



David Gates Caldwell

October 13, 1951 - April 10, 2021

David Gates Caldwell, of Austin, TX, passed away quickly and unexpectedly Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Born in Memphis, TN in 1951, David grew up with his three brothers and sister, often leading them in various sports, games and general competition. He attended White Station High School where he played on the basketball team. He did his undergrad at Vanderbilt, receiving a mathematical engineering degree.

He came to Austin to study law at the University of Texas, graduating in 1976, and becoming a devoted UT fan. It was here he met his wife Marcia and in the pursuit of a mathematical, sports inclined son, had three artistic, wordy daughters.

While David was raised in the Jewish faith, his true devotional practice was on the playing field - whether that was a basketball or tennis court, softball field, golf course, bowling alley, poker or bridge table, family board game, or watching hours and hours of sports on TV. A natural athlete with a fierce sense of competition, losing to David was an experience shared by most who knew him. He was dedicated to beating any opponent, even if they were smaller, younger, and / or his own daughter.

David was perhaps not the most gracious winner, but he was always quick to offer advice to his opponent on how to improve (with the reception depending on how closely one was related to him). Helping others was one of David's driving traits, and influenced every area of his life.

David had a brilliant and logical mind, a charismatic and welcoming personality, and a boisterous and teasing sense of humor. He struggled for several years with his mental health, but the last decade+ of his life was defined by his commitment to its management, and the relationships he rebuilt serve as a testament to this.

David is survived by those three daughters, Katie Caldwell (Alex Karlo), Kim Caldwell

(Justin Dove), and Courtney (David) Hunt; three granddaughters (Allison and Edie Dove, Ellie Hunt); his brothers Jerry (Debbie), Chris (Cheryl), and Felix Caldwell (Greg Reese); sister Helen (David) Sain, and former wife Marcia Caldwell. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jerome and Allete Caldwell.

To honor David's life, you could donate to Family Eldercare, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area, or Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. But if you REALLY want to honor David's life - tell a stranger a sports fact, win at a sport or game, push an unsuspecting child into a pool, record over home videos with golf, slip your daughter a crisp \$20, eat a Hostess cupcake, or most importantly - help out someone who really needs it.

Comments



“ David was my oldest friend as I remember going to his birthday party in the 1st grade. We shared 12 years together at Avon Elementary and then White Station Jr/Sr High School. During those years we played just about every kind of game at his house including tackle football, whiffle ball, home run derby, ping pong, basketball (his house had two goals), etc. Oh yeah, and the infamous poker games on Friday nights coupled with the endless supply of Dr Peppers thanks to his Mom. If he had had more foot speed, he would have been a major college athlete as his hand eye coordination was astounding as were his aforementioned mathematical skills which even to this day astounds me.

After high school, he went to Nashville and Austin, I went to Knoxville and Atlanta and we kind of lost touch. But, at our reunions, we would always sit together and catch up. We didn't talk to much about the present other than of his family which he adored. We talked mostly about all of the fun we had and the full life we shared. We pledged to stay in touch with each other since the last reunion (50th) in Memphis and we did. Glad I got to play golf with him one last time there at Galloway G.C. where we played as kids.

I talked to him about a week before he left us. I wish I had known but you rarely do. He will be missed greatly by family and friends. I just wanted you to know that David was a big part of my life as he gave me the competitive spirit that is still embedded in me today.

Rest in peace, my friend....

Jimmy Thomas - May 17 at 09:37 AM



“ It was my sincere pleasure to be one of David's bridge partners online for several years. We played almost every day and he was always my favorite partner. I will miss him very much. My condolences to his family and friends, Diana Schwartz, Delray Beach, Florida

diana schwartz - May 10 at 07:48 PM



“ I am sorry to hear about David. I enjoyed playing tennis with him or against him. Well maybe not every time because he beat me more than I beat him.....He is also the one who got me playing at Westover many years ago, maybe in the late 90's and because of him I made a lot of good friends there Thanks David! And thanks so much for the wonderful obit. I hope someone will write one like that for me. Thinking about David I can hear the "cackle" he most often saved for when he had really schooled you on a point. Or hit some little "dink" shot that you were never going to make it to. Also David certainly was one to pass on knowledge to his playing partner, whether you wanted it or not! Condolences to the family.

Joseph P Sherfy - May 10 at 05:59 PM



“ I am so sad to hear of David's passing. Before I moved, David and I were occasional doubles partners at Westover and I can attest that David did not like to lose, and rarely did! He was a hoot on the court and was always keeping track of several football or basketball games in between tennis sets. I have missed him since moving and wish I could have a few more matches with him as my partner.

Greg Hitt - May 06 at 10:27 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jon Neil Wisser - May 06 at 05:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the album David Caldwell



Jon Neil Wisser - May 06 at 05:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jon Neil Wisser - May 06 at 05:42 PM