

# Larry's 80th Birthday Tributes

## Guestbook

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### Ann Rhoades

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Larry - So sorry I had to be in New York for a Jet Blue Board Meeting. Cannot thank you enough for all you have done for Russ (College, Career, Mentoring). You are and will always be his hero in so many ways. Thank you for being you.

Love, Ann

Here's to golf sometime!

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### Richard Clapp

Pembroke Pines, Florida

It is a consummate pleasure to congratulate a Sanitarian's Sanitarian on his 80th. The struggles with the APHA Committee on Education and Training in evolving a college curriculum in environmental health in the 1960s seems so long ago, and are remembered by few, but participation in that may have resulted in a major star in your many achievements in furthering the much cursed and discussed field of environmental health.

Again, my sincere congratulations to an old and good friend.

Dick

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### Jack Hatlen

Seattle, Washington

Hi Larry:

Congratulations on reaching another milestone. That BIG 80!!! I sure you will have a celebration with your family and friends suitable for the occasion.

You have had a remarkable career and touched innumerable lives though your many decades of service. It especial good to see that you continue working to enhance environmental and public health. I particularly appreciate the most recent advice you had for AEHAP in regards to the AEHAP memo encouraging members to write to their legislators. Thank you for hanging in there and responding with advice that was needed.

My best wishes to Nedra.

You should have your calendar marked for UL-EPHC meeting in Chicago, May 6-9. I don't want to be the only senior citizen in the group. I look forward to seeing you then.

Jack

Jack Hatlen, Assoc. Professor Emeritus  
Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences  
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206 543 1048

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## Sue Parilla

Lakewood, Colorado

Dear Mr. Gordon,

I am a bit late in sending you my greeting. My apologies. I have worked with your son, Kent, for a number of years. I met you and your wife at Kent and Elli's wedding. We also spoke on the phone a time or two when you called the office in Walnut Creek to speak to Kent.

I hope you had a wonderful birthday. Kent wanted to share the website he created for you. The family photos and remembrances are wonderful.

If Kent is anything like his siblings, then you should be proud to have raised three wonderful children. I have known Kent for well over twenty years. He is an intelligent businessman and one of the most ethical people I know. He cares deeply about his family. Every once in a while, Kent would pass along one of his dad's lessons, such as, "A job worth doing, is a job worth doing well". Kent speaks with pride when he talks about you. I have two sons of my own. I hope I am able to feel as proud as you must feel of him, of my boys some day.

With warm regards and belated birthday wishes,

Sue Parilla

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**Robert Powitz**

**Old Saybrook, Connecticut**

Dear Larry,

I finally have a few minutes to do the things that are important: answering long over due e-mails and taking care of the things that I (not my clients) want to do.

I guess the most important is to wish you a Happy Birthday and hope that there are many more to come.

You need to know that there have been a few special people in my life, and knowing them has given me insights into who I am. I am humbled to have you as one of them. I can't think of anyone in the environmental health profession who has had a greater impact on the way I view my professional world and my vocation. Your insights over the years have had a profound effect on the way I fit into public health and practice my craft. Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts with all of us.

I value our meeting, albeit too infrequent and far too short. Next time we have to swap hunting and fishing stories. Hope your 80th finds you in good health. Sit back, relax ... you've earned it.

With warmest regards,  
Bob

Robert W. Powitz, PhD, MPH, DLAAS  
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**James C. Mack**

**Portland, Oregon**

Larry;

Just a line to say Happy Birthday! You have been an inspiration to me as well as the profession of environmental health. I wish you many more years of good health!

See you in St. Louis.

James C. Mack, MPA, R.S.  
Food Defense Content Specialist  
Office of Environmental Public Health  
Oregon Public Health Division  
Department of Human Services

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## **Michael Burkhart**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Dear Larry and Nedra: I'm so sorry I missed the Birthday Celebration, but after all these years, I'm sure you will understand that a former bureaucrat missed another deadline. We were in North Carolina at the time your children sent the E-mail, and just returned back to the "Promised Land". I can't imagine that time has passed so quickly and that we are now realizing that over three quarters of our lives are behind us. To say that you were, and continue to be, one of the mentors of my life is a simple statement of the truth. That you inspired me to become what I am today is to relate to others your ability to communicate value and truth. I am so grateful for the opportunity that you gave to understand and protect our precious environment: to understand and protect the tenants of Public Health as we know it today-"That health is a right" and not something that is bartered at the table of politics. You were always available and concerned and always willing to try a new approach. You have always shared your knowledge and have communicated countless wisdom through your articles and speeches to countless others who have listened and practiced those truths.

