



PANHANDLE STATE
FOUNDATION



James L. "Larry" Jefferis Scholarship

Est. 2015

James L. "Larry" Jefferis was born Jan 2, 1944 in Hutchinson, Kansas and passed away suddenly on May 16, 2015 at Southeast Georgia Hospital, Brunswick, GA. He was the son of James L. "Levis" and Vivian M. Hefner Jefferis, the oldest of five children. He spent his childhood years in Goodwell and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Growing up mostly as a farm boy, he learned how to work hard and do most anything, traits that stayed with him throughout his life. Just about any of his large circle of family and friends came to Larry to learn from his expertise, whether it be wood working, mechanical challenges, model trains, or computers.

Larry graduated from Goodwell High School in 1962. In 1966, he graduated from Panhandle A&M College (since renamed Oklahoma Panhandle State University) in Goodwell, OK. While attending PAMC, he worked at the college dairy for one year and was a chemistry lab assistant for a year. Freshman year he participated in the College Choral group and the men's glee club, the Plainsmen. Larry played football

for three years, lettering his senior year and played baseball for four years. He also received his commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1966.

After graduation and commissioning, Larry attended officer's basic course at Fort Knox, KY, before departing on a 22-year career that took him to army bases in Germany, Fort Riley, KS, Fort Bragg, NC, Vietnam, and Washington, D.C. During one of his assignments at Ft. Riley, KS, Larry met his future wife, Vicky Wright, and they were married in December 1970. While on active duty, he earned a master's degree in electronics engineering from Iowa State University. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1988 after 22 years of proud service.

Following his Army retirement, Larry worked in the computer field, as a program manager and Vice President of Operations and later as a security program analyst for Booz-Allen-Hamilton, providing support for US Army Forces Command, Atlanta, GA. While living in Atlanta, Larry volunteered his time as Webmaster for his community association. Larry retired once again in 2006 and turned his focus to overseeing the construction of his and Vicky's retirement dream home and playing on his boat, ODYSSEY. He moved to Sanctuary Cove, Waverly, GA in December 2007 and soon developed a large group of new friends in the neighborhood and through the Golden Isles Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. Once again, Larry gave generously of his time and talent, providing computer expertise, handyman services, and committee work to the Property Owners' Association. He was deeply involved with the Power Squadron, shared his love of boating as an instructor for several of the courses it offers and served in various officer positions, including Commander of the local squadron. In addition, he served for several years as the District 26 Treasurer where he did truly "Come for the Education and Stay for the Friends." Larry passed away suddenly in May of 2015 at Southeast Georgia Hospital in Brunswick, GA.