



Lawrence Joel Kosmalski

February 4, 1943 - August 21, 2024

Lawrence Kosmalski departed this life, peacefully and surrounded by his family on August 21, 2024. The world lost a true friend that day, we are saddened but overwhelmed with joy that this incredible man was part of our lives.

Born on February 4th, 1943 in Hamtramck, Michigan to Chester and Regina Kosmalski.

He leaves behind four amazing children from his first marriage, who will miss him beyond measure. Lawrence Kosmalski (Clare), Lisa Kloock (Jim), Michael Kosmalski (Helen), and Michele Kosmalski.

In 1990, Larry married the love of his life, Maureen Kosmalski whom he adored to the end and leaves behind. In that marriage, he gained three more children Leigh, Robert and Christina Ellison who are very grateful for everyday they had him in their lives.

He also leaves behind his sister Patricia Kosmalski (Richard) and Stephen Kosmalski (Laura). Along with twenty one grand children and two great grandchildren and many adoring nieces and nephews.

"Koz" spent many years of his life giving service to his country and to the City of Detroit, A city he believed in and chose to raise his family in. He was a decorated Green Beret and served in Vietnam.

After his service in the military, he joined the Detroit Fire Department in 1967, where he fearlessly fought to protect the community. In addition, he was also a member of the Detroit Fire Department Clown Team. One of his favorite things to do as a clown team member was to bring joy and happiness with laughter to the children at the Burn Center. It was a great honor for him to be a part of the Detroit Fire Department family. In 2003, he retired as Chief of the DFD, the highest position in a legendary fire department."Very Larry".

Larry was also an acclaimed artist, self taught and highly skilled. Many of his pieces depicted firefighting. He was the official Detroit Firefighter artist and he graciously donated a collection of his work to the City of Detroit.

Not everyone delighted in seeing Larry, fish feared him. An avid fisherman, he was passionate about days spent on his boat and memories made on the water. His license plate read "Fish Assassin".

An extraordinary leader who protected us, his city and country will be profoundly missed. He certainly showed us the way to leave the world a better place. Please join us as we bid farewell, for now, to this iconic man.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 25. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Firefighter Pass in Review

AUG 25. 6:30 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Rosary

AUG 25. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Instate / Funeral Mass

AUG 26. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Florian Catholic Church
2626 Poland Street
Hamtramck, MI

Tribute Wall

SC

“*Deer Kosmalski family, i'm so sorry for your loss. Larry was a great man, was great at telling jokes, art, so many things but i feel one of his greatest qualities was his way of expressing how much, you, meant to him. Its hard for some people to open up and express to others how much they are appreciated. Larry did it gracefully. He gave me this item in the picture over 18 years ago, think he handed out several of them to family members. I still use it today. I'm thankful for all the support he had shown me. May he rest in peace.*



Scott Cox - August 30, 2024 at 03:23 PM

MC

“*Dear Maureen and Family, my sincere condolences on your loss of Larry.
It was always a pleasure to see Larry.
I have some great memories of Larry hanging out with Dave , at our high rise in Lafayette Pavillion, when the two of them ran at headquarters.
Love and prayers, Michelle Culkowski*

Michelle J Culkowski - August 29, 2024 at 09:42 PM

AN

“ My heart goes out to Bo, Lisa, Michael and Michelle at this very difficult time.
Your dad was definitely a very talented man with a wonderful personality.
I remember when I went to the fire house with him and your mom because the presidents limousine was parked inside.
We took the old elevator upstairs and I seen a gum wrapper in there on the floor which I tried to pick up, it was painted. I felt like a fool, I looked at your dad and said “ damn your good”.
I also remember visiting the Yonka house and seeing that big painting he did of the Mayor.
I always found him to be very interesting and intelligent.
I am sure you are all very proud of him.
May God bless you all and those wonderful memories to carry on forever.

April Nihranz - August 26, 2024 at 11:13 AM

EN

“ Emily N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.

Emily N. - August 25, 2024 at 11:35 AM

RT

“ We will remember Larry as a very caring, gentle soul. He was fun at family gatherings and had a Gift for loving family deeply. We will miss you Larry.

Love,
Ric, Pat, and Whitney



Ric Tyler - August 25, 2024 at 09:21 AM

DD

“ *David Squires & Williams Distributing purchased the Heavenly and Harmony for the family of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.*



David Squires & Williams Distributing - August 25, 2024 at
08:10 AM

LJ

“ Pa

I never realized how much I patterned my life after yours. Alter boy, Boy Scout , Military, martial arts then public service. You instilled such an love for country in me that your grandson now serves as well.

Pa you were always my hero, I remember seeing you on a stretcher on tv being wheeled out live from the Buhl Building and screaming for mom...

I knew it was you by the brass paratrooper belt buckle. I remember when I got burned fighting a fire and you came to the hospital and had me laughing so hard I was not in pain.

I remember calling you on the way to the firehouse on 9/11 and I couldn't say I love you

You said "I know boy...I know be careful"

Pa you inspired me to go to school, get my graduate degree and push myself...

Although when I fought with my wife, your beloved Clare... you always took her side asking what did I do to get your Clare upset?

