



## David Alan Merriweather

March 18, 1960 - October 31, 2021

David Alan Merriweather, 61, passed away on October 31, 2021 at home in Eden Prairie, MN, surrounded by his loving family. David was diagnosed with a rare cancer in 2016 and received excellent care from the Mayo Clinic and the Fraeunshuh Cancer Center. He withstood many rounds of treatment, bouncing back each time with courage and humor, and grateful to have more time with his wife Mariela and their wonderful daughters Brenda and Isabella. David was adored by his family and friends and we are heartbroken that he is now taken from them.

David was born on March 18, 1960 in Lawrence, KS. He was a life-long devoted University of Kansas fan and often wore a Jayhawk on his jacket or shirt. Few things made him happier than hearing a fellow KU fan call out 'Rock Chalk' as they passed in an airport or on the street. He visited the campus and attended games while growing up and as a student years later, lived in a dormitory that his grandfather helped to build. He earned a BS in Chemistry from KU, an MBA from the University of Minnesota and an MS in Food Safety from Michigan State University, where he later became an instructor of Fundamentals of Animal Food Safety.

David and Mariela met while working for Cargill and married on the beach in Maui, HI. David's greatest joy was his time with Mariela, Brenda, and Isabella. For many years they traveled to different locations in Europe every Spring, and also returned many times to Mariela's home city of Lima, Peru. These trips often included extended family, who now have countless stories of David's knowledge of places and history, funny travel mix-ups, and always good food and wine.

David started his career at Cargill, Inc. in Hutchinson, KS in 1985, later moving to Watkins Glen, NY and then Minneapolis, MN. He was Director of Quality Assurance and Food Safety and traveled extensively for his work, to Latin America, Europe, and Asia. He fully embraced the international aspects of his work. Following his career at Cargill, David was Director of Quality Assurance for Chobani Yogurt and most recently was the Director of Global Supply Chain for Ciranda, Inc. David was much loved by his colleagues, and

known for his kindness, intelligence, grace, and humor. His family is grateful for the enormous kindness and support shown by David's colleagues and friends during his illness.

David's interests and loves were diverse and deep. There were no details that did not interest him and he developed a storehouse of knowledge, not just about his work and business, but about music, literature, science, politics, and history. His family all benefited; he was their walking, talking Google search. David dabbled in ham radio most of his life and earned his Extra Class License from the Federal Communications Commission in 2020, with the handle N2RSC. His favorite book was *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and his favorite author was Ernest Hemingway. He loved the jazz music he learned in high school and at KU, playing tuba and sousaphone in the band and bass bugle in the Sky Ryders Drum and Bugle Corps. He also loved classical music and was introduced by Mariela to Latin artists, attending concerts all over the country and in Peru. David quickly embraced any interests shown by his family and friends. We remember his quick wit, his infectious laugh, and his avid attention to the needs of others. He was the smartest, kindest, funniest man we knew.

David was preceded in death by his father Terry L. Merriweather. He is survived by his wife Mariela Ampuero and daughters Brenda (Peter) Brinkhaus and Isabella Merriweather; mother Nita Cleveland Merriweather; sisters Ruth Ann Dorrill, Sue (Roger) Parks, and Sarah (Patrice Lyke) Merriweather; family-in-law Maximo and Rosario Ampuero, Ivon (Luis Perales) Ampuero, and Gina Ampuero; nieces Valerie and Natalie Parks, Tenley (Ryan) Dickey; nephews Ethan and Hank Young, and Lucas and Mateo Perales Ampuero and Penner and Ben Lyke.

Visitation will take place at St. Therese of Deephaven, 18325 Minnetonka Blvd., Wayzata, MN 55391 on Friday, November 12th at 10AM CST followed by a funeral service at 11AM CST, which will also be livestreamed via <http://www.st-therese.org>. Burial will follow the funeral service at the Groveland Cemetery, 3300 Woodlawn Ave, Wayzata, MN 55391. Donations in David's remembrance may be made to the American Cancer Society online at <http://www.cancer.org> or by phone 1-800-227-2345.

