



David Allen Swick Sr.

November 12, 1937 - June 16, 2026

David Allen Swick, age 88, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2026, in Waterloo, Iowa, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He fought courageously and with grace, never once complaining, and always considered himself remarkably blessed by the Lord.

Dave was born on November 12, 1937, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Harold and Anamae Swick.

He was preceded in death by his son, Gary William Swick; his parents; and his brother, James Swick.

He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly seventy years, Gloria (McDonald) Swick, whom he married on June 30, 1956. Together they built a loving family and a legacy that will continue for generations.

Dave is also survived by his children, David Allen (Annette) Swick Jr., Susan Kay Swick, Shirley (Rick); and daughter-in-law, Debi Swick. He was a proud grandfather to Dave's children, Maegan, Alison; Gary's children, David, Rachel, Krystal, Carrie, Ammie, Christian, Joy; Sue's children, Sarah, and Katie. He was blessed with twenty-two great-grandchildren; Dave's grandchildren, Ellie, Addison, Camden, Callen, Luca, Gary's grandchildren; Tara, Jaden, McKenzie, Alex, Morgan, Samuel, Maria, William, Eliana, Milly,

Locke; Sue's grandchildren, Kali, Skylar, Lainey, Lennon, Truman, and Shepherd. "Grandpa" was deeply proud of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought immeasurable joy to his life and were instrumental in his continuing ability to face each day with love and determination. He is also survived by his brother, Thomas Swick; sisters, Nancy Nay and Becky Hammond; and many beloved nieces and nephews who admired their Uncle Dave.

In 1956 and 1957, Dave worked as an apprentice ironworker on the Mackinac Bridge, a project he always took pride in. In 1963, he moved his family to Waterloo, Iowa to pursue his passion for hockey, playing for the Waterloo Black Hawks of the USHL. Known for his humility and leadership, he served as team captain and helped lead the Black Hawks to five consecutive championships during an incredible eight-year playing career.

After retiring as a player, Dave coached the Black Hawks for three successful seasons. He later devoted many years to coaching the Waterloo Warriors High School hockey team alongside his son, Dave Jr., and close friend, Terry Hoath. Through his leadership, sportsmanship, and encouragement, he positively influenced countless young athletes who affectionately nicknamed him, "Birdie".

Dave retired from his construction career in 1998 and returned home to Michigan, where he enjoyed family, friendships, and the blessings of a life filled with faith and purpose.

Above all else, Dave loved the Lord, his family, and the game of hockey. He was known for his kindness, humility, unwavering faith, and quiet strength. His example taught those around him how to live with gratitude, perseverance, and grace.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026, beginning at 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, at The First Church of Christ, 300 W. Spruce Street, Sault Ste Marie, MI, 49783. The Funeral Service will begin at 12:00 Noon with Steve Habusta officiating. A luncheon will follow the services at the church.

Services will be live streamed for those wanting to view from afar. The church will have this on their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstchurchofchrist7017/streams>

Dave was raised in this church and has been a life-long member. He was known there as the unofficial greeter.

Two of Dave's favorite hymns were "Because He Lives", and "I'll Fly Away," both fitting reflections of his faith and hope he carried throughout his life.

Bye-Bye "Birdie", fly, fly away until we see you again.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Cemetery Details

Pine Grove Cemetery

5901 S Mackinac Trail
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 27. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ
300 Spruce St. W.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Funeral Service

JUN 27. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ
300 Spruce St. W.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783