



David R. Hill

June 12, 1944 - May 3, 2020

David Rowland Hill set sail for the great hereafter on May 3, 2020. His last view was the serene water of the Chesapeake Bay at the end of his garden; his last sensation, the gentle touch of his adored partner, Diane.

David had the good fortune of a career he enjoyed and opportunities for extensive travel and unique experiences, but it was the simple pleasures he treasured most, spending time in the company of family and friends at every possible moment; a handyman project at all times to keep him occupied, as needed, since family and friends could not be available at literally every possible moment; a sunny day on the water with favorable wind and current conditions (on the sailboat and in the company of family or friends, of course); attentive, well trained bartenders; impeccable sense of timing was mandatory (first refreshment to be delivered within milliseconds of his arrival, with follow-up beverage timed to ensure there would be no anxiety producing lapse between drinks; authentic English pubs, Irish pubs, and authentic American dives (particularly those with attractive happy hour specials); dodgy diners (The Gem, The Trivet and Ma's to name a few); English bacon sandwiches; and shopping sprees at Screw Fix, Harbor Freight and Dollar Store.

David and his siblings, Margaret and John, were raised on Hayling Island on the south coast of the UK. It was here that David, as a very young child, was introduced to sailing. His most vivid childhood memories were of his

grandfather regularly loading up his old wooden boat with three grandkids and two dogs in tow and setting sail close to shore. His grandfather had a habit of sitting back and letting things happen. If the boat began veering off course the children would ask him what should be done. Most often he would reply, "Not sure. Try a few things. You'll probably figure it out." On one particular occasion, David's older brother John, in a desperately competitive moment, queried his grandfather on how to pass another boat. His grandfather replied, "Dunno. Never done it." Grandfather's learn-by-doing strategy was a great success; all three grandchildren became life-long sailing enthusiasts.

A love of "figuring things out" that his grandfather so cleverly nurtured, also expressed itself in David's career choice. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from Staffordshire College of Advanced Technology.

Following graduation, English Electric (for whom he had been an apprentice during his degree course) employed David as a Systems Engineer at the Steelworks in Port Talbot, South Wales. It was here that he met and married his first wife, Sheila Price. David and Sheila subsequently spent two and a half years in Spain where David was commissioning at the Ensidesa plant in Gijon. These were very happy times for the young couple and where they welcomed their first daughter, Laura, in 1973. Upon completion of his assignment in Gijon, David secured a position with GEC-Elliot in Rugby, UK, as Senior Systems Engineer. David and Sheila also completed their family during these years with the birth of Rebecca in 1975 and Emma in 1977.

David later became involved in GEC's venture into the US market. He was transferred to Pittsburgh in 1988 to open the US office for GEC Automation Projects. He held the position of Engineering Manager which initially served the metals business but later expanded to include marine, mining and general industry capabilities. When recalling the victories and challenges associated

with managing a start-up, David's fondest memories were of the team work and the lasting friendships that developed. He remained with the firm for two decades as parent companies (GEC>CEGELEC>ALSTOM.CONVERTTEAM) came and went, retiring in 2008. Thereafter, he worked on projects of his choosing, as an independent contractor, until 2015.

David married his second wife, Nancy Jeanne Franklyn, in 1990. Together they enjoyed planning special holiday visits and vacations with David's children (and eventually the grandchildren) as well as vacations with Nancy's sisters and their children. Nancy fully embraced David's love of sailing. In anticipation of his retirement, the couple moved from Pittsburgh to Worton, MD, on the Chesapeake Bay. Nancy's interior design expertise along with David's engineering and handyman skills made it possible for them to design and build a beautiful retirement home. They loved entertaining family and friends at home and sailing with them on the Chesapeake Bay.

Nancy passed away unexpectedly in August of 2016 a few months after receiving a diagnosis of breast cancer. In the very devastating time that followed, David made frequent trips to the UK to be with his children, grandchildren, sister and extended family. He purchased a home in Emsworth UK in 2017 and was delighted to have a means of regularly being with family as well as a new handy man project to keep him occupied. He especially cherished spending time with his grandchildren and revelled in their antics and accomplishments. David was a devoted and loving father and grandfather. As David would have hoped, he passed his appreciation for sailing on to his children. Although sea-sickness, gales and oilskins pervade the memories of many family holidays, they were experiences that taught his daughters the joy and importance of seeking challenges and adventure in order to live a full life.

