



Sydney "Syd" Layton

October 18, 1936 - March 7, 2022

CEDAR FALLS – Sydney “Syd” Layton, 85, of Cedar Falls, died Monday, March 7, 2022, at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo.

He was born October 18, 1936, in Iowa City, Iowa, the son of Harold and Helen (Otterbeck) Layton. Syd started working at 10 years old delivering papers in the early morning and shoveling snow for various Cedar Falls residents before heading off to school. He graduated from Cedar Falls High School in 1954 and then completed a Journeyman of Sheet Metal Apprenticeship. During his career he worked as a Journeyman throughout the Cedar Valley and many times traveled to other states to work jobs away from home. In the 1980s Syd began working as a maintenance technician at the University of Northern Iowa. His boys lovingly referred to him as a “professor of sheet metal.” He took great pride in his work and had an excellent reputation across the metro area for his skills and craftsmanship.

On November 8, 1959, he married the love of his life, Joann Tangen, in Cedar Falls. They settled in Cedar Falls at their home near the high school where they remained for 57 years.

Syd was a lifelong racing fan and attended the Indy 500 several times in the 1950s and 1960s. He also enjoyed racing go-karts and motorcycles in the 1960s and 1970s. Syd was an active member of the Rambling Wheels

Motorcycle Club for 54 years. The Layton family enjoyed years and years of camping, riding motorcycles, trips to Colorado, swimming in the West Fork River, and campfires with their Rambling Wheels family.

In the 1990s, at the age of 60 years old, Syd rebuilt and started racing a vintage open wheeled sprint car. He and Mom traveled thousands of miles all over the Midwest racing his beloved Number "98 Bearcat." He competed on famous tracks such as Knoxville Raceway, Belleville Kansas High Banks, and Pikes Peak International Raceway.

Syd enjoyed traveling and ensured the family always had a vacation. He excitedly visited most US states, as well as Canada, Mexico, Germany, Austria, Italy, and even East Germany.

Syd is survived by his wife, Joann; two sons, Colonel (retired) Tony (Carol) Layton of Weston, MO, and Dan (Dianne) Layton of Cedar Falls; five grandsons, Captain Zachary (Shawne) Layton, Kieran (Hannah) Layton, Seth Layton, Mitchell, Austin and Noah Forker; one granddaughter, Morgan Forker; five great-grandchildren, Kilian, Harper, Hattie-Anne, Everett, and Emery Jo Layton; sister, Linda Lorenz of Clear Lake; and brother-in-law, Gary (Jane) Tangen of Cedar Falls.

He was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, Lucia Belle Layton; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Marlys and Steve Spears.

A family-directed Celebration of Life will be held 3:00-5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 20, 2022 at the Cedar Falls AmVets Post #49 in Cedar Falls. Inurnment will be at Fairview Cemetery in Cedar Falls. Memorials may be directed to Cedar Valley Hospice.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Oh, so sorry for your loss. Hugs and condolences to you and all your family.

Marcia Brandt

Marcia Brandt - March 15, 2022 at 09:52 PM

DT

“ So many great memories with the Laytons ! Such a incredible family ! The world lost a great man but Heaven got a incredible angel R.I.P Uncle Syd.

Darrin T - March 15, 2022 at 07:17 PM

LS

“ Sorry for your loss, Prayers to you and family.

Larry and Elaine Sherbon - March 13, 2022 at 01:42 PM

SM

“ Sorry to hear of Syd passing. Prayers for Joann and family.

Sonja Christensen Miller - March 13, 2022 at 10:43 AM

AK

“ Extending my sympathy to you, Joann, Tony and Dan and the rest of the family. Syd was such a nice guy. Praying for all of you. Alice and Bob Kuennen

Alice Busta Kuennen - March 08, 2022 at 09:03 AM

RW

Joann

To say so sorry for your loss for Syd's passing just doesn't seem enough.

Syd always brightened my mood at the race events' where we would cross paths. We always had a good time harassing each other and joking about most any thing.

Of all my Memories of Syd, I think the time that I first met him at Lake Elmo, Mn will always be the best. Tom Barclay had brought both his midget and the 33

Chev sedan. Chet Herubin and I were working on his 33 3 window coupe next to were Tom was pitted.

Tom told Syd to take the sedan out on the track, Syd had a helmet on and was in the car as fast as possible.

Syd said " Its time to go have fun." I looked over and asked Syd where his fire suit was. Syd looked like a little kid who had his candy taken away from him. He looked disappointed until I reached into to the cab of my truck and tossed him a Chet's fire suit and told him to go have that fun. He stood in the car and put the fire suit on and I helped him get strapped in. He went out and ran quite a few laps and then came back into the pits. He unstrapped and stood up, still in the car. and yelled, "hot damned, that was fun" He got out of the car and asked us our names, thanked us several times and told us he thought he had friends for life. He was so right.

I'm sorry if I rambled but I will miss the 2 of you to the end of my days, I don't remember exactly when I met you, Joann, but like Syd, you were an instant friend.

Health problems have kept me from the race shows for a number of years, but I will always remember the wonderful friends I made at them.

Roger Wade

Roger Wade - July 12, 2022 at 11:32 AM