



David Mitchell "Turtle" Welsch

February 5, 1951 - May 7, 2023

David Mitchell "Turtle" Welsch, 72, of Seguin, was born in New Braunfels, Texas to Evelyn and Kenneth Welsch on February 5, 1951, and died on May 7, 2023, in Leander, Texas. From his mother he inherited his creativity, humor, and sense of fun and from his father came his organizational skills, work ethic, and ability to work with people.

At the age of 7 months David was taken off the roof of the family home near Solms during the 1952 flood on the Dry Comal. Water would later become the center of his 44+ year career with GBRA. He helped bring water to portions of Western Comal County, Kendall County, Bexar County and the City of Boerne and the City of Fair Oaks Ranch. Following the floods of 1998 and 2002 he directed the floods' recovery projects. Since 1973 he served as the primary community contact for every public flood response, including the major floods of 1998, 2002 and 2004. As a licensed Texas real estate broker he helped negotiate the purchase of thousands of acres of land for GBRA projects.

Upon graduation from West Columbia High School in 1969, David attended Texas Lutheran College on a football scholarship and became known to everyone as "Turtle". Here he met and married his wife of over 50 years, Carol Burns.

Fresh out of TLC, David was hired by GBRA and became involved in the Seguin community. His boundless energy and desire to help people found him volunteering and serving as President of the Seguin/Guadalupe County Chamber of Commerce, the Guadalupe County Appraisal District and The Guadalupe County American Heart Association. In his Seguin Chamber President's speech he would state, "I believe service is the price you have to pay for the place you occupy." He would be awarded the Seguin Chamber Outstanding Community Service Award in 1987.

David's church, Faith Lutheran, was important to him. He played on the church softball team, served on numerous committees over the years, taught Sunday School classes, served as Sunday School Superintendent for years, was a Junior High Youth Group sponsor, and served as the Church Council President.

David liked to play as much as he liked to work. He was a regular at The Oak for decades. Many practical jokes were played on friends as well as always being ready to lend a helping hand. He was a great storyteller and humorist. These qualities and his wit helped him become a popular speaker and Master of Ceremonies for events.

When his daughters, Devon and Whitney, became old enough to participate in sports and school activities, David joined them. He earned his 2nd Dan black Belt with Whitney and later taught a karate class at TLU. He became a Seguin Youth Soccer coach and would later become a FIFA level 8 referee and USST certified soccer referee. In 1996 he lobbied the Seguin ISD School Board to

initiate the Girls Soccer Program which had its inaugural season in 1997. From 1995-1999 he coached Girls Under 14 Teams to help build a base of players to support the program.

In the early 1990's Odyssey of the Mind was introduced into the Seguin schools and his girls were on elementary teams. David felt the creativity and problem solving challenges were so beneficial to students that he coached a high school team for several years and later judged.

During this period of his life David found additional outlets for his endless energy and diverse scope of interests. He played the guitar at weddings, learned to play the fiddle, rebuilt a Ferguson tractor and a Jeep, began learning German, built a shop from the ground up, helped friends with construction projects, became interested in cooking, led the Grand March at weddings, and created a logo that would be used by GBRA.

In the early 2000's David work was centered in New Braunfels. Here he became a Life Member of the New Braunfels Chamber. He enjoyed his Blue Coat duties, meeting more people and becoming involved in the community. Serving on the United Way of Comal County Board, he was named Volunteer of the Year in 2005 and 2006. Following Hurricane Rita, David volunteered to oversee the formation of the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD). His skill as a facilitator to bring diverse groups together made Red Cross certified shelters available in Comal County and enabled local aid groups to qualify for federal reimbursements due to the VOAD formation. David was selected for the 2007 New Braunfels Chamber's Chair of the Board Award in the Field of Humanitarian Service for his efforts.

During this time David became an Opa with The Wurstfest Association. He enjoyed serving on the various committees and as a director. The festival would become his favorite 10 days of each year as he attended daily – working, drinking beer, eating the German food, dancing with Carol, and sharing “Der Gemutlichkeit”. He became an official Opa (German for grandfather) upon the birth of his first grandchild, Toren, who was followed 3 years later by Gabrielle.

These should have been the best years of his life as he anticipated retirement, more time with his family, travel, and all the projects he had planned. However, the rapids in his river of life had different plans. David was diagnosed with Posterior Cortical Atrophy (PCA), a rare dementia, and homonymous hemianopsia, which combined made it difficult to read and write, work with his tools, navigate through space, and recognize people. Even in the last year of his life at an Alzheimer’s memory facility he was still telling stories, teaching the Chicken Dance, singing, yodeling, and dancing with the staff.

David is predeceased by his brother, Craig, and his parents. Survivors include his wife, Carol; daughters, Devon Scheuer and Whitney Reese and wife Jamie; grandchildren, Toren and Gabrielle Scheuer; sister, Karen Cringle and husband David; sisters-in-law, Karen Bloomquist and husband Glynn and Kay Steinkamp and husband Fred; brother-in-law, Richard Burns and wife Sandra; cousins, nieces and nephews. Special thanks to Jason Brown at Oasis on the Meadows.

