



## David Robert Lavis

April 5, 1941 - March 19, 2024

David R. Lavis, (82) of Queenstown, Maryland, passed away on March 19, 2024 following a brief illness.

David was born in Exmouth, Devon, England on April 5, 1941, the son of Harry and Dorothy Lavis. At 18 he started his career in Naval Architecture at the British Hovercraft Corporation on the Isle of Wight. There he met his wife June and obtained his Masters of Science Degree from Cranfield Institute of Technology and was a member of the American Society of Naval Engineers, the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, and is a fellow member of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects.

In 1967, he was recruited by Bell AeroSystems in Buffalo, NY and David and his young family emigrated to the US on the Queen Mary's final passenger voyage. He went on to work at Aerojet General in Sacramento, California in 1972 and continued to work for them in Tacoma, Washington. He then came to Maryland to work for Peter Payne. In 1977 together with Bill Band, and Shirley Wilson they formed Band, Lavis & Associates of Severna Park, Maryland.

David's passion for boating came naturally. His family had a boat-building business in England founded in 1875. He started sailing at 5 years old and continued to enjoy competitive racing. He was very involved in the Tempest

and Soling fleets out of Severn Sailing Association and raced in the Tempest World Championship on the south coast of France where he came in third. In later years he enjoyed sailing and boating on the Wye River. Throughout his lifetime he loved playing rugby, tennis and coaching youth soccer.

David is survived by three children Deborah, Robert, Daniel, his grandchildren Jason and Emma Lavis and sister Chris Haydon. David was predeceased by his wife June Lavis.

David fondly known as Pop Pop by his grandchildren enjoyed having gatherings with family and friends at his home on the Wye River, known as "Club Lavis."

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 2 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newman Funeral Home in Chester, Maryland. There will be a private interment. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in David's name.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.  
106 Shamrock Road  
Chester, MD 21619

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of David Robert Lavis*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 02, 2024 at 02:20 PM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of David Robert Lavis*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 01, 2024 at 04:04 PM

MR

*Last greetings from TEMPEST Family. We remember world Championship and happy moments together.*

maximilian Reichert - April 07, 2024 at 01:16 PM

WW

“ I just received the sad news about Dave Lavis’s passing. I first met him about 1971~72 when I started supporting Advanced Naval Vehicles, ANVs at the Navy model basin originally with the Jeff A&B Air Cushion Vehicle ACVs and later with many navy advanced vehicles (LCAC, PHMs, SESs, Catamarans, Trimarans etc.) under Mel Brown, then Al Ford and later with the Surface Effect Ship, SES program office and finally at NAVSEA. Dave’s team did much pioneering R&D in support of our Navy and other countries over all that time. In addition, he was a good and helpful friend for over 40 years. We often met for lunch when he was in town or when I was in Annapolis. His team at Band Lavis along with Hydronautics and Maritime Dynamics were unique at the time and were much appreciated for their honest opinions while we Government Employees also worked with the big corporations and DoD the biggest of them all.  
I will miss him.  
Bill White retired Navy Naval Architect

---

**William White** - April 05, 2024 at 01:11 PM

MJ

“ Much love Dawn, Miguel, Jessica & Jordan purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of David Robert Lavis.



---

**Much love Dawn, Miguel, Jessica & Jordan** - April 05, 2024 at 10:24 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David Robert Lavis.*



---

April 02, 2024 at 10:07 AM



“ *Hello, I'm Vicky Lavis by birth and the daughter of Douglas Lavis, David's cousin. My father is nearly 96 and lives in Cardiff in Wales, UK. He's been told of David's passing and was very tearful. He has strong memories of Ronnie and David in Exmouth. Dad and I would like to pass on our best wishes to you all. Please look after yourselves at this time. We're thinking of you. Vx*

---

**Vicky Whitworth** - March 29, 2024 at 08:07 AM



“ *David was such a special person and I'm so grateful I got to know him. He was kind and generous and just so much fun to be around. And he was a good sport. Especially when he let me and Deb drag him to a very loud country music concert. We had a great time. I appreciated that he always made me feel like one of the family at holiday events and parties. Our mutual enjoyment of a good martini was an event in an of itself. So here's to you David, " up with a twist." 🍸 . You will be missed.*



---

**Eileen Katz** - March 27, 2024 at 01:47 PM

EC

“ *Eastern Shore Dental Care lit a candle in memory of David Robert Lavis*



Eastern Shore Dental Care - March 25, 2024 at 09:09 AM

SE

“ *Mr Lavis was such a nice gentleman and will be sorely missed. He had a very gentle sense of humor and was always welcoming and gracious. His family is in our thoughts at this time.*

Stephen England - March 23, 2024 at 08:00 PM

EL

“ *I wanted to say thank you to one of my biggest supporters. Seeing me through every step of life so far, I'll continue on and make you proud. So many memories to be cherished and so many beautiful pictures to look back at. I love you and miss you so much already. Have a martini up there for me! Up with a twist! Love from your precious Emma*



Emma Lavis - March 23, 2024 at 07:36 PM

KW

“ I can't begin to tell everyone how much the Lavis Family has been to me. The most loving family I have the privilege to be a part of. Poppa Lavis has been so instrumental and touched so many lives in his career and friendships. I will miss his smile, the English accent, his always cheerful attitude , but mostly always being my friend and loving everyone unconditionally ❤️🙏🌹



Kathy Wilson - March 23, 2024 at 04:07 PM

FF

“ Ford Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Robert Lavis.

Ford Family - March 23, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David Robert Lavis.



March 23, 2024 at 02:51 PM

ML

“ Much Love, Victoria and Jim Luff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Robert Lavis.

Much Love, Victoria and Jim Luff - March 23, 2024 at 02:04 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections* was purchased for the family of David Robert Lavis.



---

March 23, 2024 at 02:04 PM