I remember the good days as well as the "others"-somehow you got us through them all. {God love Fernando and George} May you have clear fairways, a straight drive over 250 yds, and a martini with Nedra waiting for you at the end of the 18th hole. I thank you for your leadership and your friendship, and I promise to write you another on your 100th. Michael

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## **Kay Marr**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Dear Larry:

It's a pleasure to join your friends and former colleagues in wishing you a Happy Birthday. What a wonderful experience it was for me in my early days as a budget analyst to have you as a mentor on public health and environmental issues. I remember especially your enlisting me in your effort to obtain funding for the Public Health/Environmental Laboratory. Every time I see that facility I feel a great sense of satisfaction in knowing that the work done there has improved the lives of so many New

Mexicans.

In thinking of your many contributions, I recall the old adage "one can accomplish a lot if he doesn't care who gets the credit." Know that those of us who had the good fortune to work with you regard you not only as an exemplary public servant but as a visionary and trailblazer whose initiatives put the environment at the forefront of enlightened public discourse.

Best wishes to you and Nedra,

Kay Marr

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## **Margaret Witt**

**Grandfield, Oklahoma**

Happy Birthday Larry,

What a wonderful family you must have. I hope it is a time to remember and that you have many more birthdays just like it. I always enjoy hearing from you whether it is just a forward or family information. P.S. You don't look 80.

Best wishes and I thank your children for spreading the news of your gaining another year.

Your cuz,  
Margaret

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## **Bob and Donna Galvan**

**Fort Worth, Texas**

Good Morning, Larry.

It is a great day for a birthday and I want to extend my warmest wishes for a Happy Birthday and I hope you and your family have a terrific day. It is an honor to have you as a role model, a mentor and a friend. You are truly a great individual who has carried the torch for Environmental Health and Public Health, not only in New Mexico and the Southwest, but across the Nation and the World. You are a very special and unique individual and I extend my special wishes on this very special day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LARRY

BOB AND DONNA GALVAN  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

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**Nancy Coker Donovan**

Kingwood, Texas

Belatedly, Happy Birthday. I have been out of town. Sorry to be late. Came through Gordon, TX a couple of times...and saw a museum dedicated to a Gordon (can't remember the initials now, sorry) Hope your birthday was just wonderful, and know that it was. Congratulations on your many accomplishments. I really loved your folks. Kuz Nancy

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**Al Green**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Happy Birthday, Larry

Hard to believe it has already been 12 years that we have shared a wall and a neighborhood.

However I have learned your advice was correct; the best way to lose friends is to be on a board. Glad you are not one of the losses.

Al Green

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**Bill Bennett**

Montrose, Colorado

Larry, best wishes to you on your 80th birthday!! We all hope that we can reach that point with our health still intact. Certainly, your many contributions to environmental health and the environment have helped countless people to maintain their health.

Please know that I will always be grateful for your friendship, and for the opportunities and mentoring which you gave me in my environmental health career.

Do get in touch if you are ever up in the Ouray, CO area. Bill

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## Debbie Dunlap

Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, New Mexico

Happy Birthday to my beloved Dad,

My wish for you is to continue to . . .  
laugh loud ,  
dream big ,  
sing out ,  
love life ,  
and stay healthy.

The way you live your life inspires me. Live it well.

I wish you a very Happy 80th Birthday with many more to celebrate!

Love ,  
Your daughter, Debbie



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## Kay Myers

Claremore, Oklahoma

Happy 80th Birthday from Oklahoma. What a wonderful surprise when I discovered my Albuquerque cousins, my life has truly been blessed. Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Kay Myers



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## Joy Johnson Butler

Arizona

Dear Larry,

Happy Birthday! I thought it was interesting that we were both born in Oklahoma. I must confess, I reached my 80th September 13th. It has been a wonderful life, hasn't it? I graduated from the U. of A. in Tucson, and later received a Masters in Music Education

at A.S.U. in Tempe. Art, also, graduated from Tempe after we were married. Now, I'm leading a quiet life, trying to finish several novels and non-fiction books. Wish me luck. Best wishes for you and your family.



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## **Bill and Grace Kirk**

**Menlo Park, California**

Greetings!



