

"The things that express my views on life and things most important to me are included in this service. These places, parts of culture I encountered gave me a rich and satisfactory life.

If my soul (life force) moves on to another adventure, so be it. It is knowledge I have not been privileged to understand. It was a good life, many misadventures, mistakes contrary to what was right is in the minds of many, but maybe some good was gained from my existence as well. I hope so.

I wasn't right some of the time, but I feel I did the right thing most of the time. Life is an adventure.

I could have taken more chances, but I took enough. It was a great ride."

Larry Joe Ford

Sources:

"A Joseph Campbell Companion"

"Sacred Space and Sacred Time—Exaltation of the Spirit"

From Ed Abbey: "Those who fear death the most are those who enjoy life the least."

"Observations and Memories", Joe Ford, 1977-2001

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

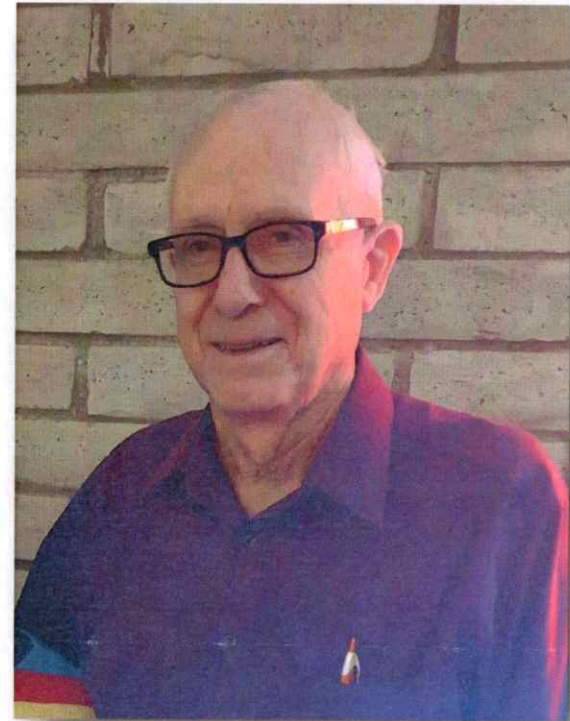
August 10, 2025

2:30 pm

LARRY JOE FORD

May 24, 1942

July 16, 2025



United Church of Sun City

11250 N. 107th Ave.

Sun City, AZ 85351

Rev. Brady Abel, Officiant

Alan Paulson, Soloist

Beverly Fletcher, Pianist/Soloist

"Friends"

Spring, 1980

*Time so elusive, passes each day;
Fleets faster with age as the years pass away.*

*The mind becomes full, littered with thoughts;
To sort them, assess them, which should be bought?*

*Certainly love is foremost to make the days rich;
Sharing and caring between two in contact;
Understanding, needs shared, must be part of the act.*

*How do you know when a real friend is true?
They're always asking what's happening with you.*

*It's not money, it's not getting,
that's not what makes a friend.
No, it's giving without thought of self
all the way to the end.*

*Friends make life richer as time takes us through each day,
and age increases the depth of friendships,
or should, for this year never stays.*

*Are you going lonely, as through life you make your way?
This can change if you want it too, giving the only pay.*

- Larry Joe Ford

Prelude **Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto (1,2,3,4)**
Beverly Fletcher

Greeting and Prayer Rev. Brady Abel

*Opening Hymn **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

Special Music **In the Garden** Alan Paulson

Scripture 23rd Psalm

Pastoral Message Rev. Brady Abel

Time of Remembrance with special music by Mike Krzyston

Silent Reflection

Special Music **Go Gently Through the Years**
Beverly Fletcher

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn **How Great Thou Art**

Announcements

Benediction

Postlude **Take These Wings** Choraliers &
Sun City Sings!

** Please stand if you are able*

Important thoughts from Joe...

The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.
Life is without meaning. You bring the meaning to it.

Participate joyfully in the sorrows of the world.

We cannot cure the world of sorrows,
but we can choose to live in joy.

The society is the enemy when it imposes
its structures on the individual.

From advice give to a young Native American at the time
of his initiation: "As you go the way of life, you will see a
great chasm. Jump. It is not as wide as you think."

The purpose of the journey is compassion.

When the situation is desperate,
it is too late to be serious. Be playful.

Though men now possess the power to dominate and exploit every corner of the natural world, nothing in that fact implies that they have the right or the need to do so.

*Thank You for making my life rich and full and blessed.
There are so many people, places and things
that have made my life rich:*

So many to thank, but special thank yous to: Brady Abel, Lisa Dunbar, Lois Menefee, Alan Paulson, Floyd Ellison, Beverly Fletcher, Connie & Ray Broadland, Judie Sparks, Tony Davis, Juan Flores, Brian Massey, Kendall Bickley, Sam Nichols, Jerry and Helen Harmon, Calvin Fagan, Nancy Fagan Black, Allen and Jane Hahn, James Culpepper, Roland MacGregor, Kenneth Morris, John Howser, Chris Nault, Carl Foster, Chris Hampton, Jeff Jenness, James Epperson, George League, Mike Krzyston, Caleb Strand, my parents, the precious people of the churches of Eldon Methodist, Neosho United Methodist, and First United Methodist of Hobbs and special family, Judy my sister and husband Jay Bullard, my dear sons Sean and Stacy, their families and the precious grandbabies. And most of all to my dear wife of 59 years, Elise, who endured and loved me and all my faults through good times and the bad. LOVE, the most important thing between people and places on this planet.

(over)

Arroyo Ponderosa in Timberon
Agave Ridge in Timberon
Meeker, Colorado and the White River
Lake Derwentwater in Cumbria
Island of Lunga in the Lesser Hebrides
Jungfrauoch and the Wengen area of the Alps
Salzburg, Austria
Coneyos River Valley, Colorado
Lake City, Colorado
San Juan Mountains
Guadalupe Peak Trail
Eldon, Missouri
Lake of the Ozarks
Summerville Cove on Grand Lake, OK
Loire River Valley, France
Grapefruit and tangelos
The Grand Canyon of AZ
Black Canyon of the Gunnison
Mont St. Michel on the Normandy Coast
The Grand Tetons, Wyoming
Fjords and valleys of southern Norway
Snorkeling in Kealakekua Bay, Hawaii
Thick-billed Parrots near Madera, Mexico
Brown Pelicans of Morro Bay
Vermilion Flycatchers
Botanical Gardens near Hilo
Kew Gardens, England
Big Bend National Park, TX
Sunrises, sunsets and rainbows
Cypress Winds
Twin Pines Farm
Catching White Bass at Lake of the Ozarks
Indian Creek, Shoal Creek, Sugar Creek
Maddox Lake
Buckeye Pond
1997 New Mexico State Soccer Championship
Hobbs, NM
Keukenhof Gardens, Netherlands
Vonduel Park, Netherlands
Lakeview Point Lake, Sun City
Flash, Foxy, and all the birds in the backyard
Palo Verde in the spring, Bougainvillea
Tulips and orchids
Blossoms of lemon trees and lilac bushes
Chocolate Daisies (*Berlandiera lyata*)
Elise's meatloaf and beef stroganoff