



LARRY PAUL THOMPSON

October 4, 1940 - May 2, 2026

Larry Paul Thompson, 85, a longtime resident of Caledonia, Minn., died on May 2, 2026, at his home in St. Paul after a brief illness, surrounded by his family. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, and teacher, he was born in Saratoga, Minn, on October 4, 1940, the youngest child of Lawrence and Beatrice (Sweet) Thompson. He was predeceased by his parents and four siblings: Earl, Keith, Alan, and Mary. Raised on the family farm in Saratoga, he attended country schools there before graduating from St. Charles High School in 1958. He then enrolled at the University of Minnesota, returning home to help his mother during his sophomore year, after his father's death. He completed his bachelor's degree at Winona State Teachers College in 1963. This led to a position as a math teacher at Caledonia High School, where "Mr. T." inspired and supported generations of Caledonia students during a career that spanned more than 40 years. Shortly after his arrival in Caledonia, he fell in love with a lively home economics teacher, Ann Friendshuh. They married in 1965, and raised three children, Jenny, Emily, and Nick, all graduates of Caledonia High School and their father's math classes. He was the assistant coach of the CHS wrestling team for more than 20 years, and was inducted into the Region 1 Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2015. Larry's teacher colleagues were treasured friends who encouraged each other, laughed together, and enjoyed countless conversations, family gatherings, and trips together. Larry and Ann loved to travel in their later years, especially to Ohio, Florida, and Alaska.

A longtime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Caledonia, Larry is survived by his wife and children, their spouses (Bob, Trent, and Jen), and six grandchildren: Anna, Sam, Abe, Clara, Finn, and Eli. He also leaves many nieces and nephews, cousins, old friends in Caledonia, and new friends at Marvella Senior Living in St. Paul, who cherish his kindness, his storytelling, his warm sense of humor, his ever-inquisitive mind, and his humble brilliance.

His family is creating a "collage of voices" for his memorial service; please send a remembrance or your favorite Larry story to jthompson1448@gmail.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Caledonia District 299 Education Fund.

Celebration of Life in St. Paul

Friday, May 15, 3:30-5:30 pm (short service at 4:30)

Marvella Senior Living, 825 Mount Curve Blvd, St. Paul

Celebration of Life and Funeral Mass in Caledonia

Friday, June 12, 11 am, St. Mary's Catholic Church, 513 S. Pine St.

Visitation: 9-10:45 am, St. Mary's Holy Family Hall

Burial at Calvary Cemetery and luncheon at Holy Family Hall to follow

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Holy Family Hall
513 South Pine St.
Caledonia, MN 55921

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
513 S Pine St
Caledonia, MN 55921
(507) 725-3804

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

MAY 15. 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Marvella Senior Living
825 Mount Curve Blvd
St. Paul, MN

Tribute Wall

GR

“ *A wonderful teacher and coach! Larry was as good as it gets!*

Gordon Joseph Rostvold - May 23 at 04:31 PM

SK

“ *Thinking of all of you - Ann, Nick, Emily and Jenny. I loved Mr. Thompson's math classes. He was funny and always challenged me to try the next hardest problem.*

Shannon (Eglinton) Krause - May 15 at 01:30 PM

KM

“ *In 1990-1991, I was a student in Mr. Thompson's math class. Suffice it to say, I was horrible with math, but he was truly one of my favorite teachers and changed the course of my life forever. I was always chatty, but one day I wasn't myself and Mr. Thompson noticed. He asked me what was wrong and I told him I wanted to go to college. He said, then go to college! Until that conversation, I hadn't considered or even believed that was a possibility. Not only did he encourage me, he pulled strings, wrote recommendations, and worked with a few other teachers to get me in! I went to college, got a Master's degree and I'm now in my 23rd year teaching English- in high school! I'll never forget what he did for me and will cherish those memories forever. One more fun fact, we used to read Far Side cartoons everyday in his class- he was exactly what us non-math kids needed- we loved him dearly. My thoughts are with you all- he was an incredible teacher and human spirit and we will always cherish our memories of him. Kim (Lampert) Mayorga*

Kimberly Mayorga - May 13 at 10:02 PM

KM

“ 2 files added to the album Caledonia High School Yearbooks



Keith Myhre - May 08 at 02:38 PM

TM

“ Mr. Thompson was a great teacher. He had a great sense of humor. I remember him yelling at me senior year in study hall for falling asleep. It wasn't funny at the time but later on it was. I know he thought it was funny too. He will be dearly missed. You have my sincere sympathy.

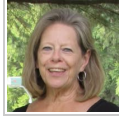


Teresa MacLeod - May 07 at 10:54 PM

MC

Mr. Thompson (Mr. T) was an awesome teacher. I had the pleasure of being in his class my junior and senior year. He was great at making higher level math concepts easier to understand. Mr. T had taught generations of families . In fact, he was my mom's math teacher. He is also one of the reasons why I became a math teacher. He was a kind, talented, and generous man. He had a way of bringing out the best in people. He will definitely be missed and remembered fondly by many of the students who had the pleasure of being in his class. Rest in peace Mr. Thompson. Your work on earth is done but your legacy will be carried forward by the many students who had the pleasure of crossing your path. RIP Mr. Thompson

Mark Corcoran - May 08 at 12:57 AM



So very saddened to hear of Larry's passing. For many years the Thompson's lived in the country just down the road from us. I babysat for Jenny, Emily and Nick quite often. The Thompson's were always kind neighbors, especially when our Dad suffered a stroke at the age of 53. I always enjoyed running into Ann and Larry in later years and reminiscing. We have missed seeing them since they moved to St. Paul. Sending sympathy and love to Ann, Jenny, Emily and Nick and their families. Larry was a great person and will be dearly missed.

Joanne Schuldt - May 08 at 09:20 AM