



Dr. Lance J. Edwards

April 7, 1953 - August 3, 2018

Dr. Lance Jay Edwards passed away peacefully at the MHP Serenity House Hospice in Oskaloosa, Iowa on August 3rd, 2018 at the age of 65. His journey home has come after a long battle with several cancers. Lance was born April 7th, 1953 in Whitefish, Montana, the son of Martin and Evelyn Edwards. Growing up on the Bobtail Cutoff of the Pipe Creek Road was an experience he treasured his entire life. He attended Libby schools graduating with the class of 1971. While a student at the University of Montana, Lance met his wife, Ruth Jane Boy, in 1973 at an airport in Billings, Montana over spring break. In spite of attending colleges 200 miles apart, romance blossomed, and the couple wed July 10th, 1973.

Lance is survived by his cherished wife Ruth, beloved daughter Allison, grandchildren Lillian and Edwin and step-granddaughter, Jade Berry, sisters Connie and Mona, and brother, Wayne (Julie), as well as many nieces, nephews, aunts and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Martin, in 1982, mother, Evelyn, in 2015, and stepson, Randy Soper in 1992.

Lifelong learning was a passion for Edwards. Always a student and a thirty-year Professor he earned a Doctor of Management from Colorado Tech, an MBA from the City University of Seattle, and a Master of Arts in History from AMU. An avid UM Grizzly fan he also earned Bachelor of Science and Associate of Arts degrees from the University of Montana. Beginning work as a business and accounting manager in industry, he found his calling as a professor working in and retiring from both the Montana and Colorado higher

education systems. He held a tenured, full professorship in business and chair of the business administration division at William Penn University in Iowa until ill health finally forced his recent retirement. While a university student he worked summers in Libby sawmills and for two years as a smokechaser/wildland firefighter for the forest service. A dedicated reader, his interests were in history and genealogy, a hobby that traced both sides of his family as Puritan immigrants in the 1630's. He found a true American story of many great-grandparents who founded Harvard, served as colonial governors, and others who were landless and illiterate but always pushed by the desire to move west and explore. He identified ancestors who served as generals and privates in every conflict from colonial founding to present day.

Lance proudly served in and received an honorable discharge from the 120th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, Montana Air National Guard, and Reserve of the United States Air Force. As a teenager, Lance joined the Civil Air Patrol, the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, from which he retired decades later as a Colonel, commanding the Montana Wing for almost four years. He and Ruth were the first husband/wife team that each served as Wing Commanders in the Civil Air Patrol. A pilot, among his many honors he received the Distinguished Service Medal, as well as the Air Search and Rescue, the Rescue "FIND," and Lifesaving awards. His professional military education included graduation from the USAF Air Command and Staff College, the Squadron Officer Course and numerous training courses at the USAF Air Force Academy, CO, the Air University at Maxwell AFB, AL, and many other locations. His service to the CAP and the USAF took him, as a member, wing commander, and corporate officer of the Civil Air Patrol, Inc., to dozens of states and travel internationally.

As was his wish, Lance's body has been cremated. A memorial gathering will be held from 4-6 p.m. and a time of sharing will begin at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

AUG 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

A Time of Remembrance

AUG 8. 5:30 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

EC

“ He was a great grandpa and an amazing story teller. I love him so much and hope he is peacefully looking down from heaven.

Edwin Carr - August 14, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ Dr. Lance J. Edwards

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM

RS

“ Rocky Foote and Duangjai Solo purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Lance J. Edwards.



Rocky Foote and Duangjai Solo - August 07, 2018 at 07:45 PM

JR

“ Lance was a great co-worker at LCC. I enjoyed our discussions on family, friends, Libby, and how to best serve the students.

Jon Reny

Jon Reny - August 07, 2018 at 02:28 PM

S-

“ Our love and thoughts are with all the family. Lots of memories of our families. Lance was a kind and caring man. So proud to be his cousin.

shannon edwards -myslicki - August 07, 2018 at 12:33 PM

EC

Hello, this is edwin carr, you are my first cousin twice removed. I was reading the obituary and saw lance had a step granddaughter, so I was wondering if I have a step sister. Thank you unmet family!

Edwin Carr - August 14, 2025 at 01:10 PM

DM

“ I grew up with Lance and his family back in the wilds of Montana and was his squadron mate in Civil Air Patrol way back in 1967; we had many good times over the years on journeys to Vandenburg, Fairchild and Malmstrom Air Force Bases and the wild treks to Kalispell Radar Station. Time and circumstances as they so often do separated us for too many years but the friendship remained rock solid. Remembering my father's highest praise upon learning of the death of a man he had known was simple: "He was a good man". My father said that about Lance's father Martin and now I will say it about Lance: HE WAS A GOOD MAN!

Dale Mansfield - August 07, 2018 at 11:57 AM

LW

“ Lonny W. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Dr. Lance J. Edwards.



Lonny W. - August 06, 2018 at 08:03 PM

SH

“ Dr. Edwards was a kind, thoughtful individual. I have two fond memories of interacting with Dr. Edwards. The first occurred my very first week at Penn. I was a new professor, new to campus and it was the first week of the semester. As I walked into Penn Hall, I was greeted by Dr. Edwards, and to my surprise, he called me by name. He said, “Hello Stephen, my name is Lance Edwards.” While seemingly insignificant, this was a meaningful interaction to me. A colleague, who I had never met, greeted me and called me by name my very first week on campus. I never forgot about this encounter.

As time went on, I discovered that we both loved history. When we saw each other, we would talk about what we were reading or some event that we found particularly intriguing. Near the end of his life, Dr. Edwards called me and asked if I would be interested in taking some of his favorite history books. He said to me, “I want my books to go someone who will enjoy and appreciate them the way I did.” Much to my delight, Dr. Edwards gifted me eight boxes full of wonderful history books! I gifted several of these texts to my history students, students who I know also have a deep love of history. But, these texts were given with the same advice. To each student, I have said, “These books were given to me by a dear colleague, Dr. Lance Edwards. I am giving these to you because he wanted his books to be cherished by someone who would appreciate them the way he did.” I hope that by continuing to gift some of Dr. Edwards’ texts, his legacy as a scholar and lover of history will continue to impact students at William Penn. Dr. Edwards, you will be missed.

Stephen Henderson - August 06, 2018 at 02:01 PM

JJ

“ I will miss Dr. Edward's kindness and congenial disposition. He was a pleasure to work with. He will be missed.

Jihna Jenkins-Mullens - August 06, 2018 at 09:42 AM

NS

“ I worked with Lance at William Penn University where he was consistently a voice for progress and good faith collaboration. I respected Lance's kind concern with students. He was reliably patient with students of all types and backgrounds. I so admired that he continually was learning, formally - by enrolling in our graduate program for no other reason than to learn - and informally, by reading books and journal articles and newspapers in his office. Lance was a loyal ally and friend on Academic Council, where he urged each of us to help make the university stronger and better for our students and for each other. I admire his faith in God as he faced the challenges of cancer. He was, in many ways a model human being, an honorable man, a kind friend, and a trusted colleague.

Noel C Stahle - August 06, 2018 at 09:39 AM