



David Donald Kroupa

April 25, 1944 - January 19, 2021

David Donald Kroupa, 76, of Traverse City passed away on the family farm on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Those who knew him well know that he would have said he “peeled out of formation.”

David was born on April 25, 1944 in Traverse City to the late Donald and Evelyn (Belleville) Kroupa. He married the love of his life Joan Marie Lautner on June 22, 1968 also in Traverse City. Together they lovingly raised four wonderful children.

David served our country in the United States Coast Guard. He attended Ferris State University and earned a degree in automotive repair. This served him well in his many years on the family farm and inspired many original equipment designs. One of the first farmers to embrace viticulture on Old Mission Peninsula, David and Joan founded the only winery on the Peninsula owned and managed by centennial farmers. David’s business savvy and entrepreneurship, in partnership with Joan and his son John, resulted in the preservation of hundreds of acres of agricultural property. An active member of the community, David was chief of the Peninsula Township volunteer fire department in the 1980s, a member of the Grand Traverse Fruit Council, and an active member of the Peninsula Fruit Exchange coffee clache. He loved to ride his golf cart around the farm and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

David will be remembered for his work ethic, entrepreneurship, dry sense of humor, and most importantly his love of family.

Surviving David is his wife Joan of 53 devoted years, children, Michelle Kroupa of Traverse City, Mary (Scott) Wells of Wellesley, MA, John (Sarah) Kroupa of Traverse City, Stephanie (Ryan) French of Lombard, IL, grandchildren, Charles, Evelyn, Samuel, Meredith, Oliva, Annette, and Jackson, siblings, Marilyn (Jan) Linderman, Nicholas (Kathy) Kroupa, sister-in-law Karol McLain and many other loving family members and friends.

David is preceded in death by his parents and his brother John.

A memorial gathering with military honors will tentatively take place in June at the family farm. Per the family’s request, in lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) or MD Anderson Cancer Center. Kindly share thoughts and memories with David’s family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

Comments



“ On a sunny day during the summer of 1986, my fabulous student Mary Kroupa, who I had been blessed to have as a student in one of my ninth-grade English classes during the 1985-86 school year, invited me to spend part of a day at their glorious family farm, going out into an orchard with her and her dad to see the cherry harvesting process. I have never forgotten that day with Mary and her wonderful family; they warmly welcomed this person with a brown thumb who barely keeps houseplants alive to have an unforgettable experience with something about which I knew nothing.

Joan, you and Dave have made, and will continue to make, such an impact: in the cherry and wine industries, as incredible parents of amazing children, and as legends of Old Mission in so many ways. May you and your family treasure memories of Dave that make you laugh and smile, and may you take comfort knowing that he lives on in the hearts and minds of the many whose lives he has touched.

Kay Walker - January 29 at 08:57 AM



“ I was fortunate to occasionally attend the Peninsula Fruit Exchange morning coffee club. All members were long on opinions but often a little short on facts. The discussions were generally focused on politics- local, national and international. The group would often say, “if only we could get to Washington we could really fix things”. Sometimes heated but always in good spirit. Dave was always a voice of reason. My condolences to Joan and the entire Kroupa family, all of whom have been so important to what makes the Peninsula such a special place. Dave will be missed as one of the great long time sons of the Old Mission Peninsula.

Finally I want Dave’s family to know that when I dipped his cherry tanks he was right to keep an eye on me!

John Pelizzari

john pelizzari - January 29 at 08:05 AM



“ Joan, I am so saddened to see this. My heart goes out to you and the kids on your loss of Dave. If there's anything I can help you with, PLEASE don't hesitate to ask. And, please let me know when you will be having his memorial service in the spring/summer. I'd really like to attend.

Arno

Arno Kramer - January 26 at 05:30 PM



“ IN '80 I BUILT A HOME ON DUNN DRIVE. EVERY EXIT PLACED A FOOTPRINT ON KROUPA ROAD. IT WASNT TIL THE WINTER OF '83 WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE GORE'S 60 ACRES OF CHERRY TREES, DID I REALIZE A DAVID KROUPA LIVED ON KROUPA ROAD. AS A 'COOKIE ROOKIE' TO THE CHERRY INDUSTRY, I SOON DISCOVERED THIS BOHEMIAN GENTLEMAN WAS A MASTER CRAFTSMAN ENHANCING THE COSMIC BEAUTY OF OMP WITH THE AGRIOTURISMO ATTRACTION OF SWEET AND TART CHERRY TREES.