In the very final years of his life, David was blessed to meet Diane Dooley,

who brought him such happiness and loved and cherished him to the end. The family is indebted to her for the devotion she has shown as sole caregiver for David during his last months and in particular, during the Coronavirus lockdown.

In addition to his wife Nancy, David was predeceased by his parents, Mary Grace and Edward Hill; brother, John Hill; father-in-law, George Franklyn; and sister-in-law Barbara Dayton.

He is survived by his beloved daughters and their husbands, Laura Sabharwal (Arvind), Rebecca Holburn (Simon), Emma Callanan (Steve); seven precious grandchildren, Anusha, Rohan and Ben Sabharwal, Oliver and Florence Holburn and Amelie and Georgia Callanan; his adored big sister, Margaret Harrington; current partner, Diane Dooley, whom he cherished and adored as she did him; first wife, Sheila Morgan; mother-in-law, Toni Franklyn; sisters-in-law, Kathleen Morse, Lorraine Franklyn (Russell Scullen), Kristine Mallory; and brother-in-law, John Franklyn (Marie); as well as many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be Friday June 10, at 12:00 (noon) at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Chestertown.

Previous Events

celebration of life

JUN **10**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Kent
7760 Sandy Bottom Road
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *David R. Hill*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *David R. Hill*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *David R. Hill*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Dave's Funeral Video*



Steve Callanan - October 13, 2020 at 04:30 AM



Thank you all for sharing this service with those of us in the US. I loved hearing of so many good parts of his life before we became neighbors. I am feeling rather emotional, yet comforted. Thank you again.

Bill Muller - October 16, 2020 at 08:42 PM



I watched this service tonight...I am once again overwhelmed by the love of this family and the bond of family and friends across the globe. God rest your soul, my dear friend David...I hope you're waiting with a 5-quart bucket...till we meet again. Oh...and tell my Dad to turn the music down a tad...

Lori Ulsh - June 10, 2022 at 10:20 PM

BM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bill Muller - October 11, 2020 at 02:41 PM

BM

Louise, David, Clare, Don, Kate, and Bill lifted a toast to Dave's life and legacy at the Chester River Yacht Club in Chestertown, Maryland, on October 9, 2020. We all shared some favorite stories and memories of times with Dave, Nancy, and Diane. Dave touched our lives in many ways, and we had some laughs. He will always be part of our lives. We all send our condolences and best wishes to Dave's family, and his wide circle of friends.

Bill Muller - October 11, 2020 at 02:47 PM

EM

“ Yes, it was Thalia, not Peta, of the picture of David and his cousins at Petersfield in 1953 I posted here.

ellis morgan - October 05, 2020 at 11:07 AM

EM

“ I think this picture of David and his cousins at Petersfield church was taken in 1953. David is in the middle, in front of John and between his Aunts. Margie is beside Aunt Betty. I expect Aunt Mary took the picture. My mother and aunts were very good at keeping us cousins in touch. I expect Mary had come down from Wokingham, Betty up from Hayling and Jill across from Sevenoaks, probably heading further west. My mother could not set out on a journey without planning to meet everyone she knew who were close to her route.

David was always agreeable and pleasant company. Like his brother John he enjoyed making things and his woodwork was always functional and attractive. I was somewhat envious of his ability to wave a plane at a piece of wood which immediately become straight and beautiful.

Although our meetings had become less frequent it is saddening to know we cannot meet again.

Peta thinks that it might be Thalia that I have identified as Peta - they will let me know..

Ellis Morgan.



ellis morgan - October 04, 2020 at 03:01 AM

LS

“ Having declined a tow after the Down River race, David, my Dave and I motored back to Chestertown from Rock Hall in torrential, blinding rain. As we cleared Rolf's Wharf and approached the club, there was Nancy in their little truck at the bulkhead, relentlessly flashing the headlights to welcome us. I like to think she did the same, waiting for David in May.

