

A Father's Day Salute

IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY TIME

Celebrating Fathers

This Father's Day we celebrate all the fathers, grandfathers and those who influence the lives of those they touch. We salute Larry Squiers, Cudahy, who is the proud father of two sons and grandfather to three grandchildren.

Leading by Example

"Looking back at our childhood, dad was always building," said Larry's son Grant. "He had a shop and was always tinkering. My dad really instilled in me the value of hard work and how to figure it out yourself. He was a very hard worker and always told us to look into something and figure it out yourself, before you just hire something out. He made upgrades to our house, built out his shop and was very self-reliant. That's what I saw and learned from growing up."

A Life Dedicated to Service

Larry served on the Fire Department for 30 years, ending his tenure as Chief. "I worked my way up through the ranks and served in many roles," Larry said. "My boys could come to the firehouse and sit on the trucks anytime."

"It was cool to have a dad as a firefighter," Grant recalled. "Every year there was a drawing in our grade school and the winner would get a ride to school in the fire truck. I won one year and my dad was the one who drove the truck with me that day."

"Early on in my career, I worked long hours and often missed some of the kid's activities," Larry said. "As they got older, I put a very high value on spending time together – whether vacations or school projects – my family was important." Vacations were a big part of the Squiers childhood. "We always wanted to enrich the lives of the kids and expose them to things beyond their local city," Larry said. "Both the kids had a sense of adventure and we supported that. One trip that stands out was a scuba diving excursion we took to Bonaire, off the coast of Venezuela."



Grant, Jolie (15 mo.) and Larry



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"I became a father 15 months ago and it's an amazing experience," Grant said. "I appreciate things differently and am grateful for how I was raised. As I've gotten older, I look at time differently and appreciate that it's not infinite. I want to make sure I spend as much time as I can with my family, and enjoy each day."

"When I think of my own father, who has now passed, I am grateful for the time we spent together," Larry said. "We lived in the same town and as my parents got older I would stop over and help them. My dad was the kind of guy who never asked for help, but always appreciated it. Now Lewy Body Dementia has created a situation where I count on my family members to help me to do things. There was a time when there was nothing I couldn't do, and it breaks my heart that I can no longer say that. But I am grateful for my family who supports me on this journey."

Larry is living with Lewy Body Dementia. He and his wife, Karen, take advantage of Alzheimer's Association resources in order to continue to live their best life. We honor all fathers on this difficult journey. Their strength and love continues to inspire us as we fight to end Alzheimer's and dementia.

