



Layne Allen Longfellow

October 23, 1937 - January 12, 2019

Dr. Layne Alan Longfellow, 81, educator, writer, humorist, musician, composer and world traveler died peacefully after a lengthy illness at his home in Prescott, Arizona, on January 12, 2019. He was born on October 23, 1937, in Jackson, Ohio, the son of the late Hershel and Opal Longfellow.

Dr. Longfellow was a graduate of Jackson High School, Ohio University (Phi Beta Kappa, Magna cum Laude), and the University of Michigan, where he completed a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology. Following that, he received a number of post-doctoral fellowships, most notably a National Institute of Mental Health award to work with Dr. Carl R. Rogers, one of the founding fathers of psychotherapy research.

In his varied career, Layne taught at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and later was Academic Vice- President of Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona, where he helped design a curriculum that integrated wilderness experience and academic studies. In 1974, he was hired to be the Director of Seminars for Executives at the renowned Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas, a post which led to an illustrious career as a professional speaker and seminar leader. In 1978, at age 40, Layne established his own company, Lecture Theater, Inc., a forum for the presentation of provocative issues with the help of spoken words, songs, humor, piano music and photographs. Through his company, Layne presented well over 2000 multi-media speeches and

seminars to audiences and organizations internationally.

Layne was elected to the National Speaker's Association Hall of Fame in 1985, and later awarded the rare and highly prized title of 'Legendary Speaker' by his colleagues in the Association. In 2007, Layne, who served as the Longfellow Poetry Ambassador for the Friends of Longfellow National Historic Association, was the host at the 200th birthday celebration of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and followed up that same year with a reading of Longfellow poetry at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. His subsequent recording of Longfellow's poetry was highly acclaimed.

Dr. Longfellow's list of awards, distinctions and recognitions is long, as is the number of writings, both professional and popular, including articles in distinguished journals and popular magazines, books, audio presentations and DVDs.

Layne was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his long-time companion, Neera Tandon, of Prescott.

Visitation for Dr. Layne Longfellow will be held from 11:00 to 1:00 Monday Jan. 21 at the Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home with funeral service to follow. The service will include a short video presenting highlights of Layne's life and speaking career. All are invited to share memories of their time with him. Burial will follow in Fairmount Cemetery. Contributions may be made in Layne's honor to the Jackson High School Alumni Association, 450 Vaughn St., Jackson, OH, 45640.

A celebration of Layne's life will be held for his many friends and acquaintances in Prescott, Arizona, in April, at a date to be determined.

Cemetery Details

Fairmount Cemetery

12 Fairmont St
Jackson, OH 45640
(740) 286-2090

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home
135 Broadway Street
Jackson, OH 45640
(740) 286-4161

Service

JAN 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home
135 Broadway Street
Jackson, OH 45640
(740) 286-4161

Tribute Wall

CR

“Layne and I crossed paths briefly twice in our lives, once in 1955 at a week-long church youth camp when I was only 15 years old, and then accidentally met again over 50 years later. Incredulously we both still remembered that fateful meeting when we were teenagers. Our two encounters in life although brief, were so positive and memorable that I will remember them and Layne the rest of my life. I hope you are happy and well, Layne, wherever you are.. Carol Belville Rosebrough

Carol Belville Rosebrough - March 29, 2025 at 09:53 AM

JK

“Jan & Bob Klosterman lit a candle in memory of Layne Allen Longfellow



Jan & Bob Klosterman - January 20, 2019 at 08:22 PM

JK

We recently had the privilege and honor of meeting Layne while staying at his piece of paradise on Idylwild Ln. What an interesting and wonderful man.

“Oh The Places He Went” in life. The world will miss you, Layne. 🙏

Jan & Bob Klosterman - January 20, 2019 at 08:32 PM

PH

“ *Phyllis Hollenbeck lit a candle in memory of Layne Allen Longfellow*



Phyllis Hollenbeck - January 19, 2019 at 03:06 PM

PH

“ *Layne always said he couldn't have done it without me. I was his Administrative Assistant during much of his speaking career. Actually.....working with Layne was one of the best times of my life. It is difficult for me to put into words how much I grew during the time we worked together. Yes, he always made me feel as though we worked together rather than I worked for him. He will be missed.*

Phyllis Hollenbeck - January 19, 2019 at 03:04 PM

CS

“ *Carol Sears lit a candle in memory of Layne Allen Longfellow*



Carol Sears - January 17, 2019 at 01:36 AM