



David Allen Erickson

January 24, 1946 - January 26, 2019

David Allen Erickson

Dave Erickson was born January 24, 1946 to Selmer and Amanda (Stensrud) Erickson in Ogema, MN, in a small homebirth with a midwife. He grew up on the beautiful shores of Strawberry Lake. Dave attended Kay's Corner Country School through the 8th grade and graduated in 1964 from Waubun High School. Dave was active on the football team, lettering in the sport and was awarded the "Most Valuable Back". Likely the best thing Dave would say about high school is that he met Helen, his high school sweetheart.

After graduating Dave worked in Fargo in construction. In December of 1964 he moved to Minneapolis and worked in construction and mechanics. Helen was already living and working in Minneapolis, and Dave made sure they reconnected. He joined the Army Reserves, and served 6 months in Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and 6 years in the Army Reserves Airborne Division. Helen and Dave remained in touch through letters and in 1967 they married and later had two children, Todd and Lisa. Dave worked as an auto mechanic in Minneapolis for several years. From 1970 to 1983 he worked in sales for Zinsmaster Bakery. After living in Roseville for 9 years, they bought a home in Coon Rapids in 1978 and raised their family. In 1983 Dave joined the team of Old Dutch Foods and continued as a route salesman until 2010. Dave retired before Helen and happily took on the roles of cooking, baking, and cleaning

up the house. His homemade chicken soup and boiled dinner were loved by many people.

In retirement he grew to love reading, spending time watching his grandchildren grow – including cheering them on in their numerous sporting and artistic activities. He was always a help to others, lending a hand to many friends and family members. He loved his fishing adventures, was an avid flower gardener with an immaculate lawn, and catching up on his favorite true crime story.

After his prostate cancer diagnosis in 2014, Dave concentrated on what was most important in his life. Time with Helen, welcoming family and friends to Strawberry Lake, talking with the grandkids, visiting with lots of friends, checking in on others, making lefse, telling funny stories, and still checking in on others.

During his last days, Dave rested comfortably at home, surrounded by his family. He had time to tell all of his children and grandchildren he loved them individually. He celebrated his 73rd birthday, with cake and ice cream, surrounded by Helen, his kids and grandkids. He died peacefully in his sleep with Helen resting near him.

Dave is survived by his loving wife of 51 years Helen (Rassel); son Todd (Christina) Erickson, Lisa (Paul) Gerth and grandchildren Mia (18), Anna (17), Sonja (15), Alyssa (15), and Matthew (10). His brothers Jerry, Ron (Mary Lynn), and sisters, Gloria (Don) Okrina, Carol (Marv) Okrina, Joyce (Ron) Gregg, and Karen Dorschner; sisters-in-law, Elaine and Diane Erickson. His brother-in-law's and sister-in-law's John Rassel, Dave Rassel, Dorothy (Allan) Leff, Elaine (Dave) Leslie, Rosemary (Bill) Anderson, Betty (Mark) Fabre, Jane (Mark) Bjerk as well as many special nieces and nephews.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Richard, Donald, Eric and James, sisters-in-law, Nancy Erickson, Nancy Erickson, Beverly Erickson; brothers-in-law Mark Dorschner and Robert Rassel, and several good friends of many years.

Thanks to the many people who made Dave's last months at home possible and even joyful. Wonderful friends and neighbors, relatives from near and far, comforting hospice care, and many wonderful visitors. Thank you all. Your care and support have been a rich blessing.

A special thanks to long-time friend Jim Safar, for building the beautiful urn, at Dave's request.

Mass of Christian Burial 10:30 AM on Monday, February 4th at The Church of The Epiphany, 11001 Hanson Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids. Friends and family may gather one hour prior to Mass at Church. Interment Epiphany Cemetery

Tribute Wall

CA

“ I was so sorry to hear the news. Dave is certainly an example of what husband's, dad's, friends, and, I'm sure, grandpa's should follow. Although I haven't seen him in many years, I still remember the times when Mike Sullivan and Dave were together and we could just sit back in the garage and laugh at the two of them telling such great stories. Dave had such great character and will be missed.

Chris Auger - February 02, 2019 at 07:42 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of David Allen Erickson.



February 01, 2019 at 08:03 AM

CF

“ Our deepest sympathy to all of Dave's family. He had a quick smile and loved to have a good time with family and friends and will be missed by many. Helen, you were a true caregiver to Dave...God bless and be with you now and in the days to come.
Doug & Carol

Carol Fabre - January 30, 2019 at 05:46 PM

CW

Helen, my deepest sympathy to you and your family!! You were truly a wonderful caregiver to Dave. Hold to your Heart ❤️ The memories of your life together! Life is so short and we never want to be separated! Until you meet again!! LOVE and HUGS!! 🙏🙏❤️❤️🌹🌹 Gods Blessings!!

cleone Watkins - February 05, 2019 at 04:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Allen Erickson.*



January 29, 2019 at 10:19 PM



“ *I was so sad to hear the news. Since then I have had so many Dave memories. Including the many memories of the Twins on the radio in the garage and Dave working on a car in the garage and once in a while Todd and me trying to fake interest and our ability to really help. Most of those memories tied to laughs and jokes. Dave and Helen were always so supportive and interested in my life and my family. Dave has left a great legacy in the family he leaves behind.*

Tom Grahek - January 29, 2019 at 08:07 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of David Allen Erickson.*



January 29, 2019 at 07:31 PM

LS

“ David thank you for all the good memories you have left me, of all the meals we had at Mike and Naths house when we all starting out are lives, sometimes we fought more over the buns then eating the food, but it was always in fun and I am sure Helen and the rest of the table did not appreciate us, You left us but you gave all of us such good memories that you will be in are hearts forever, until we meet again at Gods table save a place for me and don't eat all the buns, Linda (Moga) Sapp

linda sapp - January 29, 2019 at 06:53 PM

KW

“ Dave will missed by many. Dave was my cousin and our family was blessed to have such a great man in our life. I have so many wonderful memories of Dave. ❤️ God Bless you Dave, until we meet again. 🙏

Kelly Weber - January 29, 2019 at 05:24 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Allen Erickson.



January 29, 2019 at 04:46 PM

EC

“ Erickson Family Cousins purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David Allen Erickson.



Erickson Family Cousins - January 29, 2019 at 03:26 PM

JD

“ *I will miss his quick wit and not having him to play cards with. He was a wonderful friend, he will be missed forever. To Helen, Lisa and Todd and families, my prayers are with you all.*
Judy Dalve

Judy Dalve - January 29, 2019 at 02:13 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David Allen Erickson.*



January 29, 2019 at 01:48 PM