



Larry Michael Clay

October 29, 1969 - November 19, 2013

Larry Michael Clay went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on November 19, 2013 in Prescott, Arizona. He was a loving and caring husband, father, and grandfather. Larry was born in Decatur, Alabama on October 29, 1969 to Harold and Rachel Clay and was raised in El Paso, Texas.

Larry served as a Gunner's Mate Missiles in the Navy from 1988 to 1992, mostly spent on the USS Merrill. During his tour of service he served in Persian Gulf War and received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star; Good Conduct Medal; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; and Navy Unit Commendation.

Larry graduated from Arizona State University in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree; Glendale Community College in 2002 with an Associate degree in Computer Information Systems; Ottawa University in 2006 with a Master of Business Administration; and Pima Medical Institute in 2012 with an Occupational Associate degree in Physical Therapist Assistant.

Larry didn't know what he wanted to be when he grew up until he found his passion for Physical Therapy. He enjoyed working at Center for Physical Excellence and helping improve the lives of others. Larry enjoyed spending

time outdoors with his dogs, Diesel and Zoey. They will miss their many hours of fun romping in the woods with their daddy. He also enjoyed camping, riding his bike and hiking.

He is survived by his wife, Michelle; son, Joshua; daughters, Amy (Jesse), Ashley (Eric), Aubrey; his parents Harold and Rachel; sister, Missy (Danny); brother, Steve (Margaret); sister, Carla; grandsons: Ethan, Tyler and Grayson; nephew (Mitch) and niece (Toshyanna).

A Celebration of Larry's Life will be at 3pm on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at the Quailwood Community Center, 12725 E. Bradshaw Mtn. Rd., Dewey, AZ. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Larry's name to National Alliance on Mental Illness (nami.org), Heritage Park Zoo (heritageparkzoo.org) or United Animal Friends (dogcatadoption.com). Hampton Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ *Dan Ford Jr lit a candle in memory of Larry Michael Clay*



Dan Ford Jr - September 24, 2018 at 12:58 AM

DJ

“ *I served with Larry onboard USS MERRILL (DD 976). I was the Petty Officer that processed his paperwork upon his reporting to the ship. He was a nice young man that always smiled and had kind words to say. He was a great shipmate and friend. My condolences to his family, friends and fellow shipmates (family).*

*Sincerely,
Dan Ford, Jr.*

Dan Ford Jr - September 24, 2018 at 12:47 AM

RC

“ *Larry,
I love and miss you every single day.
While I tried to teach you about life, you taught me how to live life!
Thanks for those 44 awesome short years.
I will see you again forever!
Love you, Mom*

Rachel Clay - May 29, 2014 at 12:41 PM

MR

“ I had the privilege of knowing Larry as a student in my program and later as a friend. He had a true and deep passion for physical therapy and healing as well as a deep love for his family.

*Michelle and family,
I am deeply sorry for your loss and you are in my prayers. Larry was a very special person and you can be proud of all he gave to his family, patients, and friends. He will be forever missed, but also forever in our memories.*

*Deepest condolences,
MJ Rodriguez*

MJ Rodriguez - December 12, 2013 at 02:40 PM

FJ

“ I was his shipmate aboard the USS Merrill. We had some fun times. Many people he served with in Combat Systems will miss him.

Frank Jones (EM3 Jones) - December 01, 2013 at 08:34 PM

SE

“ I also, was one of Larry's clients at the Center for Physical Excellence, in Prescott.
Larry was a very special person.
He gave so much of himself, and made me feel special, each and every time he worked with me.
His smile and warm heart was something I will always remember about him.
He greeted me each time I came, remembered my name, and always asked how I was doing, and you could tell he really cared about your progress.

My condolences go out to his family. You can be so proud of him.
He will be missed by so many.
None of us knew he was hurting so much inside.
But now he is with his Lord and Savior, and the hurt is gone.

Sherry Elgan

Sherry Elgan - November 26, 2013 at 07:53 PM

CS

“ Clay family,
I was privileged to have Larry as my PTA before and after my shoulder surgery. He was truly a caring Christian to myself as a Christian as well. Larry was very professional and knew his trade well. At his "celebration of life" I was going to share, but this tough ole" retired Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman has a very tender and emotional side. I would have worn my Navy Dress Blues, to honor Larry, but they were being cleaned. So as one Sailor to another "Fair Winds and Following Seas" shipmate. See you in heaven someday. Be assured your family is in our heart and prayers.

Chief "Doc" Bob Spencer - November 26, 2013 at 06:30 PM

KD

“ Throughout three surgeries over the past two years, Larry always greeted me with a warm hello and smile. He was a kind and thoughtful man. To Larry's family and colleges at the Center for Excellence -- May the pain and sorrow that you feel today be replaced, over time, with many fond memories of Larry.

Kathy Dudek

Kathy Dudek - November 25, 2013 at 05:32 PM

VA

“ WOW! words can not express the sadness that I feel when I read the article in the courier. I worked with Larry several years ago, however not in the physical therapy side. I met his parents several times. Larry & I shared an interest in photography & shared pictures more than once, I still have some he mailed to me at my place of work at the time.

