



## Laurence "Larry" L. Jepson

January 14, 1941 - January 9, 2019

Laurence L. "Larry" Jepson, 77, of Kearney died Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at his home.

Larry was born January 14, 1941 in Ashtabula, OH to Gilbert C. and Janet (Laird) Jepson. He grew up in Ashtabula and graduated from Ashtabula High School in 1958. He attended Furman University in Greenville, SC. on a football scholarship. He graduated with a business administration degree in 1962. He was drafted by the San Francisco Forty Niners (NFL) and the Denver Broncos (AFL). After spending time in San Francisco, Larry began his banking career back in Ashtabula. He was also a graduate of the Ohio School of Banking at Ohio University in Athens, OH in 1965, and the School of Banking of the South at L.S.U. University in Baton Rouge, LA in 1974.

On December 23, 1961 he married Priscilla Swanson in Ashtabula, OH. The couple lived in San Francisco, Ashtabula, Greenville, Grand Island, NE and Kearney, NE during their 57-year marriage. They had two children, Mark Douglas and Jill Elizabeth - both of whom made him happy and proud.

He moved to Grand Island, NE where he joined Overland National Bank in 1976. Overland National Bank later became part of First Commerce Bancshares Inc. In 1980, Larry was promoted by First Commerce Bancshares and moved to Kearney to serve as President and C.E.O. of First National Bank and Trust of Kearney, which later became Wells Fargo Bank. He retired from Wells Fargo in 2004, and later returned to banking part time as Vice Chairman of the Board at Kearney State Bank until 2008.

Larry was a member of First Lutheran Church in Kearney. He has served as a Nebraska Diplomat Ambassador, on UNK Chancellors Council, and as board member and past chairman of the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of Robert Morris Associates, Good Samaritan Health Systems board and past chairman, Ron and Carol Cope Foundation board, and UNK Advisory Council for College of Business and Technology. He participated and served in Rotary Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Kiwanis

Club, NE Banker's Association, Ducks Unlimited, Elks Lodge, Kearney Community Housing Action Committee and the Cosmopolitan Club. Larry was listed in Who's Who of American Business Leaders.

Growing up in Ohio, Larry was an avid baseball, basketball and football player who received many honors. In 2007, he was recognized as an inductee in the Ashtabula County Touchdown Club's Hall of Fame. He continued his love of sports throughout his life. Larry enjoyed boating and fishing at Harlan County Reservoir and taking trips with friends and family to Maynard Lake in Ontario, Canada.

Surviving relatives include his wife Cilla of Kearney; son Mark Jepson and wife JoAnn of Omaha; daughter Jill Benhart and husband Darrin of Davidson, NC; grandchildren, Beth Hall and husband Dave, Ashlynn Turner and husband Matt, Stacy Mehaffy, Zachary Jepson and wife Sarah, Alexa and Avery Benhart; great grandchildren, Audriana Hall, Cambrie Prosocki, Mason Turner, Isaac Hall, Landon Turner and Amelia Jepson; brothers, Calvin Jepson and wife Toni of Cottonwood CA, Gilbert Jepson and wife Jane of Warren, OH, Norman Jepson and wife Mary of Ashtabula, OH, and sister Jennifer Painter and husband Dana of Powell, OH. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Dennis.

Visitation with the family present will be Friday, January 18, 2019 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home in Kearney. Private family funeral services will be held Saturday and entombment will be in the Mausoleum at Kearney Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Furman Paladin Club, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Furman University, Greenville, SC 29613, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, or the Kearney Area Community Foundation. Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 18.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Laurence "Larry" L. Jepson*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Oh dear Priscilla. I am sorry to hear this. I got out my photos of your beautiful wedding which I participated in and thought of you all with great fondness. I especially remember your and Larry's patience when you taught me to play pinochle with "the clan". My thoughts are with you in this difficult time. What a grand life you both have had. I hope the many memories will sustain you.*  
*Betty (Henderson) Kelly*

**Betty Kelly** - January 20, 2019 at 07:02 PM



“ *My sympathies to Cilla and the entire family. Jim thought so highly of Larry. He was an integral part of the wonderful First Commerce family. May you find comfort in the many fun stories and love you feel from those who knew him.*

*Susan Stuart  
Lincoln*

**Susan S Stuart** - January 15, 2019 at 12:10 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Laurence "Larry" L. Jepson.*



January 15, 2019 at 10:26 AM

MH

“ Our condolences to Cilla and the entire family for your loss. Larry was a very special person. He had an impact on everyone he came in contact with. He made a difference in his community and he made people around him better. I worked indirectly with Larry at First Commerce. My father (Hugh) got to work shoulder to shoulder with him in Grand Island and Kearney; I got to hear all the stories and times they shared together. There were a lot of stories worth telling! While losing a loved one is never easy, we are all blessed to have had our lives influenced by Larry.

*Mark and Bev Hansen  
Lincoln*

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**Mark Hansen** - January 15, 2019 at 09:09 AM

MB

“ Bob and I are so sorry for your loss. We are sending thoughts and prayers to you Cilla, Mark and Jill and all the family members. We had some great times in Kearney with you both! We wish you comfort in the days ahead.

*Bob and Mary Jo Billerbeck*

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**Mary Jo Billerbeck** - January 14, 2019 at 01:22 PM

JL

“ I wish to send my thoughts and prayers to Larry's family. I worked at First National Bank for several years. May you find peace at this time from family and friends. He will be missed

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**Jane (Patent) Lech** - January 14, 2019 at 12:26 PM

RH

“ Mary and I would like to extend our sincerest sympathy to Cilla, Mark, Jill and all the family at this time of loss and grief. You are all in our thoughts and prayers! Although we had not been in touch the past few years I thought of him often. Larry was a great friend and boss. It is really a unique situation when you are able to make that crossover. Larry and a handful of others were the best hunting and fishing partners I had. Our trips to Harlan, the Platte River, Ogallala and, of course, Canada are my favorite memories! Rest in Peace, "Big Fella"!

*Rick and Mary Harbaugh*

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**Rick and Mary Harbaugh** - January 13, 2019 at 10:22 PM

CJ

*Thank you so much, Rick and Mary. We have such fond memories. Cilla*

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**Cilla Jepson** - January 14, 2019 at 06:59 PM

SF

“ *I am so, so sorry for your loss. I worked for Larry for a number of years. Please accept my thoughts and prayers for peace, comfort and strength at this difficult time. Larry will be missed!*

*Sherone Fielder*

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**Sherone Fielder** - January 11, 2019 at 04:00 PM

BM

“ *I didn't know Larry that well. He was my direct Boss for several years during the First National/Wells Fargo Transition Late 99-03. I just remember him smoking cigars in his office and thinking you aren't supposed to smoke inside!? He was truly a boss and didn't take crap from anyone. He was very generous to me and I was very glad to have the experience to work with him. By far, my most favorite job I will ever have. Ben Matheny Mailboy/Service Tech*

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**Ben Matheny** - January 11, 2019 at 03:33 PM