On July 23, 1942, Larry Lee Vander Werff was born at Newton, Iowa. He was the first of three children that were born to Joseph Lawrence and Margaret Bertha Hendricks Vander Werff.

Larry graduated from Lynnvile-Sully High School in Sully, Iowa. At the age of 10 years Larry was already grooming and showing Ayrshire purebred dairy cattle.

Larry was very sports minded and played football, basketball, softball and also ran in track, receiving numerous sports awards. He then enrolled in Wartburg College at Waverly, Iowa and graduated with a Business Degree in 1964.

Larry fulfilled his military obligation by serving with the United States Army Reserves. Upon graduation, he pursued a career with Proctor & Gamble. After three years Larry left Proctor and Gamble and joined Kmart Corporation, working in retail management and in the buying offices in Troy, Michigan.

While working at Kmart, Larry met Nancy Barbara Weinmann and on June 24, 1970, they were united in marriage at St. Louis, Missouri. Larry and Nancy were blessed with two children, Jonathan David on September 29, 1970 and Michelle Kay on January 14, 1974.

Larry continued his retail buying career with Kmart for 33 years until he retired in 2006. During his career he traveled extensively, including the United States and internationally. Larry and Nancy moved to Bradenton, Florida permanently in 2005 where Larry was able to play golf year round.

Larry's health however soon began to decline. He was first diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and later a brain tumor. Larry succumbed to this diagnosis on Tuesday morning, September 7, 2010, at his residence in Orlando, Florida at the age of 68 years. Those who will cherish his memory are his loving and caring wife, Nancy B. (Weinmann) Vander Werff; their two children, Jonathan D. Vander Werff and his friend, Lesa Franzese, of Scottsdale, Arizona; Michelle K. (Vander Werff) and her husband, Jonathon C. Johnson presently of Troy, Michigan and their daughter, Kassandra May Johnson, Larry's only grandchild, on whom he doted with fondness.

Larry leaves his two sisters: Miriam Jeanne and her husband, Michael McClenathan of Brooklyn, Iowa, Ilene Kay and her husband, Fred Stubbe of Edinburgh, Indiana; along with the following sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: RaNae (Weinmann) and Jay Langness of Apollo Beach, Florida, Faye (Weinmann) Schwartzenger of Perham, Minnesota, Michelle (Weinmann) and William Moreno of Atlanta, Georgia, Mark and Julie Weinmann of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Kevin Weinmann of San Mateo, California. He also leaves his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Marvin and Leona Weinmann of Fargo, North Dakota; and several nieces and nephews. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, his mother, Margaret, who died on August 17, 2003 and his father, Lawrence, who died on June 3, 2005. Larry enjoyed golfing and following all sports events. He read mysteries, thrillers and biographies and collected carnival glass, a collection originally started by his late father. Larry was baptized and made profession of his faith in St Andrew's Lutheran Church near Sully, Iowa and was currently affiliated with All Saints Church in Orlando, Florida.

Funeral services were held on Monday, September 13, 2010 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Sully. Memorials may be designated for the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Arrangements were handled by the Van Dyk - Duven Funeral Home.