To Harold & Rachel - I'm so sorry for your loss; wish I could've done more. My condolences to you, his wife, children, siblings & the many, many others that were touched by that infectious smile of his!

Vanessa - November 25, 2013 at 04:18 PM

CS

“ Cheryl Soto lit a candle in memory of Larry
Michael Clay



Cheryl Soto - November 24, 2013 at 04:24 PM

MH

“ I didn't know very well, just from my working out in the pool, but it was several times a week over quite a long periods of time and we chatted and visited quite a lot. I was not his patient or client, just doing my own thing on the other side of the pool. Larry was always so welcoming and extremely encouraging to me in working towards my goals. He was vey caring, compassionate and kind - had a wonderful heart. That is the Larry I know and I will remember him this way.

My deepest condolences to his family.

Mary Lou Henthorn

Mary Lou Henthorn - November 24, 2013 at 01:27 PM

GW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Larry was my Therapist. He was a very gentle and compassionate man!! I was struck by the way Larry would listen to my concerns. I know he will be missed.. You have my Prayers!!



Gail Weber - November 24, 2013 at 12:53 PM

SW

“ In Loving memory of Larry Michael. May you enjoy many happy memories of times you spent with him. God be with you all He was a Good man. Sunset on Earth is Sunrise in Heaven Sabrina



Sabrina White - November 24, 2013 at 12:31 AM

TS

“ *Larry was a beautiful spirited man, I am so sorry for your loss .*
Teresa Strong



Teresa Strong - November 23, 2013 at 08:59 PM

AJ

“ *Anita Jones lit a candle in memory of Larry Michael Clay*



Anita Jones - November 23, 2013 at 08:31 PM

HS

“ *Dear Clay family,*
My husband and I are deeply, deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Larry. We cannot imagine how difficult his loss is for you. We knew Larry briefly, through the Center for Physical Excellence, where he patiently helped us through our orthopedic challenges. His patience, kindness and good humor always made the rehab easier. He was such a gift to the clinic and, he will be missed by so many. We cherish our time with him and will always remember his contagious smile. Keeping you all in our hearts and prayers.
Sincerely,
Chuck and Heidi Sorensen

Heidi & Chuck Sorensen - November 23, 2013 at 08:23 PM

Starla
Ryer

“ *Starla Ryer lit a candle in memory of Larry
Michael Clay*



Starla Ryer - November 23, 2013 at 06:17 PM

ML

“ *I was a patient of Larry at the CPE over the last two months. I found
Larry to be very kind, understanding and compassionate with me
and my fellow patients. He will be greatly missed.*

Matt Lukaszewski

Matthew Lukaszewski - November 23, 2013 at 05:52 PM

KM

“ *Dear Michelle,*

*I was saddened by the news about the tragedy that took Larry's life.
Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your
family during this time of loss and grief.*

*Fondly,
Kathern Mitchell*

Kathern Mitchell - November 23, 2013 at 05:35 PM

LG

“ L G lit a candle in memory of Larry Michael Clay



L G - November 23, 2013 at 04:34 PM

BC

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Barbara Connolly - November 23, 2013 at 04:28 PM

CH

“ I do not have the words to describe how deeply saddened I was when I read about the untimely death of Larry. I spent several hours with Larry in the pool at the Center and had many chats with him. He was a very special person and to know him was to like and admire him. He was caring and open. His goal was to help you get better and enjoy it at the same time. He certainly helped me and I will never forget him. My deepest sympathies to all of his family and friends. Charles Herndon

charles herndon - November 23, 2013 at 02:30 PM

SC

“ I love you big brother! Blue skies Larry!

Steve Clay - November 23, 2013 at 09:22 AM

ME

Steve, this is Mark Ellis marries good friend from El Paso I just heard about his untimely death please let me know what happened, besides you guys no one knows more than me what a tremendous man he was and what a loss we have all suffered as a result of his passing.. I love that man like a brother in the Sun, my sadness has no boundaries

Mark Ellis - December 11, 2017 at 02:20 PM

KS

“ *Katherine Schulte lit a candle in memory of Larry Michael Clay*



Katherine Schulte - November 23, 2013 at 08:54 AM

SA

As a frequent visitor to the pool where Larry worked, I observed that he was a man of inspiration to those who were in physical therapy and everyone wanted to be his client. Always with a smile or laugh he made you feel important and that you could accomplish your goals. I am deeply saddened by this loss especially since Larry was so young and I know how much his family meant to him. He shared plenty of photos. Knowing he is in heaven with Jesus makes it a little bit easier to bear. With sympathy to you.

Sandy - November 23, 2013 at 02:54 PM

KS

“ *I just started pool therapy with Larry. I found him to be a warm and wonderful therapist. The first therapist who went in the water with you ! I have had a lot of pool therapy and I told Larry he was the first. When I read the newspaper article on what had happened I was so shocked and saddened. Such a BIG smile greeted me when I showed up for my therapy. Larry was a passionate therapist, who wanted to help me so much to lessen the pain I was in !!! My prayers and sincere condolences to the entire family.*

Katherine Schulte - November 23, 2013 at 08:48 AM