



## David LeRoy Pavelka

November 28, 1938 - July 16, 2025

Pavelka, David LeRoy 86, of Eden Prairie left to be home with the Lord on July 16, 2025. Survived by his wife, Deb Gorrill; sister, Jacqueline Braesch; sons, Lee (Elise) and Donald (Sandy); granddaughters, Grace (Will Stern), Megan (Bailey Dodds), Emily and Rosalyn; and four great grandchildren, Helen, Eloise, Arthur, and Lydia.

Dave was pre-deceased by his parents, Melvin and Betty; and his first wife, Pat.

Dave graduated from the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota, served in the Navy at Subic Bay in the Philippines, and later obtained a Master's degree from MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. As an architect, Dave designed high-end homes, and later built and managed a townhome development in Eden Prairie. With a deep interest in genealogy, he was the founding member of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. Dave served as a church elder, a Stephen Minister, and was head of the Cemetery Committee for many years. He and Deb participated in the Charis ministry at Rochester Federal Medical Center.

His was a gregarious personality and he had a good sense of humor - he enjoyed telling stories, and loved meeting people. An avid traveler, Dave coordinated several "back to the homeland trips" for his church and the

genealogical society. Family was extremely important to him and all appreciated time spent with him especially up at the lake. He will be deeply missed.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held on Saturday, August 16 at 11 a.m. at Faith Church, 12007 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka, MN. Visitation is one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Faith Church Foundation or the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Presbyterian Church  
12007 Excelsior Blvd.  
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55345

## Funeral Service

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Faith Presbyterian Church  
12007 Excelsior Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ David “Dave” Pavelka was a wonderful man. I had the opportunity to meet him in 1994, during a hockey tournament and as a player from the Czech Republic to stay with Dave and Pat in their wonderful house in Eden Prairie. I returned to them in 1996, and they again welcomed me as if I were their own family for two weeks. After some time he visited me and my family in Brno, Czech Republic. In 2006 I spent the holidays at Lake Hubert as a leader at the Lincoln Camp, which Dave made possible and I still have these life experiences today! I would also like to say hello to Lee and Donald, gentlemen, your father was a wonderful man.. with love, Kuba Havel, Czech Republic

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**Kuba Havel** - January 07 at 05:52 AM

LS

“ David was a dear friend from My Navy days !! So sorry to hear of his passing! Larry Seymour

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**Larry Seymour** - November 24, 2025 at 11:42 AM

KH

David “Dave” Pavelka was a wonderful man. I had the opportunity to meet him in 1994, during a hockey tournament and as a player from the Czech Republic to stay with Dave and Pat in their wonderful house in Eden Prairie. I returned to them in 1996, and they again welcomed me as if I were their own family for two weeks. After some time he visited me and my family in Brno, Czech Republic. In 2006 I spent the holidays at Lake Hubert as a leader at the Lincoln Camp, which Dave made possible and I still have these life experiences today! I would also like to say hello to Lee and Donald, gentlemen, your father was a wonderful man.. with love, Kuba Havel, Czech Republic

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**Kuba Havel** - January 07 at 05:51 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of David LeRoy Pavelka.



August 15, 2025 at 01:09 PM



“ Love, Charleen Bacigalupo and Monica planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David LeRoy Pavelka.

Love, Charleen Bacigalupo and Monica - August 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM



“ Love, Charleen Bacigalupo and Monica purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of David LeRoy Pavelka.



Love, Charleen Bacigalupo and Monica - August 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM



“ Love and Prayers, The Moores planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David LeRoy Pavelka.

Love and Prayers, The Moores - August 13, 2025 at 11:23 PM

LM

“ Love and Prayers, The Moores purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David LeRoy Pavelka.



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**Love and Prayers, The Moores** - August 13, 2025 at 11:23 PM

JK

“ I grew up on Shady Oak Road near the Pavelkas so I guess I've known Dave all my life. With my husband Ian we rented a townhome at the Hills for about 5 years from 2007. I remember many nights sharing a pizza there while swapping stories, a couple great weekends at the lake, and the passing of Pat. Dave was a gentleman, a friend and an all round nice guy. Farewell and rest in peace with the Lord.

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**Jean Kusisto** - August 13, 2025 at 06:45 PM

PS

“ Dave designed our home thirty-four years ago. It was a joy working with him as he patiently worked to create a home of our dreams that was still practical and affordable. He was a perfect gentleman to work with. He created a place where we raised our family and created so many memories. Peace to you, Dave, and to all your friends and family.

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**Patrick L Sullivan** - August 10, 2025 at 11:05 AM

MB

“ I approached Dave to start CGSI ( Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Intl ) he didn't want to lead it as he was busy with work, BUT was more than helpful to guide us along. He became the 2nd President and was super involved for many years. I don't think we would have had such success without Dave. I hope his family continues the Czech interest and heritage which meant so much to Dave. My sincerest sympathy to his family and friends.

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**Mark Bigaouette** - August 08, 2025 at 02:06 PM

GP

“ Dave was the first person I met at a CGSI meeting, and he encouraged me to follow through on my genealogy interests!

*He was always such a positive and encouraging person!!*

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**Gerald Parupsky** - August 07, 2025 at 11:44 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of David LeRoy Pavelka.



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August 07, 2025 at 10:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David LeRoy Pavelka.



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August 06, 2025 at 04:12 PM