



David E Fruehauf

April 9, 1937 - October 10, 2020

Fruehauf, David E. (Dave) USAF, Ret. 83, of Lynchburg

Dave passed away October 10th, 2020, at home, with his loving family by his side. Dave was the eldest son of the late Eugene and Jean Fruehauf of Buffalo, New York. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force as a distinguished and highly decorated pilot flying the SR-71 Blackbird and recipient of the following: The Distinguished Flying Cross (2), The Air Medal (4), Meritorious Service Medal (4), just to name a few. Later in his Air Force career he served in numerous command roles. After retiring from 23 years of Air Force service Dave continued his aviation career as a test pilot at Groom Lake, Nevada aka (Area 51). He succeeded at everything he set his sights on. In 1985, Dave moved to Lynchburg, TN, which is where he dug his roots. He continued his work serving his country in the defense industry in Huntsville, AL commuting 100 miles each day. In 1999 he “officially” retired and then became busier than ever. First with his association in the HSV Botanical Society, HSV Fern Society at which time he became a Master Gardener then serving the Moore County Jail Museum as a guide. This is where Dave realized his calling as an “ambassador” for Lynchburg. He enjoyed talking to anyone who would listen and the farther away they lived the more time he wanted to spend with them. He never met a stranger. Rarely has there been a day that Dave would not be seen on the “square” walking his beloved dogs, fittingly named, Whiskey, his black lab mix and most recently,

“Jack”, his best friend over the last 10 years. Anyone who was fortunate enough to cross his path came away with the belief that they had just met someone special. He never stopped learning, if something peaked his interest, he did not stop until he became an authority on the subject. He then wanted to share that knowledge, with again.....anyone who would listen. Dave is survived by his wife, Wanda Hopkins Fruehauf, of 25 years, Sons- Eric (Wendy) Fruehauf of Lynchburg, David Fruehauf of Las Vegas, NV, Daughters- Karen Fruehauf of Las Vegas, NV, Teresa (Steve) Stewart, Cynthia (Jerome) Moore both of Knoxville, Grandchildren- Elizabeth (Kohl) Rogers, Scott Fruehauf both of Lynchburg, Peyton Bennett of Knoxville, Callie Moore of Knoxville, Brad (Jessica) Stewart of Knoxville, Lindsey McMillen of Knoxville, Wyatt Fruehauf of Las Vegas, NV, Justin Fruehauf of Las Vegas, NV, Brother- Paul (Diane) Fruehauf of N. Tonawanda, NY, Sisters- Mary Ann Wegner of Cheektowaga, NY and Donna (Gordy) Klein of Rochester, NY and numerous nieces, nephews, great grandchildren along with many more friends that can ever be named. A celebration of Dave’s life will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers please make donations in Dave’s name to the Friends of Animal Rescue and Adoption Center of Lynchburg, TN 37352

Tribute Wall

WF

“ I have to say David was an amazing person I talked to him after he hired me to do a dishwasher installation at his home He told me so many amazing stories about the jets he had flown and the places he had worked on Area 51 this man has left a lasting memory in mine and my family’s memories I have told so many people about David and my employees have met people that knew him from his days in the air force he was truly an amazing person to talk to
The funny thing is he left me an amazing review in the wording but didn’t know how to change it from 1 star to 5 stars hahaha you can look at my reviews on pro plumbing plus in Manchester TN and see he is the only person that left a amazing 1 star review lol but hey the great stories were worth it I know he is living an amazing afterlife and look forward to meeting him again in mine

william francis - November 19, 2025 at 09:14 PM

SH

“ Dave was my step-dad for several years and I have so many wonderful memories of him during those years. He was a good man, an interesting man, and i have missed him ever since having to leave Lynchburg many, many, many years ago. I was lucky to have had him in my life during some of my informative years and to have had him as my step-dad. Miss you Dave. Tell mom hi, if you see her, in heaven. Love you both.



Shawnda - November 23, 2023 at 08:46 PM



“ David E Fruehauf

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM

MV

“ I met Dave in Detroit on a chance encounter because I saw his dog running through our hotel parking lot. I called the number on the dog tag and Dave answered, so grateful that his dog was found. We met a couple of times after, as he would watch my daughter play hockey if we were playing near him. I am so grateful I had a chance to meet him and hear some of his stories.



Michael Valdez - May 18, 2021 at 10:19 PM

IL

“ My husband and I were on holiday from the UK in 2019 when we met David outside the Jack Daniels whiskey factory. My husband noticed the belt he was wearing had a P51 on the buckle. My husband being interested in planes made a comment and David went on to tell us about his military career. What a lovely gentleman, our condolences to his family.

Irene Lunt - May 03, 2021 at 05:00 PM

BR


“ Just found out today on his passing. Had the honor of meeting him up in Michigan when I was on patrol. Had the opportunity to have dinner with him and my family. I am so lucky to have met him. My prayers go out to his family.

brenna - February 17, 2021 at 05:50 PM

BT

“ I was so sad to hear of Mr. Fruehauf's passing. I met him once and he was so nice and a Rockstar in my world. I too am a retired Military pilot. Having recently moved to the Lynchburg area, my wife and I met him one evening in town as we had stopped briefly. He was walking his dog and spoke to us. I noticed his hat and asked if he was affiliated with the SR-71. He said yes he had flown them. I preceded to ask some questions of him as my Uncle had been a USAF pilot and was killed in a crash in 1956. Turned out he had flown in the same squadron as the Pilot that flew my Uncle's wing the day he was lost. Small world. I had hoped to sit down with him one day and hear his stories and learn more about him. Such a loss. Fair Skies and Tailwinds Sir...Mach 3 and climbing!

Barry Thomason - October 19, 2020 at 09:20 AM


Margaret
Dick

“ On behalf of the Blessed Trinity School Alumni, we extend heartfelt condolences on David's passing. His life certainly reflects his early upbringing, and we are proud to call him one of our graduates. Because of the pandemic, we were forced to cancel our annual Alumni Memorial Mass and all-class reception at Blessed Trinity earlier this month. However, your husband and father will be remembered by name at our 2021 Mass, and his name and photo will also appear on the alumni's In Memoriam page at www.blessedtrinitybuffalo.org.
Bud Dick, '58, and Margaret Stiffler Dick, '59.

Margaret Dick - October 15, 2020 at 02:51 PM

RA

All who served our country are very special thank you and God speed

Ray - October 17, 2020 at 08:29 AM



“ I met Mr. Fruehauf just briefly and I cannot express how much it meant and inspired me. It was an honor just to shake his hand. Prayers for your family.

Luke Amatucci - October 14, 2020 at 11:09 PM

SH

“ Mr Dave will be greatly missed. I enjoyed our visits on the square and on the backroad. He always greeted me with a smile. I picture him now walking the streets of heaven with his four legged friend beside.
My prayers go out to the family...remember the good times.

Sandy Hill - October 13, 2020 at 12:27 AM

MS

“ He once navigated by the stars and now he among them may he “
Rest In Eternal Peace “

MSGt. Ret. Donald J. Smith - October 12, 2020 at 02:39 PM

MR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael J Relja - October 12, 2020 at 02:33 PM

TK

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Fruehauf's passing. He was such a sweet man and so kind to all. Praying for your family!

Teresa G Kelley - October 12, 2020 at 01:20 PM