



John "David" Whyte

February 29, 1940 - December 2, 2020

John "David" Whyte, age 80, of Sugar Island, Michigan, died on December 2, 2020. He was born February 29, 1940 to James and Barbara (Cole) Whyte in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

David grew up in a military family that brought him to many places and gave him many experiences. One of the most interesting was his time living on the island of Guam. That military life brought David's family to settle in Pickford, Michigan, where he met his high school sweetheart, then bride, Patricia Jeske. The two raised four beautiful children in Sault Ste. Marie and then moved to Sugar Island, Michigan in the mid- 90's where they have enjoyed island life ever since.

David enjoyed hunting and fishing. Each fishing trip taken with his son-in-law Harold or his many fishing buddies usually resulted in a story or two filled with humor. One of the best parts of island life for David were his many friends and feeding his band of ducks that he would call to the yard with his unique "quack". To his great grandkids he was known as "Papa Duck". He also enjoyed talking to and feeding the two Sand Hill Cranes that returned each spring. They trusted him so much they would venture up onto the deck to knock on the sliding door. This resulted in replacement of two or three screens throughout the years. David enjoyed the peacefulness of the river in front of his house and mowing the lawn on his tractor after dark.

Relatively early in life, David became owner of Soo Imports Volkswagen dealership in 1974 where he had been the General Manager since the mid 60's. Cars were an everyday part of life and while growing up, all four of his children learned to drive a stick shift pretty well, even before they were able to legally drive. And recently, when David took his favorite little car to a Valet, he became aware that most young people of today never learned to drive a stick, so he offered to teach them, which made him smile.

At its infancy, David was part of the car dealership "Coffee" group that had the vision of a five-hundred-mile snowmobile race. He was part of the original work crew to build the track that became home to the International 500 and went on and qualified in the first couple of races. He often boasted about still holding records at the Soo I-500 Track. "First driver out", inaugural race of 1969, "Slowest qualifying time", when he blew the track on his machine, then pushed it across the finish line. And the "Shortest race ever run" (1/4 mile), where he blew the engine at the start under the bridge.

David and Pat enjoyed camping and traveling. They visited Hawaii, Japan and Germany and took their children to Florida every year and traveled along the Eastern Coast of the U.S. when they were young. David especially enjoyed annual camping trips with the Jeske Family, to which he was referred to as "Favorite Uncle Dave". David loved to play cards with his friends on Thursday nights, but we never heard if he won. He was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church, a Past Worshipful Master of Bethel 358 of the Masonic Lodge of Michigan and was Associate Patron of the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter #82, Order of Eastern Star. After graduating from Lake Superior State University late in life, David enjoyed his career as an Attorney, graduating from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1985 and was a member of the Michigan Bar Association. He especially enjoyed the work he did with the Sault Tribe youth via Tribal Court.

David is survived by his wife of 62 years, Patricia; children, Janice (Harold) Bailey of Sugar Island, Michigan, Michael Whyte of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Jonna (Dan) Hudson of Royal Oak, Michigan, and Rhonda Grochowalski, Grand Rapids, Michigan; grandchildren, Nicholas (Michelle) Veit, Joe (Laura) Bailey, Jamie Kirts, Andrew Kirts, Jeni Hudson, EJ Grochowalski, and Emily Grochowalski; great-grandchildren, Brianna Kik, Christian Caskey, Damien Veit, Kaylen Veit, Westin Bailey, and Jenna Bailey; and siblings, Samuel Whyte of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Judy Sinkovich of Alliance, Ohio. Sister and Brother-in-laws, Alice and Dale MacDowell, Carol and Jake Postma, John Jeske, Eda and Jeff Palo and Margaret Bess. Cousins Sue Griffith, Emery Cole and Sue Clark.

David was preceded in death by his parents, James Whyte, Barbara Ross and step- father, Sonny Ross; brothers, James and Nicholas Whyte; nephew, Jimmy Whyte; in-laws, Bert and Amanda Jeske; brother-in-law, "Bud" Jeske; nephews, Darrin, Kurtis and their baby sister, Marcy Jo Postma; and great nephew, Tyler Bares.

