



Born and raised in Edinburg, Illinois. The Youngest of nine children to Claude & Ruth Beaty. Raised on a Dairy Operation along with pigs, cattle and raising corn and soybeans.

Larry served in the Marine Corp from September 1963 to October 1966 when he received a Purple Heart after stepping on a land mine and being wounded. He also received a Good Conduct badge and Expert Marksmen Award. He served in Okinawa Japan, Philippines, Guam and Vietnam. He left the Marine Corp as a U.S. Marine Corp Sargent.

After returning home from the military he worked at Christian County Farm Supply and First Trust Bank in Taylorville before beginning his farming career in 1975. He planted his first crop with a ford 5000 tractor and an eight-row planter and has upgraded to a JD 8430 front wheel assist tractor with auto steer and GPS and a 24-row planter.

Larry has served on the Edinburg School Board and Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board where he recently tenured off after serving since 2008 with 3 years as President. Larry and Diana married in 2004 and merged together two farming operations which they operate together as partners.

Larry is father to three children: Tracy, Julie & Shad and they have provided him with 10 grandchildren.

Larry's philosophy with raising his children was the same as that for farming...hard work never hurt anyone! When asked "why are we mowing the roadsides?" he would explain how manicured roadsides added value to the fields which they surrounded. His children only bought that explanation for a while and soon came to believe that he just wanted to keep them busy! Though they sometimes protested while cutting weeds out of the bean fields, cleaning out pig crates and running the tractors, the work ethic that he instilled in them was priceless. Speaking of price...when they suggested they should be paid; he did not hesitate. Dinner was on the table every night-no charge!

**2019 Recipient**

**Larry Beaty**

**Rochester, IL**