

## David Alan Petrakis

June 25, 1950 - April 21, 2022

PEORIA— David Alan Petrakis, 71, of Peoria, Illinois, passed away Thursday, April 21, 2022, surrounded by his family.

He was born on June 25, 1950, in Peoria to Bernard and Caryl (Kasebier) Petrakis, Sr. As a child, David was strong-willed, adventurous, witty, and the orneriest of all his siblings: Duane, Janet, John, Debra, Gloria, Gayla, Mari, Paul, Daniel, Karen, and Pete. He graduated from Limestone Community High School in 1968.

It was love at first sight when he met Barbara, and the two set off to North Carolina where they eloped on November 5, 1969. Together, they settled down in Bartonville and had three strong-willed, adventurous, witty, and ornery children: Greg, Jenny, and Krissy. He was the ultimate family man. He loved them fiercely and instilled values of honesty, empathy, determination, and curiosity. He enjoyed making lifelong memories and strengthening family bonds with his children throughout their entire lives by taking them boating, water-skiing, camping, fishing, and to some of his favorite places: Disney World, Six Flags, The Ozarks, Colorado, Alaska, and Canada.

David taught his children the importance of education and hard work. He earned an Associate's Degree from Illinois Central College in 1977. He worked as a certified and highly skilled electrician at Caterpillar Inc. for 35

years, retiring in 2009. He was a U.S. Army Veteran.

Above all else, being a grandfather was the most rewarding experience of his life. He wanted to be the best grandpa to his amazing grandchildren: Anthony, Rachel, Ryan, Lexie, Branden, Conner, Emily, and Sophia, and one great-granddaughter, Alivia. They will tell you he was not the best; he was the greatest of all time. He loved them deeply and unconditionally and devoted all his time to them. They found in him safe harbor and unwavering support. He continued tradition by making lifelong memories and strengthening family bonds as his grandchildren happily joined him on countless adventures to Timberline Campground, Alaska, Colorado, and Disney World.

He was an animal lover and always had a furry friend by his side, most recently his rescue beagle, Cooper. He was a toy train enthusiast, collecting and creating an entire room dedicated to operating his trains. He was a Jack of all trades. He could build anything and was most proud of his log cabin-style home, two-story shed which housed his train collection, covered bridge over the gully in his backyard, greenhouse, raised garden beds, two custom-made swing sets for his grandchildren, pool decks for his daughters, the list goes on and on. He could fix anything. He was a phone call away, unless he was taking a much-needed, well-deserved nap. Never wake a sleeping bear! Like his brother Paul, he enjoyed attending flea markets and auctions looking for items for his booth at Needful Things Antique Mall in Peoria. He was the “grill master” and a gifted chef who loved to cook for his children and grandchildren every Sunday at his home.

David was a strong and handsome man who would give you the shirt off his back. He had an infectious laugh and a smile that could put anyone at ease. He was loyal and generous to a fault and a friend to many. He was a multifaceted maverick; one of his personal mottos was “It’s my way or the highway!” and there is no doubt he did it his way until the very end.

Life will never be the same without him. He was the guiding light and rock of his family. He was loved by so many and will be greatly missed.

David is survived by his wife, Barbara; his children, Greg Petrakis, Jenny (Mike) Downes, and Krissy (Ben) Short; eight grandchildren, Anthony (Wanda) Stewart, Rachel Petrakis, Ryan Petrakis, Lexie Downes, Branden Short, Conner Short, Emily Downes, and Sophia Short; his siblings, Debra Johnnigk, Gloria Schooley, Gayla (Mike) Wascher, Mari Doubet, Daniel Petrakis, Pete Petrakis; numerous nieces and nephews; many friends and neighbors; and his beagle buddy, Cooper.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Duane Petrakis, John Petrakis, and Paul Petrakis; two sisters, Janet Patton and Karen Petrakis; and one great-granddaughter, Alivia Brooks. He is holding sweet baby Alivia in heaven.

Cremation Rites have been accorded. You may create an online condolence at [www.schmidthaller.com](http://www.schmidthaller.com) for the family. Memorials may be made to Peoria County Animal Protection Services (PCAPS), 2600 NE Perry Ave, Peoria, IL 61603.

