



Dave Dubicki

August 27, 1951 - September 17, 2024

David (Dave) Dubicki, 73, of Peoria, Ill., passed away at OSF Hospital on September 17, 2024, following a short illness. He was born in St. Francis Hospitals' original building on August 27, 1951, to Frank and Virginia (Smigielski) Dubicki. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy) Dubicki; daughter Martha Dubicki (Trent Jackson) and grandchildren Parker, Calvin and Ace Jackson, of Chicago; son John Dubicki of Peoria; aunt Patricia Bieganski and cousins Bonnie (Bob) DeCola and Mike (Mary) Bieganski of Mishawaka/Granger, Ind.; other relatives in the South Bend area; and nieces by marriage of whom he was very fond.

Frank and Virginia Dubicki, both deceased, were children of parents who immigrated from Poland and Russia. They moved to the Peoria area in the 1940s from their hometown of South Bend, Ind., to start Kitchen Made Pies, a commercial bakery that operated for many years on Peoria's south side. Dave grew up in Morton, Ill., attended Blessed Sacrament grade school and graduated high school from Spalding Institute in Peoria. He continued his education at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., spending his junior year at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. During high school and summers between college years, Dave worked at Kitchen Made Pies and also played a

lot of golf at area courses. Dave then attended Northwestern School of Law (Chicago) where he graduated, with honors, in 1976.

After law school, Dave returned to his home town of Peoria to join the law firm Kavanagh, Scully, Sudow, White & Frederick where he practiced for 23 years. In 1999, Dave was appointed to the 10th Judicial Circuit of Illinois as an associate circuit judge, and had the privilege of serving in various courts in Peoria and Tazewell counties. In 2011 when assigned to domestic court, Dave performed the 10th Circuit's first civil union ceremony. He appreciated his civil court assignments where he heard cases ranging from contract disputes to medical malpractice. Dave retired from the bench in 2016.

During college and law school, Dave became interested in art and was influenced by the collections of Hartford's Wadsworth Athenium and the Art Institute of Chicago. His exposure to art in his early 20s led to a lifetime of research and acquisitions of works on paper created by German Expressionists and modern and contemporary American artists. His interest in art inspired many trips to cities with vibrant art cultures and museums, notably New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis, Miami—and Santa Fe/Taos, his favorite venues. During retirement, Dave explored in earnest the hiking trails in the Peoria Park District, and also took on some challenging trails in state and national parks across the country. Dave was a proud member of Forest Park Nature Center's 1,000-mile Hikers Club, logging over 1,300 miles on those trails before his death.

Dave met Elizabeth (Betsy) Baggott in Chicago during his last year of law school, and she joined him in marriage and life in Peoria in 1978. He often introduced her as “my first wife” (i.e. his only wife). They had 47 years together raising their children (and helping with grandchildren), supporting each other in their careers, purchasing art, traveling, enjoying retirement and, of course, hiking great trails.

Dave will be remembered for being a conscientious and thoughtful attorney and judge. He was known for his wry, quirky sense of humor and his (often) unrequited love of the Chicago Bears, Chicago White

Sox, IU basketball, and NW football. He had an economical approach to life’s necessities, but was hugely generous with his family and others in many ways. He read newspapers every day, read biographies and histories about our founding fathers and the Supreme Court, studied Civil War battle history (he was deeply moved by a recent visit to Gettysburg), and enjoyed the mystery novel genre and works by many American novelists. And he loved pie, especially for breakfast.

Cremation rites have been accorded by Schmidt-Haller Burial and Cremation

Services of Peoria, Ill.; online condolences may be left for the family at www.schmidthaller.com.

Donations in Dave's memory may be made to Forest Park Nature Center, 5807 N. Forest Park Drive, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 (309-681-2861); or to a charity of your choice.

A memorial reception will be held at the Peoria Riverfront Museum on Saturday, October 12, from 5:30 to 8pm.

Tribute Wall

MY

“ My wife, Diedre, and I, and our sons Dylan and Justin have been deeply honored to count Dave and Betsy as close friends for 30+ years. His loss leaves a deep hole in what we, perhaps, a bit presumptuously, consider our extended family. Dave was a uniquely intelligent, genuine, and caring individual, unabashedly friendly and giving. He is, and will be, missed beyond what words may describe, and perhaps only tears may adequately express. All our love and best wishes to the Dubicki family.