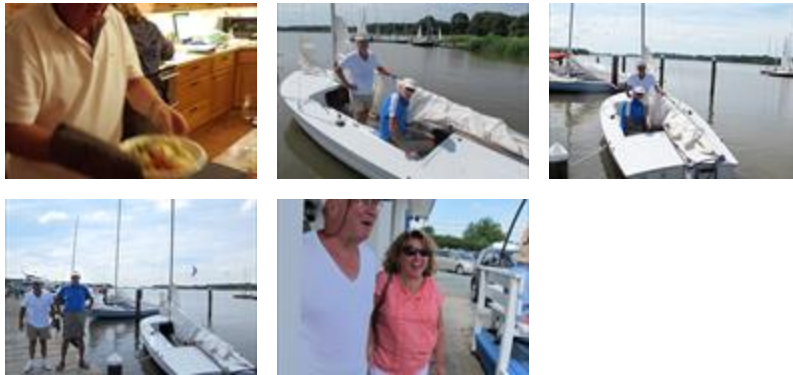
What a brilliant and lovable man. It was a privilege to know him.

Prayers and warm regards from Lou and David Shearer

Louise David Shearer - October 02, 2020 at 09:27 PM

LS

“ 6 files added to the album *Memories of Shearers with Hills*



Louise Shearer - October 02, 2020 at 09:03 PM

EC

Thank you for sharing these fabulous photos.

Emma Callanan - October 12, 2020 at 08:17 AM

DD

“ David... Spent a quiet morning thinking about you, your loved ones in the UK celebrating your life, and all the others who joined in from afar. This afternoon Kathleen Franklyn Morse and I met to have lunch at your favorite Syracuse dodgy diner ... The Gem. Kathleen and I agree... loving you is easy...taking a decent selfie is difficult!!! So maybe just a photo of the Gem's front door and an outside shot will have to do! ❤️ ❤️ ❤️



Diane Dooley - October 02, 2020 at 08:20 PM

RF

“ Dear Sheila and family,

I am so sorry to hear from Mum that Dave has died. I also remember sailing on Lady Corrine with Dave, Dad and Ian. I remember his gentle good humour most of all and how fond he and dad were of each other. Thinking of you all. Best wishes Rachael Fowkes (nee Stansfield)

Rachael Fowkes - October 02, 2020 at 03:53 PM

KS

“ Kathleen Morse/ Nancy's Sister lit a candle in memory of David R. Hill



Kathleen Morse/ Nancy's sister - October 02, 2020 at 02:23 PM

EC

How lovely, thank you.

Emma Callanan - October 12, 2020 at 08:18 AM

IS

“ *Dear Sheila, Laura, Becky, Emma, dear Dave’s family, I’ve just heard about Dave’s passing, and I wanted to offer my heartfelt condolences. I sailed with Dave a couple of times on Lady Corrine when I was much, much younger (20), and he left a strong impression - I remember him as a warm hearted, good humoured, capable skipper of the boat, and a true leader of his crew. He taught me several Dave Hill-isms (chuggywig) I still use today! Fond memories of a very fine man indeed. My thoughts are with him, and you all.*

Best wishes, Ian Stansfield



Ian Stansfield - October 02, 2020 at 01:50 PM

HB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Harriet Bengel - October 02, 2020 at 10:30 AM

EC

Thank you Harriet. Dad was very fond of you and loved our ballet and pub Thursdays x

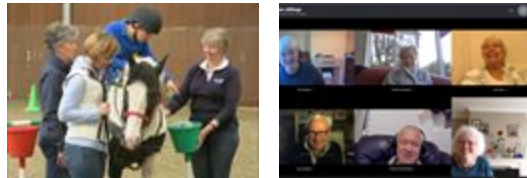
Emma Callanan - October 12, 2020 at 08:20 AM

CH

“ I remember my cousin David as someone who was great fun to be with.

I didn't know he visited Cranleigh RDA. I have been volunteering there for a few years now.

