

We are gathered here today to honor the memory of Larry Stein ... husband and father ... son, and brother ... uncle and grandfather.

He was born in 1946 ... a time different from our own ... yet similar in many ways.

That year, the League of Nations transferred its mission to the fledgling United Nations. Europe was rebuilding after the war, and across the globe new nations were popping up. By the end of the year, President Harry S. Truman delivered Proclamation 2714 – which officially ended World War II.

On the day that Larry was born, at the Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, the US conducted the first of a series of nuclear tests in what was known as Operation Crossroads.

There were other firsts that year, too. The Fulbright Scholarship was established. The first American saint was canonized – Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini. Sony Corporation and the Casio Company were founded in Japan.

Mensa was founded at Oxford University in England. The first general purpose computer, ENIAC, was shown at the University of Pennsylvania. And *Project Diana* bounced radar waves off of the Moon, effectively beginning the Space Age.

The 18th Academy Awards were held, with Best Picture going to *The Lost Weekend*. The movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed was released in time for Christmas.

The Basketball Association of America had its first game between the New York Knicks and the Toronto Huskies.

Other people born in 1946 include Dolly Parton, Cher, Sally Field, Donald Trump, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Pat Sajak, and Reggie Jackson.

Larry served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, and at the graveside there will be military honors. We will hear a tune played on a bugle ... commonly known as *Taps*. It is also known as *Butterfield's Lullaby* after Medal of Honor recipient Civil War Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield. There are words to the tune. And I would like to read some of them for our reflection.

*Day is done, gone the sun  
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky  
All is well, safely rest  
God is nigh.*

...

*Thanks and praise for our days  
Neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky  
As we go, this we know  
God is nigh.*

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord ...