



Lawrence John Kuntz

May 9, 1943 - April 17, 2026

Lawrence (Larry) John Kuntz

Larry passed away on April 17, 2026 in Vancouver, WA, at the age of 82 after a prolonged battle with vascular dementia. Born on May 9th, 1943 in Harvey, North Dakota to John and Kathleen (Senger) Kuntz, Larry was raised on the family farm in Drake, North Dakota where he was the oldest of four children. After graduating from high school, Larry spent a year in college before deciding to pursue a different path. He worked for a while for the Corps of Engineers, inspecting missile silos across the north-central part of the state. During this time, he needed parts for his VW bug. While at the dealership in Minot, he was asked if he would be interested in working as a mechanic for them, since he already seemed to know how to repair the cars. That was the beginning of an almost 40 year career with VW in various roles. He started as a mechanic and eventually rose to become the Regional Service Manager for the entire West Coast as well as Hawaii and Alaska. In 1998 he accepted a position as a Customer Consultant in the computer division of the company at the VW national headquarters in Auburn Hills, Michigan. That was where he eventually retired in 2003. Larry was working at Import Motors in Minot when he met his future wife, Katharine (Kathy) Ann McKenzie. She was a student at Minot State College at the time. They were married in 1964 and had almost 62 years of life together.

After his retirement, Larry and Kathy fulfilled a lifelong dream of 'hitting the road' and bought a used fifth wheel and a used truck to tow it. They sold their home and most of their belongings, keeping only memorabilia and some of Larry's precious tools. They were placed in storage. For the next five years they traveled all over the United States, Canada and Alaska. They ended up purchasing a slightly bigger RV after a year and Larry got his dream truck, a Ford F-450, to tow it. The couple created countless cherished memories while exploring many parts of North America over the years. They eventually settled in Vancouver in 2011 because of its ideal setting and mostly pleasant weather.

Larry was a Certified Master Mechanic but his skills extended far beyond automobiles. People often joked that if Larry couldn't fix it, it wasn't fixable. He had a deep love for woodworking and gardening and always kept things in the home in excellent working order. His workshop was his 'man cave,' where he could often be found happily 'tinkering' on one project or another.

Over the years, Larry developed an interest in genealogy and the history of his family. He became an active member of both GRHS (Germans From Russia Heritage Society) and GROW (Germans From Russia Oregon Washington). When the children were all still living at home, Larry was always actively involved in their lives supporting their sports, scouting, band, etc. He also devoted time to volunteering at his church. Larry was always a kindhearted and generous soul, often stopping to assist a stranded motorist or to help a homeless person in need. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Larry is survived by his wife, Kathy, and the four children: Michael and his wife, Mimi, Christopher, Stephanie and her husband, Jason Anaforian, and Andrew and four granddaughters: Mia, Alexandra, Lauren and Rachel, all of California. There are also three siblings: Mary Kaye Tillmann, Robert Kuntz and Noella Kuntz and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass celebrating Larry's life will be held on July 7th, 2026, at 11:00 at Holy

Redeemer Church in Vancouver. His ashes will be returned to North Dakota where they will be laid to rest with his parents.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Alzheimer's Association or Holy Redeemer Church in Vancouver.

Tribute Wall

NK

“ Larry was the best "oldest" big brother you could ask for. Mom made him watch out for his younger siblings and that helped develop his great sense of responsibility and kindness, which followed him through life.
He was kind to everyone. A very memorable time was him teaching me to ice skate on our pond at the farm. He even tied the pillow to my butt, to break my many falls!!!
While he will be greatly missed, all the lives he touched are better for knowing him.
Until we meet again. Love, Noella

Noella M Kuntz - May 26 at 05:28 PM

DS

“ *It was an honor and pure joy to connect with Larry and Kathy when they stopped by to visit us on that magical trip they took to Alaska several years ago.*

I'm Dennis Senger and my dad Conrad -- Larry's uncle, was also born in Drake, but that was way back in 1908.

Larry and I chuckled as we noted that my wife Sheila was raised in Scotland while Kathy is of Scottish ancestry.

We had wonderful conversations when they stayed over to take in the Yukon experience and he connected us to the historic roots we shared with our ancestors who came to America and Canada from that land we all know as the Ukraine.

Larry to me was a gentle kind soul and I can see why the folks at Volkswagen wanted to keep him around as long as they could.

Our condolences to Kathy and the family. I am sure we will continue to be blessed with wonderful memories in the years to come.

*Sincerely,
Dennis and Sheila Senger
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada*

Dennis Senger - May 24 at 09:34 PM

JH

“ *Carroll and I were next door neighbors to Larry and Kathy for 10 years. Larry was a great source of answers and help with any household or automobile projects that we needed. I also am a descendant of Russian Germans. He was always kind, helpful and a terrific neighbor. Larry and Kathy are special people. All who knew Larry are better for having known him*

Jan Hayden

Jan Hayden - May 23 at 12:48 PM

RE

“ *He was a wonderful asset to our class in Drake. Condolences to his family. Rita Vogel Edmondson*

Rita Vogel Edmondson - May 22 at 12:34 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Evergreen Memorial Gardens - May 19 at 02:28 PM