A Celebration of Life with military honors has been scheduled for 2p on Saturday, July 30, 2022

# Tribute Wall

M#

“ #NeverForget



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**Michael Ragan #22VA** - June 13, 2022 at 10:06 AM

KD

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. I had the privilege to work with Dave in a couple different capacities at Caterpillar. First Dave was my apprentice during some of his time in training as an electrician. He was a very good apprentice and a quick learner and we became good work friends. Secondly I had the privilege to work with Dave side by side as journeymen electricians after he graduated from the apprenticeship. Dave's sense of humor and positive attitude always made a workday better. My deepest condolences to all of Dave's loved ones. Please know that at work Dave was well liked and highly thought of.*

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**Kenny Day** - May 01, 2022 at 08:54 PM

VD

“ *Barb...I'm so sorry to hear of Dave's death! My sympathies to you and all his family. It sounds like he had a great impact on so many...what a legacy! Prayers for peace during your grieving, and beyond. Violet*

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**Violet Davis** - April 28, 2022 at 03:01 PM

JK

“ Barb, I am so sorry for your loss. I will be keeping you and your family in my thoughts during this difficult time. Judy (Post) Keyster

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**Judy Keyster** - April 27, 2022 at 11:47 AM

RB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Dave at Caterpillar. He was very well liked and respected. Although it was a work environment, you could certainly see the traits that you listed in the obit come out from time to time. Please know that your family is in my thoughts and prayers.  
Sincerely, Ruth Brooks

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**Ruth A Brooks** - April 27, 2022 at 08:11 AM

TH

“ This note is for Krissy Short. I am the President of the Peoria Heights Library Board and met Krissy for the first time about one month ago. She gave the Trustees her ideas on how to spend a sizeable memorial for improvements to the library. All staff was given this opportunity. She was very upbeat and it became apparent she enjoys working in the library. Shawn Edwards, Library Director informed the Board members of her dad's sudden death. I am sorry to hear that. His obit certainly reflected an energetic family-oriented man. My sympathies go out to her and her family. Tom Horstmann

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**Thomas Horstmann** - April 26, 2022 at 03:55 PM

HR

“ I am very sorry to hear of David's passing. We shared an uncle - Fred (my dad's sister was Dee, Fred's wife). I met David as a very young child, but still had contact with his other siblings over the years. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I miss my Uncle "Pete" as many called him, and Uncle Bernard, Old Pete and his beagle, Johnnie - Miss them all. I hope you have peace in the wonderful memories he left you.

*Helen Robinson  
Wyoming, IL*

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**Helen Robinson** - April 26, 2022 at 06:20 AM

DJ

“ This is so difficult to learn Dave has passed out of this world! For his wife, Barb, and kids, please know that there are people who support you from all over.

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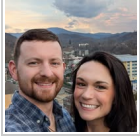
**Debbie Jeffries** - April 26, 2022 at 02:05 AM

KC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. So much loss in such a short time. My heart goes out to you. I pray you find comfort in the many happy memories you have of your father, husband, grandfather, brother.

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**Karen Carter** - April 25, 2022 at 06:34 PM



“ Aunt Barb, Greg, Jenny, and Krissy you all have my love and sympathy for Uncle Dave's passing. I had the privilege of going on several of his beloved fishing trips to Canada - getting stuck on the lake in an aluminum boat in a lightning storm, catching "his fish" (a monster Northern he was always searching for), and I'm sure learning some new 4 letter words along the way! He also gave me many summers of good work helping build the shed, covered bridge, playsets, etc. He was always patient in teaching and helping me learn so much along the way. I'm thankful for all those chances to spend so much time with him and all the memories made. Peace and comfort to all of you until we see him again.

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**Brian White** - April 25, 2022 at 06:18 PM

CW

“ Uncle Dave was a true adventurer who loved sharing his love for the outdoors with so many lucky people. I was fortunate to be one of those young men when he took a chance and let me tag along on one of his many trips to the North Canadian woods. I was about 16 or 17 and probably added a few gray hairs to his head. Whether it was driving the trailer too fast on a washed out gravel road or choosing to sleep outside in a hammock I'll never know but he taught me so much about camping, fishing, fire building, and everything else a young man wants to learn about. I'll never forget when he sent me into the icy water after we dropped a motor cover on a cold Rainey day or when I nearly passed out after seeing him dislodge a treble hook from his own hand. Uncle Dave encouraged everything I ever asked him about and I was happy to hear about his days living in Kentucky as a young man. I'll miss him greatly and regret that we never took that "next" trip to Canada that we always talked about every time we got together. He raised a beautiful family, was honorable and hardworking and I will miss him greatly. God bless you Uncle Dave, until we meet again. Give Lauren a hug for me

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**Curt White** - April 25, 2022 at 04:38 PM

JD

*Thank you Curt. We miss him tremendously. I am happy you were able to have those memories with him.*

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**Jennifer Downes** - April 25, 2022 at 05:01 PM

MP

*RIP Uncle Dave. I have the fond memories as a child on Kentucky lake in the house boat. Many trips to the river with your family and mine...the Patton family. You will be missed greatly. 😭*

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**Mike Patton** - May 11, 2022 at 09:08 PM