Celia



Celia Hulme - October 02, 2020 at 10:25 AM

FV

“ *Calm seas and a strong following wind our friend as God's light shines upon you. Frank and Marie Voelker*

Frank and Marie Voelker - October 02, 2020 at 10:12 AM

MC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Mark Chisholm - October 02, 2020 at 09:53 AM

PM

“ Many fond memories of a warm and always smiling Dave. Becky, Laura, Emma, Shelia and families we are thinking of you and remembering Dave. We wish we could be there for you all. With love from Celia and Paula xx



Paula McGuire - October 02, 2020 at 09:37 AM

HB

“ Cheers to Dave, my friend Emma's lovely Dad. I had the pleasure of meeting him when he came to spend time with Emma and her family frequently in 2016 or 2017. We went to children's classes and to the pub several times, always on a Thursday. We had great chats and laughs and I warmed to him very much. He had such a friendly, jolly and welcoming manner. And lots of patience, happily hanging around with mums and kids! I have happy memories of those Thursdays. In that time I saw the devotion Dave had to his daughters and grand-children. I am so sorry to you all for your huge loss which came far too soon, and hope you take comfort in all your happy memories of time spent with your Dad / grandad. Cheers to you all and up there to Dave.
Love, Harriet Benge xxx



Harriet Benge - October 02, 2020 at 09:30 AM

EC

Harriet, he loved these times and always looked forward to our Thursdays. Thank you so much for your kind words.

Emma Callanan - October 12, 2020 at 08:23 AM

MC

“ Cheers to David from Florida!!! Today we celebrate your wonderful life. Love and miss you. McKenzie & Gary.



McKenzie - October 02, 2020 at 08:43 AM

BW

“ Happy memories of young family life in the 1980's spent with David and Sheila , Laura, Becky and Emma, in South Kilworth with our children Harriet and James. Primary school events like Harvest and Christingle (with or without shoes!), ponies, gymkhanas, retriever puppies and runaway tortoises, sailing weeks for the lads on David's boat, and a pint or two at the White Hart featured largely. We shared his fondness for a good Rioja, and often overstayed our welcome imbibing rather too much. On one memorable occasion as we settled in for another glass, David, who had decided enough was enough, ended the party in his own unique way, by pouring water on the fire. It worked, we left laughing, and have laughed at the memory ever since.
Happy Days, happy memories. Bob and Jan Wylie

Bob and Jan Wylie - October 02, 2020 at 05:20 AM

DD

“ Back at the old stomping grounds and raising a glass to you, David. Love and adore you! The Dooley Family



Diane Dooley - September 30, 2020 at 08:42 PM

DD

“ Raising a glass to David! We love you!!! The Skaneateles & Syracuse contingency... M. Lischak, Chloe the dog, S. Champagne, D.Dooley, L. Ryan, L. Wingert, K. Franklyn, B.Klim, P.Welch, M. Stathis

Maria Li



Diane Dooley - September 30, 2020 at 08:37 PM

KA

“ I had the privilege of meeting Dave several times. I saw how much pleasure and pride his daughters and grandchildren brought him. He seemed to always exude calm and a quiet contentment. I enjoyed the chats we had and feel very lucky to know his wonderful family. I will be thinking of you all on Friday and send so much love. Katie and family xx



Katie - September 28, 2020 at 08:44 AM

EC

Katie, thanks for these lovely words and I know Dad thought a lot of you too xx

Emma Callanan - October 12, 2020 at 08:25 AM

“ Kate and I both extend our deepest condolences to Diane, Dave's entire family, and wide circle of friends. We are neighbors and friends from across the street in Worton. We knew Dave for about 7 years, since we first bought our house. We first met Dave and Nancy Jeanne at a neighborhood Christmas Party, and greatly enjoyed their company. They invited us to their home in 2014, however we still lived some distance away, and could not come to Worton. Soon after we officially moved to Worton, we visited socially. We were among their guests at a gathering at the Country Club in Chestertown. Through them, we met other friends in the area, and we have all stayed in touch.

After Nancy's passing, we got together with Dave at his house and ours, for dinners and conversation. Dave made us feel part of the neighborhood, and the overall area. After he met Diane, we gathered, along with other friends, to keep up. It was a nice continuation of the previous times. I asked him about his career, as we both were technical people, however he waved it off. He was living for the future. Work was in the past.

Dave was the Treasurer for our neighborhood homeowners association, for about ten years. In mid-2019, he asked me to assume that position, due to his travel and health issues. He was in England a lot, and I was glad to step in. His records were all very clean and clear, which made the transition rather easy. We had a few laughs along the way, of course. Dave was Dave, after all. He knew how to make me laugh.

