



Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr.

August 8, 1948 - January 30, 2025

To view the service via Youtube click the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/rtYRdjFNIKQ?si=En6xYpZCSKmJ0woC>

To view the service via Facebook click the link below:

<https://m.facebook.com/ZandersFuneralLIVE/>

Harold Lawrence Witsell, Jr. (Larry), a distinguished member of the Central Florida community, passed away on January 30, 2025, after a long illness. He was a well-loved man honored by his family, many friends, and colleagues.

Larry was born in Jacksonville, Florida, on August 8, 1948. He was a member of St. Gabriel Episcopal Church, where he served as an Altar Boy. He graduated from Northwestern High School in 1965 and attended Florida A&M University. While at FAMU, he was drafted into the army during the Vietnam War but chose to sign up with the Marines. He retired from military service on June 1, 2000.

Larry met his wife Tyra in 1977 while they were attending Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio. They were married on March 18, 1977, in Dayton, Ohio. Larry and Tyra traveled all over the world during his military service. They were blessed with a son, Harold Lawrence Witsell III (Trey), on Oct. 3, 1979. Larry, Tyra, and Trey finally settled in central Florida in 1992. He

was very proud of being a Marine. He distinguished himself with many awards and medals. After retirement from the Marines on June 1, 2000, he embarked on another career in retail and became a Store Manager with Sears, HR District Manager, and Instructor with Sears University. He loved having family over for special occasions and holidays. He had many wonderful years with Tyra and Trey. They had great vacations and continued to travel and explore. However, his best trips were to Disney when Trey was a boy. He often said his greatest accomplishments were marrying the love of his life and raising his son. He was so proud of the man that Trey grew up to be. When Trey married his wife Kristi, Larry and Tyra fell in love with her and welcomed her with open arms. When their daughter Tracelyn was born, Larry and Tyra's hearts were filled with joy. He absolutely loved being a grandfather, lovingly called "Pop Pop". He spent lots of time with Tracelyn going over homework, going to bookstores, and taking "her" to Disney and other fun places. He was so proud of Tracelyn as she excelled in school. She will be graduating from high school this year with high honors and will be attending the University of Central Florida this summer.

In his youth, Larry marched in the Northwestern High School band under Dr. Julian White, and played the saxophone and flute. He formed a small jazz band and played at different venues while in Jacksonville. His drummer was Walter Orange, lead singer and drummer of the world-famous "Commodores". He continued to play the Sax throughout his life. He had a passion for music, reading, politics, and corvettes. He owned several Corvettes over the years. He was also a technology wiz who could answer any of our questions concerning cell phones, computers, TV remotes, and other high-tech gadgets. For relaxation, he loved watching sports, playing golf, scuba, and chilling out in his pool.

During Larry's illness, his sister-in-law, Vickie was such a blessing to his family. She came down to Florida to help Tyra care for him. He spoke often

about how much she meant to him and was so grateful she was there for her sister. Larry was a devoted son and loved his mother very much. He made sure he was there whenever his mother needed him. He was a loving big brother and always supportive of his brother and sisters over the years. He hosted many family reunions and holiday gatherings and attended many all over the country. He was always there to provide a strong shoulder to lean on when needed. Larry was the leader of the Witsell family, and the younger family members all looked up to him.

His Professional Resume Includes:

Career

United States Marine Corps Veteran of 20+ years

National Defense Service Medal

Navy Unit Commendation

Meritorious Unit Commendation

Navy Achievement Medal / Navy Commendation Medal

Good Conduct Medal, Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Commendation

Sea Services Deployment Ribbon

Rifle Sharpshooter Badge / Pistol Expert Badge

Aviation Mechanic / Navigator on KC 130 planes

Marine Recruiter, oversight and management of Marine recruiting stations

Marine Recruiter Instructor

Orange County Public Schools Permanent Substitute Teacher

Sears Regional Manager

Kaplan University Student Recruiter

Real Estate Agent

Education

Central State University

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Cum Laude

University of Phoenix

Master of Arts in Organizational Management, Cum Laude

Community Involvement

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Life Member

Member of Masonic Lodge / NAACP

Ft. Lauderdale Community School District

Kiwanis

Larry and Tyra lived a full and happy life together for 48 years. They were blessed with a wonderful son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter who adored him. He was predeceased by his father, Harold Lawrence Witsell, Sr. in 1977.