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## **Kim, Robert, & Mason Milliman**

**Spring, Texas**

Yala,

Happy 80th Birthday!!! I'm so fortunate to have such loving, caring, and amazing grandparents. I'm so blessed to have such wonderful childhood memories of times spent with my devoted grandparents. I can remember waking up very early as a child in preparation to climb the La Luz mountain side by side with my grandfather. I can also recall all the fun times we had boating. These are just two of the many memories I will cherish. Thanks for always supporting me and making my childhood enjoyable & memorable!!

I'm also very grateful that you have been able to experience being a great-grandfather as well. I hope Mason will continue to be able to develop a relationship with such special great-grandparents!!

With all our love,

Kim, Bobby & Mason



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## **Susanne Gordon Merideth**

**Grand Prairie, Texas**

Larry,



Happy 80th Birthday from all your cousins in Texas. What a wonderful day to be cherished with family and friends. Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Susanne Gordon Merideth



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## Tei Gordon

Tokyo, Japan, Oregon-Hawaii-Japan

Cuz'n Larry,

Happy birthday!! We have made a lot of progress in hunting down our Gordons over the years and a lot of great laughs along the way. We make a great team and I look forward to working with you to discover much more!!



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## Lynn Bradley

Vienna, Virginia

Happy Birthday! You've helped me learn a LOT over the last decade, and I'm grateful that you've kept me in your circulation list.

Wishing you good health and much happiness!

lynn

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## Janice Stewart

Winslow, Arizona

Dear Larry,

Happy Birthday, I am so glad I was able to come home from school today and see this wonder page to pay tribute to you on your birthday. I came to Albuquerque this summer and tried to contact you, but there was no answer. Sorry I missed you. I would love to meet you and your wife. Time is flying by and I never seem to get anything done. School really keeps me busy. I was never able to download the genealogy you sent on

my slow, slow, old computer so I will have to come again to see you. You look great in your picture. Have a happy day. Your distant relative by marriage.

Janice Stewart

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## **Rick Dunlap**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Larry'

Happy Birthday!

What a pleasure it has been, over the years, celebrating your many wonderful birthdays.

You and Nedra have truly been my friends over the past 36 years.

You have taught and shared with me many wonderful things, and have provided a great role model for everyday living.

I salute you for a great career and for creating and living a wonderful life.

Your Son (almost!)

Rick

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## **John Guinn**

**Lebanon, Missouri**

Hi Larry and Nedra. The 80th Birthday is great ear mark in achievement. You have made so many accomplishments in your life and we are so proud of you and wish you a very happy Birthday and many more. I had my 86th last April and hope to have a few more. Good Luck and give your lovely wife hugs and kisses from me because she has taken so care of you all these years. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to a life long friend.

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## **George and Pat Kupfer**

**Grayslake, Illinois**

Larry, Our best wishes for a great 80th birthday and for many happy years ahead. You

are a great inspiration and a tremendous friend. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to "grow up" with you in our profession. Your commitment, foresight, and "prodding" have resulted in the growth and visibility of "Environmental Health" at all levels. I am proud to know you.

God Bless, George and Pat

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**Rob Blake**

**Decatur, GA**

Happy Birthday Larry!

You have been and continue to be an inspiration to me and all E.H. professionals. You obviously have a loving and grateful family as well! Congratulations!

Rob Blake

DeKalb County Board of Health

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**Dr and Mrs. Jerrold M. Michael**

**Olney, Maryland**

Dear friend Larry:

You are a model for all of your colleagues in not only your commitment to environmental protection and public health enhancement but in the personal and professional way that you project the very character of the best that America has to offer.

Congratulations on your 80th birthday. We all look forward to celebrating many more and to your continued leadership for our public health efforts.

Jerry and Lynn Michael

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**James J. Balsamo, Jr.**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

Larry, I have enjoyed reading your articles over the years. Thanks for having thought of me by sending some of the "oldies but goodies" and the new letters, speeches and

articles you authored. I want you to know that some of my thoughts and actions as NEHA President and as an Environmental Health Professional (Sanitarian) either had their genesis from or were in concert with the thought provoking issues in your articles. Have a great 80th Birthday!

Jim Balsamo

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## **Jesse and Lois Williams**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Congratulations and a happy 80th birthday. I beat you by a few months to this milestone. Your accomplishments and honors are recognized and admired by both of us. Your parents did something right as you and Ladd rose to be top professionals in your fields, you in environmental health and your brother in wildlife conservation and management. We are proud to have known both of you as good friends. We wish you and Nedra the very best for the future.