This year was a bit more difficult. We could not arrange a get-together, much as we all tried. I ran into Dave at our local hospital in February, where I was getting diagnostic tests done, and he was getting an MRI. We both had a lot on our minds, and could not spend much time. We did manage a short visit with Dave and Diane in early March at their house, before things were locked down by the virus. Dave was visibly happy to see all of us. He was animated, funny, and smiling. It was great to see him. I will remember his

happiness, and will carry it with me.

At one point I needed Dave's signature on a document for HOA certification with the state of Maryland. Dave was weaker, however Diane arranged a visit, and Dave and I laughed a bit more about things. He knew how to rally.

We toasted Dave on his birthday. We will keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Bill Muller - July 13, 2020 at 05:26 PM

DD

Thanks Bill. Can't express the depth of my appreciation for all the support you and Kate gave us in David's final months and for the help that continues to this very day. Hope to see both of you before too long.

diane dooley - September 24, 2020 at 09:06 PM

CH

“*David - a wonderful uncle and caring Godfather. Kind, considerate, generous, loving and successful in everything he undertook; yet never boastful. The only man I truly trusted at sea - quietly in control at all times and the first man to instigate a liquid refreshment break!! David loved his family and always took the initiative to keep in touch and to take a genuine interest in people's lives without judging. Love you David and you will always be in my thoughts xxxx*



Claudia Hunt - June 17, 2020 at 06:26 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Joyce Pascuzzi - June 08, 2020 at 10:54 AM



“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Joyce Pascuzzi - June 08, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ So many memories doing this with dad x



Emma Callanan - June 07, 2020 at 02:24 PM

JH

“ We will all miss David. Sailing and the water were such a passion of his. I still clearly remember trips on Lady Corrinne around the Solent and Northern France. I particularly remember the trip to Guernsey where we were caught in a huge storm with all the girls, Claudia and my Mum on board and yet I never doubted we would that we would be fine - David was such a good sailor. Also the end of the season 'lads' sail with a group of his friends - a bit drunken but such good fun. He spent his whole life enjoying the sea and enjoying the love of sailing and most enjoyed sharing that love and passion with others.

His real passion however was his family and he really loved helping and spending time with Laura, Becky and Emma and his growing tribe of Grandchildren.

I will remember him as someone who loved the small pleasures in life - who was never happier sharing a pint and his time on a boat or in the pub with his family.

I would also like to pay tribute to Dianne who we properly met last year and who brought joy and happiness to David over the last few years, caring for him so well in the last few months. Thank you and please do not stray away. I hope we will see you many times again.

Jolyon Harrington - June 07, 2020 at 01:53 AM

EC

That's so lovely Jolyon. He also spoke of the good times you had with you and loved to share a pint with you, often into the wee hours xx

Emma Callanan - June 07, 2020 at 02:13 PM

DD

Yes, wonderful memories and sentiments Jolyon. That same theme of love of family and friends and an eagerness to help and look after others keeps coming through.

I look forward to staying in touch and visiting family in the UK as much as possible. Last year's visits were wonderful (enjoying Boy George/Henley Festival from the comfort of your boat was a true highlight!) and there are additional loved ones David wanted me to meet...your sister and your daughters very much among them!

Diane Dooley - June 23, 2020 at 07:41 PM

DC

“ 3 files added to the album Happy Memories



Denise Chisholm - June 06, 2020 at 08:38 AM

DC

“ Dear Laura, Becky, Emma and Diane,

Our sympathy to you and your families.

Your dad/Dave was truly the definition of a great guy!

I - and everyone I know that knew your dad - thought very highly of him – in fact, I had just started dating my husband when we went on a sailing trip with your dad in the Caribbean and as I said from day one of that trip – “my captain” – your dad – was the most important person to me during that week as he was literally the only one of the five Brits that knew what he was doing on that sailboat – so could get me to safety if needed – so when it started storming and he said he was heading back to the boat – I literally ditched my new love (now old husband) Mark and headed back to the boat with “my” captain – LOL :)

We have many happy memories of the days when your dad lived in Pittsburgh and they are filled with fun and laughter - which Dave definitely contributed to.