I WAS IN NEED OF A PROFESSOR TO TEACH THE ART OF FARMING WITH BEES AND TREES; AND, HOW DO YOU START THIS TRACTOR? DAVID BECAME THE TEACHER. MOST EVERY DAY, ABOUT 7:00 A. M. MY PICK-UP WOULD PASS DAVID'S HOME AND HIS MULTIPLE LANDS TO STOP AT THE PFE FOR COFFEE AND 'SCHOOL' USUALLY LED BY DAVID WITH THE OTHERS – HEMMING, LIGON, DOHM ETC. - MANY ALSO 'RETIRED' FROM THE COAST GUARD, LIKE WALTER JOHNSON, ARNIE ELZER ET AL.

FORWARD 37 YEARS – LOOKING OUT AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW AT CHATEAU CHANTAL, TUESDAY LAST, A TREASURED MEMORY OF DAVID WHEELED NORTH ON CENTRE ROAD, AN EMS WITH SCREAMING SIREN AND MUTIPLE FLASHING LIGHTS. IT TURNED LEFT ON KROUPA. MY SIGHT FOLLOWED IT AS IT PASSED PENNINSULA DRIVE. WAS QUITE CERTAIN WHERE IT WOULD STOP AND WHISPERED A PRAYER.

ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY, MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED IN MEMORY OF DAVID AT ST JOSEPH CHURCH, CENTER RD - 8:45 A.M. JOAN MARIE AND JOHN, SHOULD WE AT C/C BE HELPFUL AT A JUNE MEMRIAL, KINDLY CALL.

TI VOGLIO BENE,
BOB BEGIN

ROBERT BEGIN - January 26 at 10:47 AM



“ Joan, Michelle, Mary, John, and Stephanie,
Art and I were so saddened to here about Dave's passing. He always made you smile when he was around, and we truly enjoyed his company. If there is anything we can do, please let us know. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.
Art and Paula Wasek

Paula Wasek - January 25 at 04:40 PM



“ Aunt Joan and family.... sending my condolences along with many thoughts and prayers. I have fond memories of cherry season, PFE, the fire department, etc. I really enjoyed Uncle Dave's ability to teach with a smile!

John Zaremba - January 24 at 09:32 PM



“ This poem has always been of great solace to me in times of loss

Don't think of him as gone away, his journeys just begun
Life holds so many facets, this earth is only one

Just think of him as living in the hearts of those he touched
For nothing loved is ever lost and he was loved so much

Diana & Bob Feague



Diana Brady - January 24 at 05:42 PM



“ My love and thoughts to Joan and family. Dave and his sense of humor will be very missed. He never missed a chance to tease me and loved to pretend cruelty to animals especially his Beagle and the log. He was such a smart fix it guy and was glad to help a neighbor anytime. Much Love Penny Paulley



Penny Paulley - January 24 at 11:29 AM



“ Many fond memories of Dave and Joan. His sense of humor will be missed. Condolences to Joan, John and the family.

Jennifer Jay - January 24 at 09:19 AM



“ Dave was a good friend and neighbor to us. Dave and Jed logged many hours discussing the world's problems at PFE coffee with other farmer friends. He will be missed. Jed and Dawn Hemming

dawn jed hemming - January 23 at 09:54 AM



“ David was a man of many talents and seemed to thrive on figuring out a solution for any situation. Kind and considerate of others. Condolences to Joan and family.

Mary Jo Lance - January 23 at 08:21 AM



“ condolences to Joan and family George McManus

George A mcmanus - January 22 at 05:45 PM



“ Sending condolences to Joan, John, and the rest of the Kroupa and Peninsula Cellars families. I love the trips I got to take with Dave in his buggy as he gave me tours of the vineyards and orchards - we had an especially good time one afternoon when he took me out searching for owls on the property. He always made me feel so welcome on the farm - I am so glad to have known and worked with him. With love from the other side of the lake, Jenny Cesolini

Jenny Cesolini - January 22 at 03:21 PM