His family lovingly leaves him in the blessed hands of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and his memory will be cherished and honored by his Wife, Tyra Witsell, his Son, Trey Witsell and, Granddaughter, Tracelyn Witsell. Sadly, he leaves behind his beloved Mother, Georgia Witsell; 3 Sisters, Gail Morrell, Patti Moore, and Debra Council (Wayne); and his Brother, Anthony Witsell (Cynthia). Also, Aunts: Christella Witsell Bryant, Loye Jean King; and Uncle, Curtis Clay (Deloris); Sisters-in-Law: Vickie Morgan, Leah Anderson, Anita Brooks Gilmore, and Jackie Murphy-Carr. He also leaves behind many cousins that he grew up with in Jacksonville, and Texas, and his beloved godsons: Hugh Anderson, Dante Oliver, and Julian Span. Lifelong friends, including Jesse Hunter (Marion), former Marine Calvin Simmons (Eunice), John Christopher (Jackie) and Carl Anderson (Veronica, Esq.), and Steve Baker, Esq. (Erika). Larry leaves a host of loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, other loving relatives, and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Church
151 W. Church Avenue
Longwood, FL 32750

Service

FEB 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Church
151 W. Church Avenue
Longwood, FL 32750

Cape Canaveral National Burial

FEB 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery
5525 US-1
Mims, FL 32754

Tribute Wall

DE

“ My thoughts and prayers go to Tyra and the family. Larry was truly a gentle and amazing man. It feel privilege that in our paths crossed. May God provide comfort and peace.

Deborahperry - September 15, 2025 at 12:31 PM

JL

“ Jimmy, Joyce, Judy, Wayne, Tommy & Lynn purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Jimmy, Joyce, Judy, Wayne, Tommy & Lynn - February 11, 2025 at 06:30 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



February 11, 2025 at 09:06 AM

NW

“ Nicole Witsell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

Nicole Witsell - February 08, 2025 at 10:56 PM

NW

“ Nicole Witsell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Nicole Witsell - February 08, 2025 at 10:56 PM

JH

“ John and Tiffany Hill planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

John and Tiffany Hill - February 08, 2025 at 09:45 PM

JH

“ John and Tiffany Hill purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



John and Tiffany Hill - February 08, 2025 at 09:45 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



February 08, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

February 08, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ Please accept our heartfelt condolences to the Witsell Family. We all grew up in Magnolia Gardens community. We called him Larry. As you begin to heal, know that God is on your side. Love To Each of you; Gail, Patti, Debra and Anthony From Your Neighbor and Longtime Friend Synetta Drayton and The Drayton Family

Synetta Drayton - February 08, 2025 at 07:49 PM



“ Tiffany, Summer and Al Valentine purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Tiffany, Summer and Al Valentine - February 08, 2025 at 12:33 PM



“ Tiffany, Summer and Al Valentine planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

Tiffany, Summer and Al Valentine - February 08, 2025 at 12:33 PM

PD

“ Paul, Kimberly and Danyelle purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Paul, Kimberly and Danyelle - February 08, 2025 at 11:18 AM

SB

“ Sandra, James and Jay Brookins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

Sandra, James and Jay Brookins - February 08, 2025 at 07:48 AM

SB

“ Sandra, James and Jay Brookins purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Sandra, James and Jay Brookins - February 08, 2025 at 07:48 AM

HC

“ Harmony, Maurice, Savanna, and Charlotte purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Harmony, Maurice, Savanna, and Charlotte - February 08, 2025 at 12:44 AM

RF

“ To Our Witsell Family May Peace and Healing be bestowed upon you all during these time, We love you dearly. Your family will remain in our hearts and prayers during these Times - Royce Hall & Family

Royce Hall & Family - February 07, 2025 at 10:22 PM

DA

“ Desmond, Paula, Liliana, and Ava purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Desmond, Paula, Liliana, and Ava - February 07, 2025 at 08:48 PM

LL

“ Leah, Niki & LaToya purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Leah, Niki & LaToya - February 07, 2025 at 08:06 PM

ST

“ Stef planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

Stef - February 07, 2025 at 07:46 PM

ST

“ Stef purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Stef - February 07, 2025 at 07:46 PM

VA

“ Valarie, Will, Victoria, &William Asbury purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Valarie, Will, Victoria, &William Asbury - February 07, 2025 at 07:29 PM

VA

“ Valarie, Will, Victoria, &William Asbury planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

Valarie, Will, Victoria, &William Asbury - February 07, 2025 at 07:29 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



February 07, 2025 at 03:21 PM

CF

“ Cheryl and John Hill Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Cheryl and John Hill Family - February 07, 2025 at 02:33 PM

CF

“ Cheryl and John Hill Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

Cheryl and John Hill Family - February 07, 2025 at 02:33 PM

GA

“ George Alexander planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

George Alexander - February 07, 2025 at 11:39 AM

GA

“ George Alexander purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



George Alexander - February 07, 2025 at 11:39 AM

LO

“ Love: Joey, Ella, and Olivia purchased the *Strength & Solace Spray* for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



Love: Joey, Ella, and Olivia - February 07, 2025 at 10:56 AM

CJ

“ CCC, Angela Chestang and Danna Jackson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..

CCC, Angela Chestang and Danna Jackson - February 07, 2025 at 09:43 AM

CJ

“ CCC, Angela Chestang and Danna Jackson purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Harold Lawrence Witsell Jr..



CCC, Angela Chestang and Danna Jackson - February 07, 2025 at 09:43 AM

RH

“ Our condolences 🌸

Prayerfully,
Leon and Renee Austin Harris

Renee Austin Harris - February 06, 2025 at 02:31 PM