



David "Dave" A. Russell

July 22, 1957 - October 12, 2020

David Arthur Russell, 63, of Interlochen, Michigan passed away on Monday, October 12, 2020 at his home. Dave was born in Traverse City to the late Donald Russell and Alfredia (North) Houghton. He graduated from Traverse City Central High School in 1976. Dave had been employed with Interlochen Center for the Arts for over 38 years. Dave will be remembered for his kind, thoughtful, caring, and generous spirit. He would always be there to lend a helping hand on any project, from working in the yard to building a roof. In his spare time, he enjoyed being on the water fishing. Above all, spending time with his family, especially his grandkids, was his greatest joy.

Dave is survived by his son, Davey (Amanda) Russell, his daughter, Amanda (Steve) Storms, 11 loving grandchildren; Shelbi (Nathan), Austin, Autumn, Summer, Maddie, Cecilia, Autumn, Evelyn, Serenity, Jeremy and Juniper, as well as a great-granddaughter, Averi. Also surviving is his step-father, Michael Houghton (Mick), step-siblings Michelle and Chad Houghton and brother-in-law, Jon Isaacson.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Richard Russell and a sister, Elaine Isaacson.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held at 9700 Riley Road, Interlochen Saturday, October 17, 2020 starting at 12:00 noon.

In the spirit of Dave's loving personality, his family asks, that you take the time to hug your family and let them know you love them rather than make a charitable donation.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Dave's family at his tribute page at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

OCT **Celebration of Life** 12:00PM

17

Celebration of Dave's Life

9700 Riley Road, Interlochen, MI, US, 49643

Comments



“ Our love and thoughts are with Dave's family. We will miss him dearly here! This photo was shared from the archives at Interlochen and reminds me just how hard he worked on behalf of our students!



Alisha B - October 21 at 04:33 PM



“ Thank you for sharing this photo - any idea on the date???

David - October 21 at 07:52 PM



“ Dave and I have worked together at Interlochen for all of those 37 years, two different departments but every time I saw him, he would say "How's Janet today?" What I remember most is him helping me to re fiberglass and re paint my very first kayak (marine blue). He was generous with his time and he was excited, as I was, to be on the water. My heart goes out to his family (who he was very proud of!).

Janet Morris - October 19 at 11:12 AM



“ Thank you Janet - My dad did love to Kayak - I am sad that he sold his boat about 20 years ago when I moved away from home. That is a lovely memory you shared - I would love to see a picture of the boat - if you have one.

David - October 20 at 11:33 AM



“ I knew Dave from my many summers working concerts and transportation at Interlochen. I could always count on a smile and a story about his family from him. Unfortunately, because of the quarantine, I did not get on campus this past summer and so missed seeing him. Blessings and prayers to his family!
Dick Jorgensen/Summer Staff 1964-2019

Richard Jorgensen - October 17 at 07:53 PM



“ Thank you Dick - I remember hearing your name. He used to bring me to camp once a year on the night shift during the summer - Who would have thought a kid could be so excited to ride in the back of the green van with tools rattling all around - but I looked forward to that visit every year.

David - October 18 at 07:40 AM



“ I'm sorry for your loss he was a good friend



Pamela - October 17 at 02:22 PM



“ Thank you Pam - we planted the bulbs on Friday and thank you for keeping him company at the end.

David - October 18 at 07:38 AM



“ He'd really like that taked alot of wanting to get done

Pamela - October 18 at 10:50 AM



“ Dave was so proud of his children David and Amanda. When ever he was going things with the grandchildren he would always say, this is that it's all about. He was a very kind loving person. Dave will be missed .the only comfort I can give is that Dave will be with us every day.

Dawn Russell - October 17 at 10:51 AM



“ Thank you mom - I remember you often saying, "If I only knew then, what I know now, things would be different." I hope I remember his message about what life was always about.

David - October 18 at 07:37 AM



“ Dave was one of my favorite people at Interlochen. He always stopped and talked with me about the projects he was working on, family and life. He's very proud of his children and their accomplishments. I'll miss his gentle presence.