May loving memories of your dad/Dave bring you comfort. I am sure that he is "sailing" above smiling down over all of you.

Thinking of you and remembering Dave with much fondness - from two of many of Dave's Pittsburgh friends - Denise & Mark

Denise Chisholm - June 06, 2020 at 08:25 AM

LS

Denise, thank you for sharing some wonderful memories and pics of him doing what he loved most.

Laura Sabharwal - June 06, 2020 at 06:35 PM

DD

Thanks so much Denise. Dave so thoroughly enjoyed the email you sent days before his passing, reminding him of very happy memories with you and his many Pittsburgh friends.

Diane Dooley - June 06, 2020 at 10:56 PM

EC

Fabulous pics and lovely reading those memories. Thank you.

Emma Callanan - June 07, 2020 at 02:16 PM

CA

“ We were sad to hear of David’s passing. I have great memories of a fun filled visit David spent with us in Dublin around 2002. He had a great passion for life and loved exploring the coastline of Dublin and the Guinness brewery tour. When we lived in London, we enjoyed meeting up with David when he was visiting his family nearby. He always had a great smile for all. Thinking of you Laura, Becky and Emma. With love Claire

Claire Arthur - May 27, 2020 at 10:53 AM

LS

Thanks so much Claire. He so loved that visit to Dublin and commented on how well you looked after him. . Thanks for sharing.

laura sabharwal - May 30, 2020 at 05:59 PM

EC

Thank you X

Emma Callanan - June 07, 2020 at 02:16 PM

CB

“ Although, I did not know David, I did know his partner Diane. My condolences to family and friends.

Diane - My sincere heartfelt condolences to you. Sending you strength, love and prayers.

Cathy Brochu - May 25, 2020 at 10:47 AM

BH

“ In 2002, Anton and I had the pleasure of sailing Almacantar from Chichester to Kinsale (Southern Ireland) with David, John and Margaret. The longest leg of the trip - Newlyn to Kinsale was some 200 miles across the very exposed Celtic Sea. It was a lively sail in a Force 5 across a lumpy open ocean.

At lunchtime, ham sandwiches were order of the day. Not only did David manage to expertly carve the leg of ham precariously balanced on his knees, he first wedged himself against the bunks and proceeded to sharpen the carving knife with a steel – all at a 45 degrees angle with the boat bouncing around like a cork!

After 30 hours of sailing, we had the good fortune of arriving at opening time, at which point Anton and I trudged up to the Kinsale Yacht Club for a well-earned drop of the black stuff.

Despite our invitation and having had hardly any sleep, the three sexagenarians decided to embark on 3 hours of boat maintenance, including engine servicing and replacing parts of the boats electrics, before joining us later.

Ben Hill - May 24, 2020 at 01:22 PM

LS

Thanks for sharing Ben. Yes he was a grafter in everything he did even when it came to leisure activities!

laura sabharwal - May 30, 2020 at 06:02 PM

RH

Love this Ben - that is so Dad - thanks for posting xxx

Rebecca Holburn - June 06, 2020 at 09:13 AM

EC

This is brilliant Ben and reminds me of so many times that dad would amaze me with his ability to find practical solutions with mini inventions from old bits of boat!

Emma Callanan - June 07, 2020 at 02:19 PM

JP

“ *I have been very sad to hear that such a vibrant life was cut short. It promoted me to look through my photos of times spent with Dave in the late 80s and early 90s. I was hired early on after his arrival in Pittsburgh and honored to be a part of the growth of the US division. Dave bustled around the office like a busy bee organizing and planning and making a few jokes along the way. Such a hard worker! I remember him eating celery along with his lunchtime sandwich - something new to me. And telling me, ‘Don’t buy The blue milk!’, For our office morning coffee. He preferred the whole milk. But what was really fun was the social life he created for the employees. Sooooo many happy memories. Photos attached of the British employee’s first Independence Day picnic at our house which he referred to as ‘we were glad to get rid of you Yanks day’. There was a good natured fife and drum reenactment and Dave brought the Union Jack flag streamers for decoration. And then the Halloween Party, held in December ???? I think delayed because of a big work project. I was fortunate to share his and Nancy’s wedding day as well.*

I am so very glad that my life’s path crossed with Dave Hill!!! He enriched it more than I knew at the time.