David has been cremated and his ashes will be with Pat until they are together again. A celebration of life will be held in warmer weather this summer as he hated the cold. David requested that friends and family come with a story to "Roast" him and enjoy the many "Dave Whyte" stories that will be told. As a father, David always told the kids and grandkids about a hidden treasure, adding that there might even be a map. Of course, the kids and grandkids always asked where the treasure was buried. During his last days, it became very apparent that each of them were a treasure, time with loved ones is a treasure, memories you create and experience share with a love one is a treasure. It's not the X on the map.

In their golden years, David was an excellent caregiver to his wife Patricia through a serious illness and again in protecting them both from the threat of COVID. Words cannot describe the wonderful care the War Memorial Hospital Family provided to David and his loved ones throughout David's cancer journey. The family would like to thank all staff, but especially Dr. Chander and his office staff, Dr. Jensen, Chelsea and Oncology Staff and the Road to Recovery volunteers.

The family has asked that each of you consider supporting the frontline and essential workers at War Memorial Hospital and in our community. Whether it be gift cards that support local businesses, sending holiday cookies, a meal to their home or work, or cards of support and thanks while they fight this battle against Covid-19.

Cards can be sent to Patricia Whyte, 888 S. Westshore Dr., Sault Ste. Marie, Mi 49783

Tribute Wall



“ *John "David" Whyte*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *John "David" Whyte*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *John "David" Whyte*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *I'm so very sorry for your family's loss. Prayers & condolences to you. May beautiful memories live on in your hearts.*

Pamela Stanaway - December 12, 2020 at 11:04 AM



“ *Our sincere condolences to the family, Terry Materna*

Terry Materna - December 07, 2020 at 02:13 PM



“ *Ever time I seen David he would tell me a story about my dad on how they meet or some funny ones I really enjoyed them last time was in the parking lot of parkers hardware
Sorry for your loss he was a great man*

Julie Kinney - December 06, 2020 at 10:21 AM

BH

“ Bonnie Hewer lit a candle in memory of John "David" Whyte



Bonnie Hewer - December 05, 2020 at 08:00 PM

JL

“ I will always remember Daves laughter and big smile, he would bring my husband and I fresh veggies from his garden and tll me he had fresh fish. He was one of the 1st people to come to offer his condolences when my husband passed away in 2010. He brought sunshine with his smile. Joy Lewis

joy lewis - December 05, 2020 at 12:29 PM

JL

my condolences and love to you all

joy lewis - December 05, 2020 at 12:30 PM

PS

“ Sorry to hear of David's passing. I have good courtroom memories of him.

Patrick Shannon - December 05, 2020 at 11:35 AM

JL

“ David always had a smile and kind words when I babysat his kids when I was in high school. I hope all of the good memories will comfort you at this sad time.

Janice (Hanna) Lamour

Janice Lamour - December 05, 2020 at 11:13 AM

CK

“ I truly enjoyed it when J David came to see me at the District Court when I was working there. Always such a kind man, with kind words to pass along to others. Rest in Peace J David, the world has lost such a treasure.

Cindy Kemp - December 05, 2020 at 07:58 AM

PA

“ The Jeske family and friends will never forget the sled rides on those BIG hills on 3 mile road that David took us on!!!! It was a long way back up!!!
May David's family find comfort in the many memories. One of the sled riders Phyllis (Stain) Anderson. Love to all.

Phyllis Anderson - December 04, 2020 at 06:41 PM

DS

Always a smile on his face; always asked about our family; always made time for others!

Debbie and Steve - December 04, 2020 at 10:21 PM

 Sheri Hoolsema

David and I were classmates at Lake State and we spent many hours down in The Galley 'studying' and drinking coffee. He was a great study buddy and definitely made my years at Lake much more enjoyable. And we were almost family!

Sheri Hoolsema - December 05, 2020 at 09:31 AM

DF

I am sorry for the loss of David. I will be forever thankful for the story he shared with me at my dad's funeral. I will never forget it!

DiAnn Firack - December 05, 2020 at 10:11 PM

JN

*Dave used to be our Attorney for a time.
We remember when he use to come into The Copper Kettle
for a sweet roll and a piece of fruit.
We had a Sunday Brunch Bar that said take what you want pay what
you think its worth.
He would pay what he thought it was worth.
One day he checked the menu for prices and found out he over paid.
He sure gave us a hard time, in good fun of course.
See you in heaven Dave.
To the family sorry for your loss.*

Barry and Julie Newcomb

Julie Newcomb - December 18, 2020 at 08:07 PM