



Larry Alan Griffith

[Dartmouth College](#)

Larry Griffith Obituary

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Larry Alan Griffith died with his wife and son by his side on August 14, 2024, at Moffitt Cancer Center in [Tampa, Florida](#) where he had been battling Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He had also been living for four years with Multiple Myeloma, another blood cancer.

Larry was born in Libby, Montana on March 8, 1946, to Richard Droege Griffith and Phyllis Hope Wohlgenant. Larry graduated Magna Cum Laude from Dartmouth College, earning his BA (1968) and BE (1969) with Phi Beta Kappa honors. He met Julia Morrison on a blind date in 1968 when she was a student at Wellesley College, and they married in 1970. Larry served in the U.S. Navy as a Supply Officer on the USS Cascade in Naples, Italy. Then, after he was discharged from the Navy in November 1972, he and Julia traveled Europe for several months, then returned to Boston where he attended Harvard Business School and received an MBA in 1975. He then accepted a job at Owens-Illinois, a large packaging company, and his career in that industry spanned 29 years. Toledo, Ohio was home base for Larry and Julia during that time, but the company sent him at various points in his career to St. Louis, to Huntington, West Virginia, and to Vineland, New Jersey. At times, he also traveled to Europe and Asia to oversee plants there as well.

Larry was always a loving husband to Julia and in 1981 the couple welcomed their son Benjamin Forbes Griffith. Being a father to Ben was one of the great joys of Larry's life. Larry's hard work provided a wonderful home for the family, a great education for Ben, opportunities for travel, and all the finer things of life. Larry's many hobbies included glassblowing, woodworking and home remodeling, sailing, skiing, and cycling.

Larry retired from Owens-Illinois in 2004 as an Executive Vice President, having served as General Manager of business units across several different divisions of Owens-Illinois. The couple then boarded their 44-foot sailboat, Marechiaro, and sailed from Toledo, Ohio to Melbourne, Florida, spent the winter there, and sailed back again. On this trip, they considered various possibilities for a retirement residence, and soon purchased a home in The Oaks in Osprey, Florida, immediately south of Sarasota, where they moved in 2005. Ben then settled down nearby in Orlando, Florida, where he married Diana Perry in 2012, so frequent family visits back and forth were easy.

In retirement, Larry had even more time to pursue his hobbies, and the couple enjoyed many sailing trips in Florida waters, including to Key West. Larry served as Treasurer and later President of the Longboat Key Moorings Dockominium Association where Marechiaro was docked. Additionally, Larry also bought another 44-foot sailboat, Starchaser, as a summer residence on the water: docked first at North Cape Yacht Club, near Toledo, and later at Centerpointe Marina in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, so that he and Julia could avoid the brutal heat of Florida summers and cruise around the Great Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Huron.

Throughout his life, Larry remained very close to his three sisters: Brenda Holland, Jo Ann Chambers, and Allyson James, and enjoyed week-long family reunions every year or two with the whole Griffith clan. He always enjoyed good relations with Julia's family as well.

Larry's body was cremated and will be interred at Sarasota National Cemetery. The family will hold a private celebration of life at a later date. Larry will be sorely missed by all his family, by his three exchange students from Eastern Europe, and by many colleagues and cherished friends from over the years. Larry was the most honorable and loyal of men, and he will live on in our minds and our hearts.