



Capt. David Mathie

September 4, 1958 - January 11, 2022

The world has lost a great man, husband, father, and friend. Captain David Burton Mathie was born September 4th, 1958, in Detroit, MI to Betty and Burton Mathie. David passed away in his home on January 11th, 2022. David is survived by his loving wife Heather and his four children, Ashleigh, Jacob (Gabby), Nicole (Corbin), and Monica, as well as his grandchildren, Lee, and Addison. David also leaves behind his siblings Karen Henry, Susan (John) Fisher, Michael (Melissa), and his mother-in-law Barbara Tibbetts, as well as many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his mother and father, and father-in-law, Harold Tibbetts.

Family was the most important thing to David. Dave and Heather were married for 40 years and relocated to Traverse City while Dave attended school at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy and NMC. He was a master in his field and on the ship, making captain at the young age of 37. He was celebrated on the Great Lakes, as he would blow the horn for those on the Saint Mary's River, who waited for the freighter to come through. He worked hard to provide for his family. Dave was the life of the party and loved game nights, bonfires, and pool days with his family. He was an avid outdoorsman, and enjoyed nature, planting trees, and tending to his bees. He shared his knowledge of nature and astronomy with his children because "knowledge is power." David also shared his woodworking, jars of honey, and homemade bee candles.

David was deeply loved, and words cannot describe how much he will be missed. A celebration of David's life will be held this summer.

"Home is the sailor, home from the sea." Raise a glass to the best.

Tribute Wall



“ Send *BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally* to the family of Capt. David Mathie. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)

Send Flowers - January 17 at 08:44 AM

RF

“ Unfortunately I just heard of Dave’s passing yesterday through one of my fellow graduates of the 1985 class at GLMA. I am so bummed that I never got to meet the “Captain” Dave as I lost touch as life went on from graduation, but I have no doubt he was one of the best! I always thought Dave and Heather were one of the greatest married couples I new. True sole mates! I was “the kid” of the class as John Basel said yesterday when he called me to tell me the news, which I was, but I always enjoyed my time having Scotch and sodas out on the porch with Dave and Heather.I am so sorry Heather for your loss. Deb and I whom I met at NMC have been married for 36 years and I can’t imagine how you feel. I’m not a religious person per say but god bless and I hope your finding a way forward. I would love to get together at some point and catch up with all the 1985 grads at some point in the future.

Russ Fouts - June 10 at 09:14 PM

DG

“ Dave Mathie taught me what it meant to be captain of a ship. He made me a better officer and he got me my first captain's job relieving him on the Stewart J. Cort. During downtime, we played video games with some other members of the crew, which was enormous fun. He seemed to me like the kind of guy who could do anything. He was a great mentor, and I am very sad to hear of his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Doug Glass

Doug Glass - January 23 at 02:56 PM



“ Although it has been many years I have always remembered the great times Jon and I had when we all lived in married housing while the guys attended Maritime Academy. Heather, may God hold you and the children in the palm of his hand and bring you comfort and peace.

Martha (Peterson) Witcher

Martha Witcher - January 19 at 02:26 PM

ES

“ Heather and family,

I want to send my most sincere sympathy and condolence for your loss. It has been many years since I've last seen you and Dave, but the loss is felt non the less. God bless.

Eric Stord & family

Eric Stord - January 17 at 01:57 PM

DB

“ *I'm am so saddened hearing of Dave's passing, I had such an adventure with him when he was Captain of the Stuart J Cort. Many hugs to you Heather and the kids.*

Dan Bodamer - January 17 at 12:40 PM

SF

“ *My heart is going out to all of you during this time. I didn't know Dave as he was frequently working on the boats, but as a former neighbor, I knew you, Heather. I'm so sorry. I will be thinking of all of you in the days to come and lifting you up in prayer. Sherri Freels*

Sherri Freels - January 17 at 06:42 AM

SN

Very sad news , I went to school with Dave , at our last reunion 2 years ago myself and George A mburgy and Chuck Cusick and Darcie Yanke and Dave use to hangout in middle school all the time in the summer and after school and on weekends. Great memories I will always have , again very sad news for his family

susan carter. norrow - January 18 at 12:11 PM

MA

dave was a great guy and friend i will never let him go thats for being my friend i love you dave

mark and dawn azarovitz - January 22 at 09:30 PM

DM

Sandie and I were so saddened to hear about David. Our memories go back to our friendship at NMC, our wedding, and birth of children. We sincerely are heartfelt for you, Heather, and your children. With love, Doug & Sandie McCoy

Doug & Sandra McCoy - January 24 at 11:54 AM