



David Jerome Hepler

December 3, 1949 - August 28, 2020

David Jerome Hepler, 70, died August 28, 2020 after being struck by a recklessly driven vehicle while walking his dog in Dekorra, Wisconsin.

He was born December 3, 1949 in Beloit, Wisconsin to Eugene Alvin and Ora Hepler. He had one sister, Johanna (Garry Peterson); two half-brothers, James and Richard; and a half-sister, Shirley.

A graduate of Beloit Memorial High School, Dave was a proud Vietnam Veteran and accomplished mechanic who worked more than 40 years at Modern Metal Products.

A consummate and tireless provider, his hands knew what it meant to work. Dave always made sure others were taken care of before himself. He loved his family, loved to travel, and loved the water, ever ready to take grandsons or nieces and nephews out on the boat.

He also loved art—appreciating the masters you'd find in a museum, as well as the shape of his 1957 Chevy. He was an artist himself, creating intricate sketches, paintings or sculptures from driftwood.

As a 14-year-old, he told his friends that Nancy Pratt was the girl he was going to marry, and that's exactly what he did on August 9, 1975.

In addition to his wife of 45 years, he is survived by his son, Josh; daughter Heidi (Aric Jost) and two grandsons, James "Dignan" and Declan; his sister, Johanna; a fleet of brothers and sisters-in-law; innumerable nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. And his dog, Bella.

Services for David will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 4, 2020 in the Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Road, Beloit, WI, with Fr. TJ Humphrey officiating. Visitation of remembrance will be from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service Friday in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to AmVets.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

4

Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium
2355 Cranston Road, Beloit, WI, US, 53511

SEP **Service** 10:30AM

4

Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium
2355 Cranston Road, Beloit, WI, US, 53511

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium - September 04, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. My heart aches for you. Through the years on the lake. I've had the opportunity to visit with dave. He was a kind and wonderful man. I enjoyed talking with him about arts and Collectables. He will be missed by many on lake Wisconsin.
A tipperary rd neighbor,
Dan Sickenberger

Dan Sickenberger - September 12, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ I met Dave in the 5th grade and soon after we became best friends. We lived just 2 blocks from each. We were in constant trouble, and our mothers were on the phone almost everyday wanting to know what we were up to. This continued through grade, junior and high school. In 1968 Dave was with me when I had my first car accident. We both made it out with minor injuries but my 63 SS was totaled. The next big event was the Viet Nam war. Dave went into the Army and I into the Air Force. Dave got out in 2 and I stayed in for 24. I remember coming home on leave in 71 or 72. That afternoon I drove over to Dave's and there he was under the hood of a 57 Chevy. As kids we would build and customize plastic model cars and enter them into contests at the local toy stores in down town Beloit. In 75 I missed Dave's wedding, I was stationed in Thailand. Dave often spoke of how he was going to marry the hottest chick in Beloit. As the years went by when ever I came home I would stop by Dave's for a few beer's and talk about our glory days. I would ask Dave when he was going to get the 57 back on the road. His reply was always "Someday". Life evens put Dave's 57 on hold for over 20 years, parked in his garage covered in dust and spider webs. Finally this year was going to be the 57's year. Dave had lots of time on his hands and he had started to restore it. We were looking forward to that first ride. Like a time machine taking us back 50 years. For Dave that "Someday" will ever come. Dave meant many things to many people, son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. I have 50 years of memories, hundreds of stories, Its hard to forget someone who give you so mush to remember. Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts, I will miss you, Rick Zentz.

Rick Zentz - September 10, 2020 at 01:13 PM



“ I am so sorry, I just heard about Dave's passing. He was a best friend and mentor. We shared many classes together in school and he started me in art, that which I have continued to this day. I will miss him dearly. Duane Holz

Duane Holz - September 08, 2020 at 06:45 PM



“ There are so many memories of you. You were always there to help or to talk. You were a travel companion, lots of time my handyman, my teacher in life and always one of my best friends. You always called me " Sis" . I will never forget you . I love you David Hepler.

Judy Howard - September 06, 2020 at 07:16 AM



“ 48 files added to the album LifeTributes



Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium - September 04, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ We are so sorry for your tragic and unexpected loss-I have many happy wonderful memories of Dave-We had some great adventures and misadventures as kids-I remember going to the Beloit pool so he could see a certain young lady who later would become his wife-All the great times we had in that fantastic tree house Grandpa built-The crazy bike rides we had together-Getting drenched playing with the water pump outside the kitchen door which sure didn't make Grandma very happy-We were so close in age (I'm actually a bit older) that Dave was more of a brother/buddy/kindred spirit than an Uncle-Even as kids I recognized his mechanical and artistic talents-Unfortunately as adults we lost touch with each other-We next saw each other at my Dad's funeral where we immediately bonded and discovered we shared life experiences and interests-Military/Vietnam, old cars and trucks, museums, driftwood, fine art, drawing among those-Yes I feel your loss deeply-He will be missed and I will cherish all my memories of my Uncle Dave as I know you will-Take care of each other through these most trying times-Your faith and love for each other are important.....Love To All..Jim Hepler

Jim Hepler - September 04, 2020 at 07:10 AM



“ Bob Clark lit a candle in memory of David Jerome Hepler



Bob Clark - September 03, 2020 at 01:56 PM



“ Only the good die young. God must have needed Dave.

Bob Clark - September 03, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ Pattie Armstrong lit a candle in memory of David Jerome Hepler



Pattie Armstrong - September 03, 2020 at 07:57 AM



“ Nancy and family, so sorry to hear about Dave.He was one of the good guys, they just don't make them like him anymore. I'm glad I had the chance to meet him.

Rita Atkinson - September 02, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ Dave man just too many memories not enough room to list them all garage building to deer hunting just too many this man will always be loved and missed to the Uncle Dave he was to all these nieces and nephews they will all remember him going to miss you Dave love forever

Jerry Pratt - September 02, 2020 at 12:17 PM



“ Heidi Krenz Buchanan lit a candle in memory of David Jerome Hepler



Heidi Krenz Buchanan - September 02, 2020 at 08:38 AM



“ I deeply sorry for your loss. I pray that God will give you the courage to bear this tragedy. Jo..I am so sorry for your loss

Pearl A. Forbed - September 02, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ I have so many memories of Papa Heps. He was like my second dad for most of my formative junior high/high school years. He always made me feel special and unique and who doesn't love to be around someone who makes you feel good about just being you. I have shared so many Coors lights with him, enjoying a great view of the lake, eating his home made pizza I can't even count. I miss him so much already and I am so sorry this happened and I am thinking of you all as you work through this hard time. He may be gone but he will never ever be forgotten.

Hez Obermark - September 01, 2020 at 10:01 PM



“ Oh Johanna so sorry to hear about your brother. We are praying for you and your brother. We miss you and the people of St. Pauls.

Mike and Barbara Morgan - September 01, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ So sorry Johanna. Dennis and I are praying for you and the family.

Joan and Dennis Spahos - September 01, 2020 at 07:27 PM



“ To one of the greatest uncles a guy could ever ask for. Throughout my life my Uncle Dave was almost like a dad to me...when I was a little boy he helped me build my first pinewood derby car..i remember wanting to paint it blue but he was partial to candy apple red so thats what we painted it..
To my cousins Heidi and Josh and my Aunt Nancy much love and I am sorry he is gone way too soon.

Steve Armstrong - September 01, 2020 at 03:29 PM