



## Mr. Ralph "Larry" Chappell III

July 13, 1948 - March 29, 2026

Ralph "Larry" Chappell, III (77), of Woodstock, Georgia, passed peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, March 29, after a brief battle with cancer. He leaves behind a legacy of love, dedication, and supportive patience that will continue to live on in all who knew him.

Larry is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Margaret; his daughter, Carey McElroy (Derrick); his son, Chris Chappell (Randi); and his cherished grandchildren, Caden and Carson McElroy. He also leaves behind a wide circle of beloved friends and extended family who were touched by his kindness, humor, and steady presence.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Martha "Pat" Chappell and Ralph Chappell, Jr.; his sister, Donna Roberts; and his brother-in-law, James "Ed" Roberts, Sr.

Born and raised in the North Atlanta area, Larry's love of sports began early. At Dykes High School, he excelled in football and baseball, later delighting family and friends with stories from his playing days—including one unforgettable game where he scored multiple touchdowns and cracked his helmet clean in half. His passion for athletics stayed with him throughout his life.

Larry attended the University of Georgia, where he developed a lifelong devotion to Georgia football—proudly cheering on the Dawgs every season. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree at UGA before going on to complete his Master's in Education from Georgia State University, setting the

stage for what would become a remarkable 43-year career in teaching. Larry began teaching at Roswell High School in 1971, where his youthful appearance initially caused him to be mistaken for a student—prompting him to grow his now-signature beard. Over the years, he became a cornerstone of the school community. He coached soccer and baseball early in his career and later served as head of the Science Department, primarily teaching chemistry. For more than three decades, he taught countless students in the Roswell area -including his own children- inspiring them with his patience, encouragement, and genuine love of learning.

He took great pride in mentoring young minds and especially enjoyed accompanying Fulton County Science Fair winners to state and national competitions annually. Always forward-thinking, Larry also played a key role in introducing the first computers to Fulton County Schools in the 1980s, leaving a lasting impact on education in the area. These and many other accomplishments earned him Fulton County Teacher of the Year twice. Even after retiring from Roswell High School in 2010, Larry's passion for teaching continued. He went on to teach chemistry at Kings Ridge Christian School until 2014 and remained a dedicated Chemistry tutor in the North Fulton community, helping students -including both of his grandchildren- build confidence and succeed.

Above all, Larry was a family man. A loving and devoted husband, he expressed his care in everyday ways - preparing meals, grocery shopping, and always putting his family first. As a father, he was endlessly supportive and present, from serving as a proud and enthusiastic "Cheerleading Team Dad" for Carey to coaching football and baseball for Chris. His patience, kindness, and unwavering support defined the way he loved.

His greatest joy came from being "Ampa" to his grandchildren. Whether coaching Caden in his younger years or cheering from the sidelines as both kids excelled in numerous sports, Larry was their biggest fan. He rarely missed a game, scrimmage, or match, and treasured every moment spent with them.

Larry was also a loyal friend with a one-of-a-kind personality. Known affectionately to those close to him as a “Valley Mountain Man,” the creator of his famous “Larry Dip,” dubbed “ the Condiment King,” and, humorously, the “World’s Slowest Eater,” he brought laughter and warmth to every gathering. His stories, traditions, and gentle humor will be deeply missed.

To Larry, family and friends were life’s greatest treasures. In honoring his memory, his family invites you to share your stories and celebrate the moments you spent with him. In lieu of flowers or donations, they ask that you spend time with loved ones—sharing a meal, a conversation, and the kind of connection Larry valued most. A celebration of life may be planned at a later date.

# Cemetery Details

## **Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory**

12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ Jenn,Holly, Christie, Erika and Barb purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Ralph "Larry" Chappell III.



Jenn,Holly, Christie, Erika and Barb - April 03 at 10:08 AM

JB

“ Jenn,Holly, Christie, Erika and Barb planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph "Larry" Chappell III.

Jenn,Holly, Christie, Erika and Barb - April 03 at 10:08 AM

CR

“ Mr. Chappell was an incredibly patient Chemistry teacher. He and Jackie Yearwood Hollingsworth were the reasons why I went on to teach in Fulton County.