Joyce Pascuzzi - May 24, 2020 at 01:03 PM

JP

I have 11 photos of Dave that I would be happy to send to a family member. Pls let me know

joyce Pascuzzi - May 24, 2020 at 04:52 PM

LS

Hi Joyce. Thanks for this heartwarming tribute sharing a part of his life that we heard about but didn't see first hand. We would love you to send the photos. Best wishes. Laura.

laura sabharwal - May 30, 2020 at 06:06 PM

EC

Hi Joyce, lovely to read your words and yes we would love it if you could share the photos.

Emma Callanan - June 07, 2020 at 02:20 PM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rebecca Holburn - May 21, 2020 at 03:58 PM

LA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Laura - May 20, 2020 at 06:52 PM

RH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Rebecca Holburn - May 18, 2020 at 02:26 PM

EC

“ Wonderful, brilliant dad and incredible, loving Grandpa. We miss you every minute of every day xx



Emma Callanan - May 17, 2020 at 05:47 PM

RH

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Rebecca Holburn - May 17, 2020 at 11:42 AM

LU

“ I was so sad to learn of David’s illness and subsequent passing. He had been a beloved addition to our family for nearly 35 years. I can still remember the times he spent on our family farm camping out in the woods with Nancy on the weekend of our annual pig roasts to celebrate my father’s birthday every year. He never missed a pig roast and they spanned 25 years. Dave and I would have drinking contests each year out of buckets at these pig roasts and he would drink beer and I would drink rum and Coke. He could never understand how I could beat him every time, but what he didn’t realize was that after every chug, I ran to the back of the barn and got rid of it! He finally caught me and was laughing in his jovial English manner calling me a cheater! Of course by that time, he was well on his way to being happy if you know what I mean! We also played games where we would wear the pig snout around and see who could wear it the longest...He handily won that contest! I still remember him stumbling off to the tent after the party and we would play tricks on him during the night. Most times, he slept right through it! My mother always made an incredible breakfast the next morning for everyone. Good times. I spent a weekend with my parents and my husband at the time at Dave and Nancy’s house in Pittsburgh and I can still remember us being up all night and just having an amazing time. We communicated throughout the year to keep tabs on everything and to discuss the next gathering. I had the pleasure of meeting his family at Nancy’s funeral and you, Diane, at my father’s birthday party three days before my father passed away. David never missed a chance to be with our family and I am so sad that he was unable to be with his in his last days because of the world situation. I will miss David greatly. I will miss his friendship, his smile, his laughter, his wit, his goofiness, and his genuine love for people and good times. I am heartfully sorry for all his family at this devastating and untimely loss. May all of you find comfort in your memories of him and his wonderful life. I can picture him up there in heaven with my parents and my brother, who we lost in April, trying to organize a heavenly pig roast... My prayers and blessings and love to you all.



David, my longtime friend, I will see you again. Have the bucket ready...
In great sorrow and with love,
Lori Ulsh

Lori Ulsh - May 15, 2020 at 06:01 PM

RH

Thanks for this lovely tribute, Lori - sounds like you knew Dad very well! He talked a lot about the famous pig roasts and how much he enjoyed them xxx

Rebecca Holburn - May 17, 2020 at 11:24 AM

EC

Thank you Lori. Just wanted to echo Becky's words. Dad talked of you and your family often and always had lots of funny stories to retell especially about downing pints! xx

Emma Callanan - May 18, 2020 at 05:33 AM

LS

Lori, this is such a joyful tribute. It has warmed me right through. What a wonderful friend you and your family have been to him and I know he treasured these precious times too. We look forward to meeting you to celebrate these times in due course. x

Laura

Laura Sabharwal - May 20, 2020 at 05:45 PM

MB

“ We are so, so sad about David's passing and we send our love to his family, friends and to my mom, Diane. Our whole family feels fortunate that David came into our lives.

Whenever my mom and David were able to be in Syracuse and join our family's traditional Thursday night dinner and drinks at the Limp Lizard, he got on with my uncles and all of us like he had known us forever. He spent a week with family vacationing in Delray Beach, which is when we really got to know him. When I decided to move to Florida on very short notice, David dropped everything to help my mom and me make it happen. We couldn't have done it without him!