A family memorial celebration will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to:

Texas Lutheran University <https://www.tlu.edu>

Alzheimer's Foundation of America <https://alzfdn.org>

The Sophienburg Museum <https://sophienburg.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *David Mitchell "Turtle" Welsch*

October 05, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *David Mitchell "Turtle" Welsch*

October 04, 2023 at 06:25 PM



“ *David Mitchell "Turtle" Welsch*

September 26, 2023 at 10:57 PM



“ *We have so many memories with the Welch Family!
Our love to Carol, Whitney and Devon as they celebrate a great life!
David lived life to the fullest!*

Anne Costas - May 14, 2023 at 12:34 AM



“ *My heart goes out to Carol and kids and family. I have a lot of good memories of David when we were teammates and Alpha's at TLC together. He took me to his home in west columbia several times and went to his grammas in New Braunfels where we would set traps and had to rebuild her fences after the flood. He gave me a security job at working for the gbra. I also mention him to my wife and kids whenever we pass through west columbia. He had a wonderful life and an all around great guy. Dan Daniels*

Dan Daniels - May 12, 2023 at 04:29 PM



“ Remember well when the Welsch family moved to West Columbia. David & his family lived at the opposite end of the block. We attended Junior High & High School together. A great person. He will be missed.

Steve Kirksey - May 12, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ My most heartfelt sympathy to Carol, Devon, and Whitney as well as all of David's family and friends. I had the pleasure of working with and for David when it came to various projects, floods as well as the flood cleanups, and assisting him with the lake management committees. He was a dear man who taught me so much of what GBRA is and does. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. RIP, David.

Yolanda Juarez - May 11, 2023 at 05:34 PM



“ What an incredible life! David was a good man and one of the most intelligent men I have known and had the privilege to work with for over 14 years. He had a very strong work ethic and set the bar high for everyone around him. I learned so much from David. He had one of the kindest hearts around, and I so miss all of his stories and his incredible sense of humor. Always willing to help someone out, if and when they needed it, and had a way of making you laugh even on your worst of days. Heaven gained a very special angel! My thoughts and prayers are with you all!!
Teresa Van Booven

Teresa Van Booven - May 11, 2023 at 12:23 PM

BJ

“ Carol, Devon and Whitney,
Sending warmest condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with
you during this difficult time. David was not only a co-worker but a
friend during our time together at GBRA.
Bill and Vernelle Jones

Bill and Vernelle Jones - May 10, 2023 at 06:17 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of David Mitchell "Turtle" Welsch.



May 10, 2023 at 03:13 PM

SS

“ This was a wonderful, wonderful man. It was not just that he
accomplished so much with immense grace and humor, but that he
loved his family and Jesus with all his heart and soul. We are so
blessed to have called him our friend. Love to Carol and his Girls.

Syndra and Cecil Schulze - May 10, 2023 at 09:55 AM

TK

“ Carol, Devon and Whitney,
My heart is heavy as you know how much Turtle played a roll in the lives of so many kids. So many times he would catch me and break down my problems into what would seem so silly 30 minutes later. Playing basketball with me too! Not sure anyone would expect two grown men (Kenny Haas and Turtle) to take on two high school boys in the driveway basketball court! But those were the kind of neighbors I had! I was extremely lucky! I will always remember Turtle for his kindness and his gift of humor but mostly for his ability to teach lessons of life. I have y'all in my prayers.
Love you guy's
Todd Knight

Todd Knight - May 09, 2023 at 09:13 PM

SK

“ My condolences to David's Family. How fortunate was I to work at the Seguin Chamber from 2007 to 2011 and enjoy the time spent alongside David. When the Chamber of Commerce made the move to Camp Street, David quickly stepped forward to put together 26 community leaders who went about the task of raising funds to purchase and remodel the building. The Chamber of Commerce will continue to benefit from his inspirational and fun leadership. I am so thankful to have met David.

Shanta Kuhl - May 09, 2023 at 08:58 PM

AF

“ When I was growing up, David and Carol were always such lovely hosts when I would come over for sleepovers with Devon. On one occasion, David stayed up with Whitney and me all night watching Love Boat reruns because we were too scared to sleep after watching a scary movie. He was so patient and kind and made me feel so safe. I also remember how supportive and encouraging he was as Devon and I were going through confirmation at Faith Lutheran. I have a wonderful specific memory of his joyful face whenever he spoke about his grandkids. I will miss his laugh and his silly jokes. Thinking of Carol, Devon & Whitney and his family. Love to you all xoxo

Alison Fox-Dahlberg - May 09, 2023 at 07:44 PM

DK

“ Carol and girls,
Dan and I were so lucky to live next door to you. David was the one who helped us get the grass to grow in our back yards. He was there when Brennen shot a deer and couldn't find it. He also was the one who taught Todd and other neighborhood boys the fine art of playing in the street! Shelly remembers visiting with you and the girls and how welcoming the family made us feel as the new people in town. David and you did us the honor of leading the grand march at Shelly's wedding.
Our hearts are saddened but we know we will meet him again in heaven. May you feel the love we share for you and Turtle.
Dan and Deanie Knight

Dan and Deanie Knight - May 09, 2023 at 06:52 PM

RE

“ *David was always a so positive, witty, and caring. From his days at TLC until the last time we saw David at Faith Lutheran, he brought joy. May God grant peace to his wonderful wife Carol and his daughters.*

Rose Mary Ermel - May 09, 2023 at 06:48 PM