Pa even as I held your hand and cried in the hospital and said I love you, you made me promise I'd finish the training I was in to be an OSHA instructor.... I was going to blow it off and come back and you looked me in the eye and said NO BO YOU GO...YOU GO Well Pa I was one of seven to pass out of 20 and graduated with a 96.5%!

Pa all 10 of your grandchildren

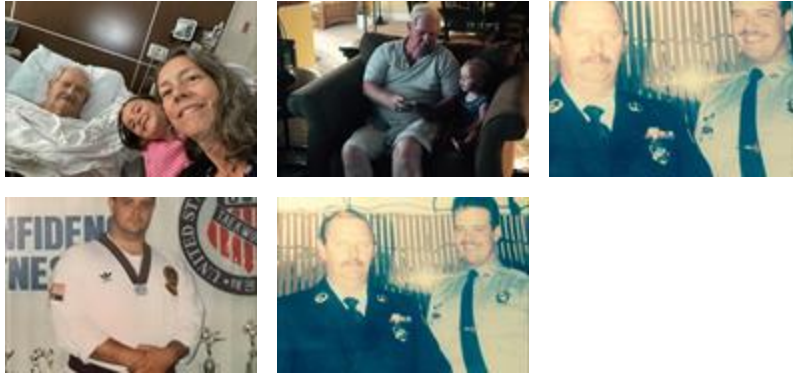
And your two great children who I'm so glad you got to meet and play with ...from Clare and I are hurt.. we will miss you so much.

Pa I could never be the man you were, I'll try... however I know I'll fall short.

I these last few years you've been so positive and encouraging to me....

Your little Vinny Rocco said he remembers what you said your super power was when he visited you in the hospital and said "Hey Dzaidzi ..with about 200 questions from what's your favorite

*monster to do you know a dragon tooth is a foot long !
He said you told him your superpower was to love.
Pa you did that !
I will miss you something fierce, although my pastor comforted me
by telling me with you having confession and last rights you pretty
much died in a state of Grace.... Tough act to follow Pa !*



Lawrence Kosmalski Jr - August 24, 2024 at 09:46 PM

CV

“ *The kindest man I ever met. He helped friends, family, and neighbors. He will be missed and leave a huge hole in our hearts. Love to his family, Carole Verellen*

Carole Verellen - August 24, 2024 at 07:55 PM

TT

“ *THE TYLER'S purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.*



THE TYLER'S - August 24, 2024 at 12:46 PM

DF

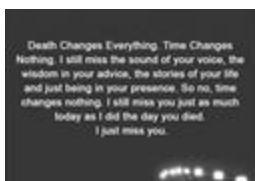
“ Dearest Larry, You are such a wonderful individual, and God Blessed our family by having known you. There are no words to explain the feeling we have knowing that you will no longer be on this earth. God has you now in Heaven with all the people we have missed and Love, but our hearts will always be full of wonderful memories, love, laughter, and guidance having known you ❤️ Thank you for your kindness and ability to demonstrate strength a compassion for life.

I have included some pictures as they tell the story in a moment. Your life includes many valuable moments that your family and friends will cherish forever!

Thank you for comforting me when my dad passed (Roy Lozon). As I know what he meant as a friend and Firefighter to you. You shared with me your love for him and I know you are with him in Heaven. He is waiting to go fishing with you and catching up on other antics that you have shared!

Love from Donna Bolz

{Maureen and Family, my thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve this tremendous loss ❤️ }



Donna Bolz {Lozon} Friend of Family - August 24, 2024 at 11:33 AM

WM

“ With Love Sam and Char Mattox purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.



With Love Sam and Char Mattox - August 24, 2024 at 10:25 AM

WM

“ With Love Sam and Char Mattox planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.

With Love Sam and Char Mattox - August 24, 2024 at 10:25 AM

JN

“ So sorry to hear of Larry’s passing. Prayers to you n your family during this difficult time. Eddie is grateful to have the memory of the helmet displayed with Larry’s artistic talent “Engine 61”. That’s what the house on Carlisle was known as included Nadolski, Knobby, & Cowan. He was a great guy and truly will be missed by many! Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend the funeral services, but if you need anything feel free to ask neighbor:) Love u! Eddie & Julie

Julie Nadolski - August 24, 2024 at 05:33 AM

DM

“ We are so sorry to hear of Kos’s passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Danny and Linda Mills - August 23, 2024 at 09:21 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.



August 23, 2024 at 05:21 PM



“ Craig R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.

Craig R. - August 23, 2024 at 04:08 PM



“ Please accept our deepest condolences, may Lawrence's journey to heaven be with God's speed. Kos Jr. is our teammate and takes great pride in carrying on his father's commitment to public safety and security. Kos Sr.'s work will carry on through his family as a result. Sincerely,
Vince Vlaminck and the Kautex EHS team



Vince Vlaminck - August 23, 2024 at 02:39 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.



August 23, 2024 at 02:32 PM

PK

“ *Pat & Steve Kosmalski purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Lawrence Joel Kosmalski.*



Pat & Steve Kosmalski - August 23, 2024 at 12:53 PM