# Events

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**NOV**   **Visitation**                      10:00AM - 11:00AM

**12**

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Church of St. Therese (Deephaven)

18323 Minnetonka Boulevard, Deephaven, MN, US, 55391

**NOV**   **Church Service**                      11:00AM - 12:00PM

**12**

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Church of St. Therese (Deephaven)

18323 Minnetonka Boulevard, Deephaven, MN, US, 55391

**NOV**   **Graveside Service**                      12:15PM - 01:15PM

**12**

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Groveland Cemetery (Minnetonka)

3300 Woodlawn Avenue, Minnetonka, MN, US, 55345

# Comments

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“ I worked with Dave at Cargill and he was my manager for many years. The first time I met Dave, I knew I liked him. He had a great outlook on life, added humor and was a calming presence during crisis. I am glad I met him and we remained friends through numerous job and life event changes. Sorry for your loss. Dave was a special person.

**Steve Karl** - November 12, 2021 at 11:06 AM

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“ My condolences on David's passing. I worked with and for David for many years at Cargill Salt. David was a great Manager and an even greater person. His infectious smile and his constant optimism made him a joy to be around. I will never forget the good times and humorous conversations we had on our numerous travels.. I am truly blessed to have known and worked along side David. I will always remember him as a mentor and a true friend. To David's family, may God's blessings be with all of you at this difficult time.

Roger Sonnier

**Roger Sonnier** - November 11, 2021 at 02:14 PM

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“ From the D&D families -thinking of you. purchased the Bright and Beautiful Spray for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



**From the D&D families -thinking of you.** - November 09, 2021 at 07:56 PM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 09, 2021 at 12:01 PM

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“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 08, 2021 at 11:45 PM

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“ David is one of the most special people I have ever known. He had that special ability to make those around him feel better and be better. There wasn't a conversation to be had that didn't include a smile or a laugh. A more calming influence, with the ability to make everything seem OK, I have never met. He made a positive impact on everyone around him, and I will be forever grateful to have known David.

**Craig** - November 08, 2021 at 04:55 PM

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“ Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 08, 2021 at 10:59 AM

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“ We met David through our kids in kindergarten. It was the first week and I was volunteering as the children collected leaves for an art project. My twins here holding my hands and I looked over to see the most adorable little girl holding Oskar's hand-- that was my introduction to Isabella and our families have been friends ever since. There is no way to properly express how wonderful David was and how much their entire family means to ours. Wishing you peace and comfort and feeling forever grateful for your friendship. You have all been a gift to us, and our boys especially. I hope David knew how much they admired him. Much love, the Hafner Orange family

Jessica Orange - November 07, 2021 at 09:25 PM

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“ Paul lit a candle in memory of David Alan Merriweather



Paul - November 07, 2021 at 05:59 PM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 07, 2021 at 03:59 PM

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“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 06, 2021 at 05:58 PM



“ CSA- PROMO 86 purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



CSA- PROMO 86 - November 05, 2021 at 11:27 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 03, 2021 at 10:15 PM

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“ Quite simply the best person I ever knew. He made everyone around him better and our country would be a lot better off with more David Merriweathers. Rest in peace friend.

Joe Pinkham - November 03, 2021 at 05:10 PM

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“ Your Regis Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



Your Regis Family - November 03, 2021 at 02:09 PM

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“ Mariela,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Rachel Wobschall

Rachel Wobschall - November 03, 2021 at 12:59 PM

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“ We found Dave to be a genuinely warm and gracious person. We wish we would have had more time to get to know him better. He will definitely be missed as a neighbor and a friend.

Jean West-Watanabe - November 03, 2021 at 12:54 PM

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“ Dave and I were teaching partners, teaching MTQ for, as I recall, about 10 years, 1987-1997. He always was prepared, and very pleasant to work with. A great guy.

Jim Merkle

James Walter Merkle - November 03, 2021 at 11:27 AM

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“ Dave was a very unique/brilliant individual, and one of the best persons I was ever a part of hiring. To me he was the Mark Twain of Cargill, he never met a person he didn't like or respect. Rest in peace and Rock Chalk Jayhawk.  
Jerry Rohlfesen

Jerry Rohlfesen - November 03, 2021 at 10:42 AM



“ Querida Mariella, no conocí a David, pero deseo que La Paz del Señor esté contigo y tus hijas! Un abrazo fuerte!!

Carla Arevalo - November 03, 2021 at 03:00 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 03, 2021 at 12:15 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 02, 2021 at 11:18 PM

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“ David was enthusiastic about everything it seemed! Here he is back in 2015 tabulating votes with a colleague at the annual Rib-off. He will be so sorely missed. Commensurate family man and professional who made the hard stuff look easy. Great role model for me. RIP David. We love you.



**Philip Forve** - November 02, 2021 at 10:32 PM

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“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of David Alan Merriweather.



November 02, 2021 at 09:33 PM