



## Mr. David L. Christianson

June 14, 1927 - July 3, 2014

David L. Christianson died peacefully on July 3, 2014 at William Hill Manor in Easton, MD. Born in Hartford, CT, June 14, 1927, Flag Day, he was the son of the late Lawrence & Gertrude Christianson. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jane Kemp Christianson, his son David K. Christianson, his daughter-in-law Kelly M. Christianson and three grandsons, Chase K. Christianson, Hunter K. Christianson, Thomas K. Christianson and his sisters, Joyce Engle, Joan Collins, and Carol Chisholm.

Dave, often referred to as “Big Dave” joined the US Army in 1944 at age 17 and served as an MP & camp newspaper artist on the Alaskan island Shemya during WWII. After leaving the military, Dave attended Baylor University on a full football scholarship. After one year there, he was recruited as a tackle by University of Maryland coach Jim Tatum, also on a full football scholarship. Many great football memories were made there and became a source of great stories. He was extremely proud to claim membership of the unbeaten Maryland football team that played in the 1952 Sugar Bowl and beat U. of Tennessee handily to claim the National Championship.

The University of Maryland was also where Dave met his beloved wife, Jane. Dave and Jane were married at Jane’s family Eastern Shore home, Wades Point Farm and spent many wonderful years of their free time there. They cherished many personal and lifelong relationships that were fostered with the folks that came to Wades Point.

As a creative graphic artist and business executive, Dave was co-owner of Photo-Art, Inc. a graphic arts company, in Wilmington, DE that worked closely with the big chemical companies headquartered there. Through his business relationships, he fostered many personal friendships that continued long into his retirement. While in Wilmington, he also was a member of the Rodney Square Kiwanis Club and served as president.

Upon his retirement in 1989, Dave and Jane moved back to Maryland’s eastern shore and settled in McDaniel. Dave continued to showcase his artistic talent through painting many beautiful watercolors of the eastern shore, including paintings of Wades Point Farm, St. Michaels, the waterman with their boats, and lighthouses on the East Coast. He designed the logo and painted the cover picture for the original “Christmas In St. Michaels”. His works grace collections, cards, and homes across the country.

Fishing was his favorite pastime and a way of life for Dave. He was often out on the bay or

the many waterways of the eastern shore, enjoying life while fishing. He relished the sport of fishing including the comradery his friends and fellow anglers shared. Dave was never without a story or a joke to tell as he fished and entertained his company. He especially held in the high regard the friendships fostered from his membership in fishing club, the Wades Point Rockfish, Oyster, Crab and Combine that he helped start in 1952 and remains ongoing.

While retired, Dave joined the Thursday morning men's breakfast group that met monthly for breakfast, presentations and fellowship. The friendships made from this group continued to be an important support for Dave and has been much appreciated by his family.

Many have summarized him as an interesting, humorous "gentle giant" with a huge and generous heart. He will be missed greatly by many!

A memorial service will be held at Christ Church in St. Michaels on Saturday, July 26, at 2:00 p.m. A celebratory reception will follow the service immediately. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bay Hundred Youth Task Force in his memory. Their address is Po Box 1273, St Michaels, MD 21663; attn.: Kevin W Moran.

# Events

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**JUL**   **Memorial Service**   02:00PM  
**26**

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Christ Church St. Michaels Parish  
103 Willow Street, St Michaels, MD, US

# Comments

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“ I never knew, or even met David, but I have one of his paintings. I enjoy it every day.  
J.S.

**Joseph Spinelli** - March 15, 2015 at 08:45 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Dave Christianson** - August 11, 2014 at 03:31 PM

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“ I will treasure meeting him just this year. He had a wonderful sense of humor.

**Andrea Shoener** - July 22, 2014 at 03:16 AM

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“ I will miss Uncle David--his booming voice telling great stories, his comic timing and his Jonathan Winters-like humor. This photo of him with my son from Christmas 2007 is one of my favorites--a one to one comparison of the traits they both inherited from my Grandparents. Because of Uncle David, I will always mix my own green and feel like I'm cheating when I use gouache. My love and condolences.



**Jennifer Einolf** - July 19, 2014 at 05:54 PM

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“ I wish to express my condolences to Jane and her family on the loss of this courageous and inspiring man. I was fortunate to have had some time with Dave only a few weeks ago and this courage and indeed his sense of humor never abandoned him.

Frank Luongo

Frank Luongo - July 13, 2014 at 03:05 PM

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“ Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of Mr. David L. Christianson



Phil Foster - July 11, 2014 at 10:08 PM

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“ I remember Uncle Dave....the fisherman, the artist, the story teller magnificent! I also remember Uncle Dave jumping in the bay to rescue my very young brother who could not swim... I remember how in awe I was to discover that this football player could also paint such delicate and beautiful paintings.....I remember Uncle Dave and my Dad headed out fishing to catch Diamond Jim.....I remember Uncle Dave teaching me to gut a fish and scale it...I remember Uncle Dave pinning and holding a black snake so I could "feel" it.... I remember the first time I saw hummingbirds on the porch of the cottage at Wades Point, and watching them with Uncle Dave....But the fondest memory...is his story telling to all the kids....the Bull Frog story is a forever memory.... Rest in peace, Uncle Dave...the world is a better place having had you in it!



Jane Guy - July 11, 2014 at 07:22 PM

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“ Dave and family.....my condolences and prayers to all of you. I'm so sorry.



**Sandy Correa Woolfolk** - July 11, 2014 at 01:57 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Flip Krugler** - July 11, 2014 at 01:27 PM



“ Beautiful!

**Andrea Shoener** - July 22, 2014 at 03:14 AM



“ Cassie and I went to the funeral for my Uncle Dave Christianson today in St. Micheal's, MD. He was an amazing guy....played football for MD in their unbeaten season and won the Sugar Bowl against Tennessee, and he was an amazing artist. His paintings of the Eastern shore and Wades Point, where we vacationed in the summer, are all over my house. I caught my first fish with Uncle Dave, a rock that broke my pole but we landed it! He was a big part of the best part of my childhood.

I saw his son Davey, and Davey's cousin Jack....hadn't seen them in years. They regaled Cassie with stories of tormenting me and Chris...buckets of water dumped from the second floor, water balloon attacks, stories of the Corn Monster complete with chains rattling at night until we lost our minds....it was awesome!

Then Cassie and I hit the Crab Claw together....GREAT day.

**Bill** - July 26, 2014 at 08:14 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Warren Steiner** - July 11, 2014 at 12:44 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album WPROCC



**Dave Christianson** - July 11, 2014 at 10:43 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Dave Christianson** - July 11, 2014 at 05:55 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Dave Christianson** - July 11, 2014 at 05:22 AM

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“ To all: A great influence to all..I am better person for having known Uncle Dave. He will live on through his great paintings. No one could tell a better story. The greatest gifts are the memories we all have and stay with us forever. Sincerely, Jack Roxbrough

**jack roxbrough** - July 07, 2014 at 09:54 AM

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“ Uncle Dave will be greatly missed by the entire extended family and friendship circle. His warm booming voice, his sense of humor and wonderful stories, his generous smile and those baby blue eyes will always be remembered. May he rest in peace. Our heartfelt sympathy to the family. Nancy & Lynn Garner

**Nancy Aldrich** - July 07, 2014 at 09:31 AM