Jaie Berry - October 16 at 12:05 PM



“ Thank you Jaie - gentle presence is a wonderfully accurate description!!!

David - October 16 at 03:01 PM



“ So very sorry to hear this news. I did not know Dave personally, but I know how hard and devotedly every maintenance staff works at this school. A legacy for 37 years is something of a marvel and he sounds like a wonderful human being. I am keeping him and you all in my thoughts today. - Gulshirin Dubash (cabin L-77/Theatre faculty)

Gulshirin Dubash - October 16 at 11:35 AM



“ Thank you Gulshirin, my father had a great respect for the teachers at Interlochen. He tried to get me to attend on multiple occasions!!!

David - October 16 at 03:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pete Brockman - October 16 at 09:46 AM



“ Sharing the joys of life and friends on the Boardman River

Pete Brockman - October 16 at 09:50 AM



“ One late fall it was decided to do a fishing trip the next summer. One week, renting a cabin, as many to go as could shake loose. We decided on Vilas County, Wisconsin. We invented an "Interlochen Fishing Club" and sent a letter to the Vilas County Chamber of Commerce announcing a tournament to be held there. We asked for any information about fishing and lodging. Within two weeks we had buckets of mail, and in order to responsibly process the information, we chose a different bar each week to talk smart and dream of the trip. Fortunately, this took all winter. Ultimately, the event included Dave, Dick Crockett, Jim Alpers, my dad, and me. It was also the best time my dad ever had. Use your imagination to fill in the details of the week. It was the best. Dave was the best.

Pete Brockman - October 16 at 10:23 AM



“ Thank you Pete!!! For the picture, the memories and the time you spent with dad. My dad thought the world of you!!!!

David - October 16 at 03:04 PM



“ We found this exact picture on Wednesday - I could only identify dad - Dick and Sue

David - October 17 at 10:27 AM



“ The other people in the photo are Dan Dasin, Julie Witkop and Ann Dasin. I have so many wonderful memories of Dave... canoeing the Boardman and Manistee Rivers, hayrides at Big Red's, playing softball (food service vs maintenance), fishing in Frankfort... Dave genuinely cared about others. I will never forget his smile and enthusiasm. RIP Friend.

Ann Dasin - October 19 at 06:14 PM



“ Thank you Ann for filling in some missing bits - thank you for sharing your memories - my dad was always there for us - it is amazing to see all of the others he was around for.

David - October 20 at 11:36 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Pete Brockman - October 16 at 09:44 AM



“ I started working for Interlochen Center for the Arts in 2005. Dave loved telling stories about his grandchildren. His face would light up! Dave would say my son sent pictures come look on the computer! Then Dave finally bought a smart phone!! He was like a kid in a candy store!! I would come in the morning and he would say I have a video!! We shared many conversations in the breakroom before work. Dave is truly a kind-hearted man and I am going to miss him. RIP my friend

Karen Sweetman - October 15 at 07:14 PM



“ Thank you Karen!! He really did act like a kid in a candy store with that smart phone - it took us about 5 years to convince him to get one. Thank you for sharing those moments with my dad - and now sharing them with us.

David - October 15 at 09:48 PM



“ When I first came to work at Interlochen way back in 1998, Dave was one of the first members of the Grounds Team I met. He drove me around the property explaining what was what and where things were. Over the years Dave helped me with numerous landscaping projects. He could solve any mystery irrigation issue I encountered. He would do repairs as necessary at a moments notice. A couple years ago, there was a huge washout at the newly completed Corson Park landscape. I realized the repair was going to be labor intense and I wasn't looking forward to tackling the repair with just myself and another coworker. Well, Dave, without hesitation, immediately offered his help to restore the turf to its original shape. I can't tell you how many time Dave stepped up and helped me help to do my job. Dave was an exceptionally generous person, too. He regularly supported my son in scouting by purchasing hoagies or popcorn in the troops' yearly fundraisers. It seemed like every year Dave would give me several pairs of smart wool socks to help me through the winter months with warm feet. About a year or so ago Dave bought me a new holster for my pruners. Once he treated me to one of his favorite beers, Hacker Pschoor . He even lent me a glass to drink the beer, too, along with specific instructions on how to pour the beer into the glass. The one thing that stuck out in my mind about Dave was his eternal love for his children, grand children, and great grand child. He would eagerly show me pictures of his family. I could tell he was so proud of his family and how he looked forward to visiting them. Dave was usually first to arrive to work in the morning. He'd open the bus barn doors and get the coffee going. He was always there, every morning. Dave will be missed. God Bless him and his family as they face this terrible loss.

