

GOD looked around the garden,  
And found an empty space.

He looked down upon the earth,  
And saw your tired face. He put  
*His arms around you*

And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful  
For He only takes the **BEST.**

He knew that you were weary,  
and He knew that you were in pain.

He knew that you would never  
be well on earth again.

He saw the roads were getting rough,  
and the hills were hard to climb.

So He closed your weary eyelids,  
and whispered  
*Peace be Thine.*



*In Loving*  
M E M O R Y

**Larry Ray Lyons**

February 7, 1944 - May 21, 2026



Larry Ray Lyons, age 82, of Allen Place in Atlantic, Iowa, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, May 21st, 2026, at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Born on February 7, 1944, in Perry, Iowa, Larry was joined by his twin sister Lana. Two peas in a pod since. Son of Dean & Ethel Lyons and joined by an older brother Gary to complete the family. Larry was raised, attended elementary, middle and high school, also graduated, and later taught in Perry for many years. Perry has always been home.

Childhood years were spent a lot of the time at Grandma & Grandpa Willis's, where he learned sewing, quilting, gardening and canning skills, along with cooking, fishing and camping. Family vacations to High Lake and Okoboji were highlights. He once told us kids he and mom got caught in a thunderstorm in the middle of High Lake and thought then they were going to die. These trips carried on for many years with the family yearly. He excelled in school and he was on the Perry Cheerleading squad from 1960-1962. He graduated in 1962 from Perry High.

After graduation, Larry attended Drake University from 1963-1967, receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Science as well as Education. He would later go on to receive his Master's Degree in Science and Education in 1979.

In 1968, he entered into the United States Army. He served in Vietnam on the front lines, earning distinguished awards for heroism as well as medals, including Bronze & Silver Stars. Only serving two years, he was honorably discharged in 1970. Larry was a decorated war veteran and also a hero. Many people never knew this. God bless him for his service and heroism. We as a family have always been honored by this.

Larry had two passions in life—teaching and cats. He began his teaching career in 1970 and after a few years, he began his career at Perry High. Spanning over many years, Perry was home. He wasn't just your ordinary, average teacher to walk the halls. He laughed, mentored, cheered, pushed, challenged, cried, and genuinely cared for all kids he encountered. He went above and beyond for his colleagues as well as students. He had the patience of a saint, the knowledge of a prophet, and had more heart than most. We hope and pray his legacy lives on in the lives he touched.

Larry loved animals. Siamese cats being his favorite. Never have we ever seen any animal not love Larry. His soft demeanor and baby talk always lured them in. Larry loved traveling, from England, Hawaii and Canada just to name a few. Many family vacations were spent with his twin and her family. All vacations were hilarious and always eventful if Larry came with. Most summers he was off of teaching were spent in Gray, Iowa, playing Nanny Larry to Keven and Christal. From band practice to baseball practice, he always showed up and never raised his voice ever, even though he probably should have! Some of our very best memories of our uncle came from Gray. We were so fortunate as kids to have him! Best uncle ever!!

There wasn't much Larry didn't do!

Larry was a bar owner. He rode RAGBRAI and loved walks. Always drove the cool car. He loved sweets and was as frugal as they come. He was extremely artistic. He also hand-sewn many quilts with his sister. He cared for his mother until her death. He also moved to Atlantic to care for his twin. He was the most selfless human to ever grace your presence. He was always smiling and would help anyone. Larry was the most patient, understanding, funniest, smartest man you'd ever meet. Larry loved his life, his family, the Perry community, and loved all of his students throughout the years. Our hearts are broken and our family is incomplete now, but his kindness lives on in the lives he touched every day. Be kind like him always..

Larry leaves behind his twin sister and best friend Lana K. Coatney of Atlantic, Iowa; nephew Keven & Jodi Feuring of Carson, Iowa; niece Christal Sullivan-Sander & Mike Sander of Atlantic, Iowa; nephew Mike Lyons of Des Moines, Iowa & Dean Lyons of Grand Junction, Iowa; nieces Amber Lyons of Minburn, Iowa & Lisa Lyons Jorgensen of Webster City, Iowa; other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Dean & Ethel Lyons & brother Gary Lyons.

*In Memory Of*

## **Larry Ray Lyons**

*February 7, 1944 - May 21, 2026*

### **Visitation**

Friday, May 29, 2026

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home - Perry Chapel

### **Funeral Service**

11:00 a.m., Friday, May 29, 2026

Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home - Perry Chapel

### **Officiating Clergy**

Pastor Andrea Brownlee

### **Recorded Musical Selections**

"Bridge Over Troubled Water", Simon & Garfunkel

"Amazing Grace", Bagpipe Master

"Once Before I Go", Barry Manilow

### **Pallbearers**

Don Richardson - Tom Lipovac - Matt Bramer

Frank Eiteman - Eddie Diaz

Scott Potter - Tom Sloss - Mark Golightly

### **Interment with Military Honors**

Violet Hill Cemetery - Perry, Iowa

United States Army National Guard Honor Guard

Floyd Foster VFW Post #2060, Perry

American Legion Osborne Post #99, Minburn

Directly following the interment, everyone is invited to the Perry Elk's Lodge #407 for a time of fellowship and lunch.

Memorials may be directed to the family and will be designated at a later date in honor of Larry's memory.