Cathy Rockoff - April 02 at 09:51 AM



“ What a great teacher and person.  
Thanks for all you did for us students.  
One of my favorite teachers.  
Scott Gronholm

Scott Gronholm - April 01 at 09:32 PM

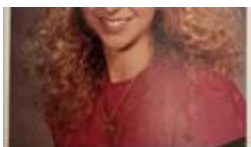
CJ

“ oh wow. sorry to see this. Me and chemistry didn't get along too well, but I was so glad I had Mr. Chappell as my teacher for that one (RHS '97 grad). He taught us that the U.S. was going to change to the metric system soon, so we really needed to learn/understand those conversions...well...every time this topic comes up I ALWAYS think of mr. chappell sitting at the front of the room with a can of Coke (diet?) in his hands. Also, I wanted to be a doctor (or something) and taking his class and learning about 'organic chemistry' from him made me change my mind...and I don't think that was a bad thing ;) So nice to read more about other interests and qualities of his. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Claire (Stienecker) Jennings - April 01 at 11:40 AM

SH

“ I am one of the science fair kids! I am Stacey Jeffrey (Hail). Mr. Chappell and I went to the International Science Fair in 1991. I majored in chemistry because of him and am now a practicing ER doctor and medical toxicologist. God bless you Mr. Chappell and family.



STACEY JEFFREY: Stacey is a



Stacey Hail - March 31 at 09:39 PM

CM

Stacey, he held you in the highest regard. He was infinitely proud of you and would be so please to see all you've accomplished. You influenced him as much as he did upu you. Bless you!

Carey McElroy - April 01 at 07:12 AM

L&

*He was the best chemistry teacher. Loved the "find the unknown chemical tests".*

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**lisa hodge '82** - April 02 at 05:13 PM

KD

“ *I was in his first chemistry class in 1971 at Roswell High School. He was an excellent teacher and instilled a love of chemistry in me. My heartfelt condolences to his family.*

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**Kathy Dempsey** - March 31 at 06:47 PM

CM

*Thank you so much for sharing!*

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**Carey McElroy** - April 01 at 07:12 AM



“ *What a great man Coach Chappell was! He as a great teacher and coach. He will be missed. He was the assistant coach when we went to state in baseball. His contributions to the team were immeasurable. RIP Coach.*

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**Mark Mallard** - March 31 at 06:05 PM

CM

*Thank you for sharing your memories of him. He loved making an impact on his students and athletes. ❤️*

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**Carey McElroy** - March 31 at 06:15 PM

SM

“ Larry hired me to teach science at Roswell in 1986. I will be forever indebted to him for that. I can't imagine a more supportive person to me than Larry. He never got upset and was always smiling. In addition to loving Georgia sports he was a huge Braves fan through thick and thin. He loved to use his lawn tractor and listen to Braves games on the radio. Larry was highly respected by the students, teachers, and staff at Roswell. He was a Roswell MVP if there ever was one. I valued Larry as my friend

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**Steve Moeller** - March 31 at 05:45 PM

CM

You are so right! There was always a radio present on his many hours on the mower. One of my favorite memories was when he got to walk his grandson around the warning track at a Braves game for youth day. He really thought highly of you and I've kept him up to speed on your adventures. Thank you for sharing

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**Carey McElroy** - March 31 at 06:19 PM

AK

“ I will miss him so much! He always treated me like one of his own and it just won't be the same without him here. I know he and Daddy are laughing together and having the best time talking about their baby girls. Sending you all so much love and hugs!!

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**Amber Kuhn** - March 31 at 04:47 PM

KM

I graduated from RHS in '74. Mr Chappell taught me so much beyond chemistry. I learned critical thinking skills and a confidence in myself as a "smart girl".

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**Karen Mays** - March 31 at 05:43 PM

CM

Thank you sweet friend. I know you know the heartbreak of losing your daddy. Your friendship and support mean the world to me!

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**Carey McElroy** - March 31 at 06:21 PM