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## **Vince Radke**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

Larry,  
Happy 80th birthday and may you have many more. Thanks for all you have done for environmental health and the profession. Your love of the work is an inspiration to all of us. Thank you for being a mentor to so many of us. You define what a leader is.

All the best,

Vince 🍷

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## **Mack Sewell**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Larry

Congratulations on your 80th birthday!! I consider you one of my mentors and have really appreciated the leadership that you have shown both in the state and nationally.

Regards from those of us in the New Mexico Department of Health old enough to

remember you.

Mack Sewell

NM State Epidemiologist

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## **Dave Mills**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Happy Birthday Larry, and best wishes for many many more. You have been an inspiration and source of strength and encouragement as I faced issues at the lab (your lab!).

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## **Franklin B. Carver**

**Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

Larry, thanks for being a friend to me and to the profession. You have contributed so much to the profession and to all of us personally. May you enjoy many, many more years of fruitful living.

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## **James and Marilyn Toler**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Happy, happy birthday, Larry. We are astonished at your accomplishments, especially considering that you are still so young. Thanks to Debbie, Gary & Kent for this web site! Best wishes, Jim & Marilyn

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## **Dr. V. Harry and Agnes Adrounie**

**Hastings, Michigan**

Larry

You will be catching up with me in another 11 Yrs. I probably will not be around so I will Wish you a very hearty 80th birthday & the 91st in case I am in Arlington at that time. It goes to show that those who help mankind are rewarded by staying alive to do more.

You certainly are an example as you have contributed to the top levels of env. & public health that have benefited thousands of people

God Bless

The Adrounie's

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## **Pete and Barbara Seward**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Well Larry, you beat us to the big 80 and several other things that we might mention, but the thing that can't be beat is our friendship with you and Nedra. Please accept our fondest birthday wishes and hopes for many happy returns. Pete and Barbara

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## **Dick and Suzanne Hood**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Larry - This birthday is one you will never forget. Your family has honored you with this tribute, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to join others in honoring such a fine person! Congratulations and Happy Birthday!

Suzanne and Dick

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## **David McSwane**

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

Larry,

Best wishes for a very Happy Birthday on this milestone.

Your many contributions to public health and environmental health are greatly appreciated by those of us who know you and who have had the great pleasure of working with you throughout the years. The many achievements in your career are only overshadowed by your dedication and compassion for mankind.

Enjoy your day!!!

Dave 🍷

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**Dr. and Mrs. John Todd**

Titusville, Florida

Larry,

Happy Birthday & many more to a great friend & sanitarian; I have enjoyed our professional association & friendship over these past 40 plus years!! Blessings always!!

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**Jean and Bob Bolton**

Mayhill, New Mexico

Happy Birthday Cuzzin,

On your 80th Birthday we congratulate you and wish you many many more. Your communications via email are wonderful and your genealogy for the family is exemplary. Thanks Cuzzin.

jb

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**Tom Dunlop**

Snowmass Village, Colorado

Hi Larry,

My what a grand day! I wish you the very best on this most important occasion. The interactions we have had have been rewarding for me, and I hope for many more opportunities in the future. I have always found a "pearl" in your words and writings. You have set the bar pretty high for environmental health practitioners, for that I will be always grateful. Your work ethic and dedication towards betterment of what we do has not gone unrecognized.

Eat lots of cake and don't count the candles. Happy Birthday.

Tom

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## **Daniel Boatright**

**Norman, Oklahoma**

Larry:

You are an inspiration and mentor to us all. I appreciate your abiding friendship, support and frequent...and always needed...sound advice and counsel. Congratulations on your birthday and very best wishes.

Daniel

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## **Kent, Elli and Bianca Gordon**

**Santa Rosa, California**

Dear Dad / Granddad ~

The Larry J Gordon Endowment for Environmental Health is an outstanding example of your personal and professional accomplishments and contributions. We are very proud of your lifelong devotion to your family, friends, colleagues and community. We wish you excellent health and a very Happy Birthday!

With much love,

Kent, Elli and Bianca



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## **Norman C. LaChapelle**

**Memphis, Tennessee**

Happy Birthday Larry,

Please know that you are the Environmental Hero to all the environmentalists nationwide. You have set the course for many of us to follow and emulate - always keeping professional competency and integrity at the forefront.

I still look over all the articles that you have graciously sent me which serve as my SOP.

Best wishes and much happiness.  
Norman LaChapelle



Administrator,  
Memphis and Shelby County Health Department

Best 🤔👍

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