and she’s beautiful.”

His career began early, working at Liberty Park. He joined the Sea Scouts and discovered a deep love of the water. He knew at a young age that he would join the Coast Guard and convinced his older brother to sign him up when Mike was only 16. After six weeks of basic training, the Guard figured out the error and sent Mike home until he was 17. When he finally turned 17, he signed up and left for basic training all over again. He served two years in the hardest area to be Coast Guard, the Sector Columbia River, known for its strong water flows and powerful waves. One time, Mike was left for 18 hours on a buoy to clean it before his ship remembered to come back and get him. There was never a job too tough or dangerous for Mike.

After two years, he was given an offer to transfer to a Coast Guard base in Honolulu, Hawaii. On the CGC Buttonwood, he traveled all over the Pacific to many small islands and met many wonderful people. He even ended up in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

When Mike moved back to the mainland, he was certain he wanted to be a firefighter. He moved to California and applied to the fire department in LA county, but he really just wanted to come home to Utah.

He became a volunteer at South Salt Lake Fire Department in 1966. At that time, they didn’t even have uniforms. When funding finally came, Mike was hired as the third man on. He was Lieutenant, then Captain and finally a Battalion Chief.

Mike retired on March 30, 2000, after 34 years of service. It was a grand retirement for a grand firefighter. Mike raised a lot of young firefighters, they were all his boys and they know who they are… He truly loved you, “The

Brotherhood”.

Mike always maintained other businesses throughout his career. All of his jobs involved fixing something or making something better. Most notable was Mike’s job climbing and fixing flagpoles. Sometimes, he would climb 200 ft flagpoles that were atop 200 ft tall buildings, leaving Mike impressively high in the air. One of his favorite memories was helping to install a flagpole in the Beehive on Hotel Utah. He tied into the beehive and guided the pole that was dangling from a helicopter into place. Once it was guided in, he tied onto the flagpole and climbed up to the top to release the cable. All in a freezing, blowing snowstorm.

Mike will be remembered for his kindness and generosity. He would give anyone the shirt off of his back and was the first person to volunteer to help family and neighbors. He took immense pride on his projects, as anyone who has seen the pristine condition of his car and his lawnmower can attest to. He will be missed dearly by his family and friends and his wonderful dog, Lexi.

Come celebrate Mikes great life and tell a story or two. There will be a gathering at 10:00 am at Larkin Sunset Lawn 2350 E. 1300 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84108 on Monday, July 12th, 2021. We can talk and visit and then there will be an open mic for an hour. Mike will then receive full honors from the Coast Guard and his Fire Department.