Marc Young - October 16, 2024 at 01:33 PM

AG

“ Our memories of Dave go back to 1974 when Dave was a summer intern at the law firm where we worked. In the Peoria legal community Dave was well known for his intelligence, integrity, judicial demeanor, and wit. It is obvious that the judges had a high regard for his talents and judgement; they chose him from among the many who had applied for the position. The attorneys who practiced before him gave him the highest marks in the periodic bar polls. He had an amazing breadth of interests. He was a wonderful spouse, father, and friend, truly one of a kind. He was a class act and a gentleman. He will be missed, deeply, by many.\n\nAnne and Rick Grawey

Anne & Rick Grawey - October 15, 2024 at 04:05 PM

DJ

“ I hiked with Dave numerous times at Peoria Nature Center and elsewhere, many times accompanied by our grandchildren. He was such a kind and thoughtful soul, with a wonderful sense of humor. I will definitely miss our conversations, covering everything from history, sports, current events, and politics, to old movies. His wit, wisdom, and love for family and friends will be forever remembered.
Denny and Dot Jackson

Dennis Jackson - October 12, 2024 at 03:27 PM

AN

“ Betsy and family, Dave was one of a kind, a wonderful human. We are so very sorry for your loss. Susan & Mark Reising

Anonymous - October 12, 2024 at 08:46 AM

KS

“ Our condolences to the Dubicki family. We will miss Dave on the Forest Park trails and hearing his “dad jokes” at the nature center. He always shared stories with the staff and was especially proud of his grandkids. Happy trails, Dave!
Kristi Shoemaker and the FPNC staff

Kristi Shoemaker - October 09, 2024 at 09:14 PM

BW

“ Sending our love to you - so deeply sorry for your loss. We remember your dad so fondly from dad's weekends. Thankful you're able to be together -

Becca, Carrie, Kristin -Hampson, Talansky-Bresler, Westfallfams - October 08, 2024 at 07:47 PM

AN

“ So sorry I cannot attend Daves service. (I have just returned from Pgh to SB.) But I will be with you, Martha & John in thought & spirit. With love,

Anonymous - October 08, 2024 at 01:47 PM

SD

“ To Betsy, May the memory of Daves love for you bring you peace & remain in your heart forever! Sending you love & heartfelt condolences.

Suzanne Von Drehle - October 08, 2024 at 01:33 PM

AN

“ With Deepest Sympathy and Love . The James DeBord Family.

Anonymous - October 08, 2024 at 10:15 AM

TB

“ Dave was a wonderful lawyer and judge, a great guy with a delightful dry humor. More important, he was a true gentleman. He was one of those people who made our profession enjoyable to practice in Peoria in the last generation. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Tim Bertschy - October 02, 2024 at 11:02 PM

TJ

“ Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Tenth Judicial Circuit Judges - October 02, 2024 at 02:49 PM

NM

“ Dear Martha and Family,\nI am so saddened to learn of your loss. I send you my deepest condolences. I have wonderful memories of your dad - he was so generous with his time, knowledge, and experience when he would present to my pre-law students every year at Bradley. His intelligence, kindness, and quick wit were unmatched. May he rest in peace.\nWith deepest sympathy,\nNicole (Davis) Meyer

Nicole (Davis) Meyer - September 27, 2024 at 12:17 PM

JV

“ I worked with Dave in the Tenth Circuit. He was an excellent man and an excellent judge. He will be missed. John Vespa.

John Vespa - September 27, 2024 at 10:49 AM

MZ

“ We miss you so much, Dave!

Mike and Karen Zichterman - September 27, 2024 at 10:41 AM

JF

“ Very sorry to see this. Dave had a razor-sharp legal mind - he was always thoughtful and conscientious in his legal decisions. A wonderful human being. My condolences to the family. ...JPF

John Fleming - September 27, 2024 at 10:04 AM

KF

“ Dear Martha & Family, We're so sorry for your loss. And we wish you and your loved ones peace and comfort during this time.

Kelly Scott Madison Friends - September 27, 2024 at 09:27 AM

TO

“ We'll miss your quick wit and teasing \nGod bless you and your family \nRest in peace old friend \nTim and Mary OBrien

Tim O'Brien - September 27, 2024 at 08:39 AM