His enthusiasm and energy for life was inspiring. Whether it was planning one of his many trips to the UK, or shorter visits to Syracuse, Manhattan, Pittsburgh or entertaining family in Maryland, he always had a full calendar. He never slowed down!

David was a wonderful person and he made my mother truly happy. Much of their relationship was long distance, but they stayed in close touch, texting back and forth like teenagers. It was sweet to see how happy they were.

We all love David and will miss him terribly. He will be in our hearts forever and we will always talk about him and remember him as family.

McKenzie Bryan and Gary Strom



McKenzie Bryan - May 14, 2020 at 04:33 PM

LS

Thanks for your kind words. Dad felt so welcomed by your entire family and so at home. He loved visiting you in Florida and was honoured to be part of your move there. He talked about it with such enthusiasm. Thank you for welcoming him into your family and for your love and care. We look forward to meeting you.

Laura Sabharwal - May 20, 2020 at 05:50 PM



“*David was such a kind, gentleman man. I didnt get to know him as well as I would have liked, but knowing Diane loved him I knew he was a kind man. He had an infectious smile that will be remembered.*

Maria Lischak - May 13, 2020 at 07:01 PM

LS

Thanks for your kind words. They mean so much.

Laura Sabharwal - May 20, 2020 at 05:51 PM

AW

Thank you so much for placing the sad news in the Rugby Advertiser. I worked with Dave soon after he arrived at GEC Electrical Projects in Rugby and he was often coming upstairs for advise, even to wanting his cat neutered! I worked extensively with Dave on the giant Port Talbot Hot Strip Mill rebuild in 1983 - 1986 where Dave was the lead engineer on the 7 stand finishing mill and I was on the reversing roughing mill. The site work was often very hard and I remember Dave leading a team under the flooded mill basement by the flume pumps and one member descending into a 4 ft water sump to his amusement. We would often leave site in the evening and adjourn to The Three Feathers @ Kenfig for a few pints of "Daft Bass!" from the wooden barrels.

I recall once we then went to the carvery @ Rose & Crown Nottage in one of Dave's old wrecks and he saw a parking space under a weeping willow & rushed it before others but to his horror there was a hidden 1100 litre waste food container and this shattered as Dave hit it, causing Dave to wash this car. He always got old 1800cc cars to maximise the expenses and in some of these you could see the road way especially in the Welsh rain but Dave would place a Sainsbury's bag over & put a floor mat over ~ problem solved. engineering solution..

I never went to Pittsburgh as I had the Beam Mill @ Redcar & other unpleasant sites to contend. But Ken Palmer (also on PT) and Sid Masters (died Jan 2020) always had a great word for Dave and is knowledge and humour + his love for good beer, good company & good life. I recall times in meeting when Dave had forgotten names and all were then called "George!" not a popular name in South Wales. He was great to work with and the news is a very sad loss to those who knew him in Rugby too. I will raise a glass to him and his life. Wiggers.

Andrew WIGLEY - May 22, 2020 at 11:57 AM

LS

Hi Andrew. We are so, so grateful for your tribute. It's wonderful to hear about this part of his life, of which we know very little. We don't know how to contact his Rugby friends so would value your help in forwarding the news to anyone else who may wish to know. Thank you very much. Laura

Laura Sabharwal - June 06, 2020 at 06:40 PM

BM

Andrew, thanks for shedding light on Dave's work life. I knew that he and I were both "techies" in different fields, but we never got around to discussing specifics. I think that he was glad to have had a fun career, however he was always looking forward to the next part of his life. I would have enjoyed working with him, by the sound of it all. Thanks again.

Bill Muller - October 11, 2020 at 03:07 PM

PN

“ I am so sorry to hear that Dave passed. Please accept my condolences. I worked for many years with Dave at GEC in Pittsburgh. He was a great guy and smart engineer. He helped me out on a number of projects with his vast knowledge and contacts in Rugby.

*Pat Nagy
accutronnut@hotmail.com*

Patrick Nagy - May 07, 2020 at 09:17 PM