



David LeRoy Thurstenson

August 15, 1942 - February 6, 2023

David LeRoy Thurstenson, 80, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, passed away on February 6, 2023. Dave was born on August 15, 1942, in Spencer, Nebraska to John Josef and Elsie (Gall) Thurstenson. He spent his early childhood years on a farm in South Dakota. His family later moved to Norfolk, Nebraska where he finished his schooling and met the love of his life, Myla Miller. Dave and Myla were married September 5, 1965, and they were blessed with three daughters.

Dave enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1961 and served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Dave was deployed to Vietnam in 1969 and 1971. During his second tour in 1971, he was a crewman on the C-7 Caribou performing hazardous air drop and resupply missions. For this he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1971. Continuing his career as a C-130 flight engineer and instructor, he saw much of the world. He and his family enjoyed living in many places throughout the United States and Germany. Dave retired as a Senior Master Sergeant in 1985. After retirement, Dave and his family returned to Nebraska. He drove school bus in Nebraska and Arkansas for many years.

In 1998, they moved to Arkansas to be closer to their grandchildren. Dave was known for his rich sense of humor and an ornery twinkle in his eye. He enjoyed camping, motorcycling, bird watching, and travelling with Myla.

Spending time with his children and grandchildren gave him great joy.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents John Josef and Elsie Thurstenson.

Dave is survived by his wife, Myla, of 57 years and his daughters: Cami (Matt) Jamison of Murphy, Texas; Cali (Marc) Hawbaker and Christi (Danny) Robinson of Siloam Springs. He is also survived by his brother Joe (Awynne) Thurstenson of Siloam Springs, and his sisters: Twylla (Galen) Helmkamp of Round Rock, Texas; Denise Scott of Joplin, Missouri; Linda (Kenny) Miller of Norfolk, Nebraska; and Dawn Brittain of Haskell, Oklahoma. The Thurstensons are blessed with 13 grandchildren and their first great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, you may make donations in Dave's name to The Wounded Warrior Project.

Visitation is Friday, February 10th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Wasson Funeral Home in Siloam Springs.

Funeral Service is Saturday, February 11th at 10:30 AM at Wasson Funeral Home, followed by a

Celebration Luncheon at Trinity Pentecostal Church at noon. Burial with military honors will take place Monday, February 13th at 11:30 AM at Fayetteville National Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to gather at Wasson Funeral Home at 10:30 AM on Monday to proceed together to the cemetery.

To sign the online guestbook, please visit: www.wassonfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home
441 U.S. 412
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
(479) 524-5131
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

FEB 11. 10:30 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

RK

“ Betty Lou Lindgren wishes to send her condolences to the family of David "Tuffy" Thurstenson. Her earliest memories of him come from when his family lived on the Thurstenson farm east of Fairfax, SD. He was a cute, 'tough', little 9-year-old when she first met him. His nickname came from that time frame, given by some older cousins, including her husband, Dwayne.

Rene (Lindgren) Kantack - February 16, 2023 at 02:51 PM

CB

“ Myla, Thinking of you in this difficult time. We are sending prayers and hugs to you and your family.

Connie & Randall Bargstadt - February 14, 2023 at 02:45 PM

JM

“ So sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Joe and Janice Mundil.

Joseph Mundil - February 13, 2023 at 03:48 PM

MP

“ So sorry for your loss. My sympathy & prayers to you & your family! May God comfort all of you!

Michelle Petzoldt - February 11, 2023 at 08:11 PM

BL

“ Our Love and Prayers are with Myla, Cami, Cali, Christi and the rest of the family during this time of loss. We have wonderful memories of you all when you were stationed at LRAFB. Loved worshipping with you at the Christian Church of Jacksonville. Lots of fun times fellowshipping together. Loved it when I could "talk" Dave into singing a solo at church---"Just a closer walk with Thee" and "Precious Lord take my Hand" were two of my favorites. And our Lord did indeed take Dave's hand and led him on into Glory. Though we can't be with you physically tonight or tomorrow, know that we are with you in Spirit. May God continue to wrap His Loving arms around you. Bill and Kathy Lacefield

Bill & Kathy Lacefield - February 10, 2023 at 04:48 PM

JM

“ Sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to myla and family

jeanie marotz - February 10, 2023 at 10:34 AM

DF

“ Dave was such a friendly man and always made you feel welcome. My prayers to Myla and family , I know you will miss him. Remember all the happy times you had together.

Dorothy Fullner-Larson - February 09, 2023 at 09:40 PM

BW

“ Regarding David's US Military career and his family, I SALUTE him in my most sincere form!
Bill Widhalm

Bill Widhalm' - February 09, 2023 at 07:22 PM

JH

“ *Dave was a great guy. He will be greatly missed. Enjoyed knowing him when you guys lived in Norfolk. Prayers for the family.* ”

Jean Hopkins - February 09, 2023 at 07:20 PM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David LeRoy Thurstenson.* ”



February 09, 2023 at 06:10 PM

MI

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with everyone at this time.* ”



Michelle - February 09, 2023 at 03:36 PM

LC

“ *Lex and I send our deepest sympathy.* ”



Lex and Janie Cannon - February 09, 2023 at 03:27 PM



“ *Red, White & Blue Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of David LeRoy Thurstenson.*



February 09, 2023 at 11:18 AM