Dan Hahn - October 15 at 05:16 PM



“ Dan - Thank you - you have really captured a picture of the man I know and love. Thank you for the story about the Hacker Pschoor - that is perfect!!! Also, thank you for selling him items from scouts - I am sure he would not have ate at times if not for those hoagies!!! I have heard your name multiple times - so know he was talking about time spent with you here too!!

David - October 15 at 09:52 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



David Russell - October 15 at 08:23 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



David Russell - October 15 at 08:20 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



David Russell - October 15 at 08:17 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



David Russell - October 15 at 08:13 AM



“ 26 files added to the album Memories Album



David Russell - October 15 at 07:54 AM



“ If you would like to see more photos - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/p8XbzLa86jyqgRCA6>

David - October 15 at 08:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Russell - October 15 at 07:52 AM



“ The best man I ever knew left us this week. His absence will never be filled, but his mark will ripple into eternity through his children and grand children. He never left you wondering - every time I saw him he told me how much he loved me, how proud he was of my family and me. I will miss his hugs, when he hugged you, you felt more real - He had a rare presence, when he was with you, he was with YOU - all in - every time. My life is so rich because of him. I always knew my father was kind, generous and patient, but I did not realize what a mark he left on others, how his ripples came full circle - I have been astounded by the outpouring of offers of help and the memories people have shared of my dad - David Arthur Russell. I would give everything I own for one more day with him - gone way too soon - Do yourself a favor - just call one person you love and let them know how you feel, like my dad did every time we spoke - I promise it will be time well spent - and the ripple you create, will at some point reach you again - as a wave. Please share your memories of my father -

The picture below is rafting on the Gauley River - He was up front with me - we always planned to go again - they almost canceled the trip that day, as the water was 16 feet higher than the norm. I remember the last photo - hitting a wall of water and being in there for a second or two and the HUGE smile on his face as the terror subsided.



David Russell - October 15 at 07:00 AM



“ Dave always impressed me with his kindness and generosity, his craftsmanship and skill, and his gentle and patient love for his family. He lived simply which was inspiring.

He was someone who enjoyed fruit pies as much as I did, especially cherry, and who had no qualms about claiming it for a healthy and satisfying breakfast.

He was one of the first and few people to be encouraging of my interest in carpentry though I had little skill and knowledge at the time.

I think of him often and will continue to do so, though Interlochen will be a little emptier now.

My deepest condolences to David and Amanda and your families on his passing, but i know he will be watching out for you.

Kelly Hecker - October 15 at 06:07 AM



“ Thank you Kelley - he helped me connect simple living to living well - in a fast paced society that often contributes to us losing focus on what is important. I made two resolutions with his passing - 1. Live a little healthier. 2. Focus on the things that are actually important and let all the other stuff go, I am going to make an effort to be as present as my father in the moment and with my family.

David - October 15 at 07:04 AM



“ From George and Shari Ricket

I worked with Dave alot of years he was always willing to do what you asked even when it was very cold out. Our sympathy goes out to Dave's children.

George Ricket - October 14 at 03:50 PM



“ Thank you George - hard working is a phrase that always comes to mind when ever I think of my dad. How is Wayne??

David - October 14 at 08:34 PM



“ From all of us at Interlochen Maintenance Department- we are so sorry for your loss. Dave has been a part of this organization for the past 37 years and was greatly valued for his knowledge of the campus, operations of the grounds, snow removal, basically you name it he was always willing to help. He will be missed.



SANDRA J GIONET - October 14 at 10:14 AM



“ Thank you Sandy - your kindness and generosity have made this easier to bear.

David - October 14 at 08:35 PM