



David J. Kelch

January 14, 1945 - October 27, 2020

KELCH, David J., age 75, of Oregonia, passed away Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at Southview Hospital.

David earned a Bachelor's Degree in Photographic Science from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, he came to work for Data Corporation in Beavercreek, which eventually became MTL Systems, where he served as chief scientist. His work included imaging and photographic science, serving as a government contractor for the Intelligence Agency of the Department of Defense, NASA and the Air force. In 2012, after more than 45 years of service, he retired from CACI, which had purchased MTL Systems. In 2004, he rediscovered his love for creative photography and started a business called WrenWorks, Fine Art Wildlife and Nature Photography, where upon he became a successful nature photographer. His work could be found at galleries, fine art festivals and shows.

A do-it-yourself kind of guy, David took on any challenge and loved to problem solve, accomplish new things, and achieve. Highly intelligent, family oriented, funny, loyal, and loving, he had an agile mind and was known as a detail man. As a child when asked what he wanted to be, he said "a maker," due to his love of fixing and building things. He was a skilled woodworker who enjoyed the challenge of making reproduction furniture and building the cabinetry, flooring and all other major interior wood components of his home. He even took on the challenge of trying to build wooden pipes for a pipe organ. His other hobbies included reading and seeking out adventures with food and wine. His favorite reading material involved scientific books, current events, mysteries and espionage novels. As an accomplished photographer, he was always seeking an opportunity to be around and within nature. He loved living in the woods overlooking the Little Miami River and enjoyed having wonderful neighbors. The times spent with family for 22 years during Thanksgiving at Hocking Hills will always be some of the fondest memories, along with semi-annual trips with friends and family to the Buckhorn Inn outside of Gatlinburg during April and October each year.

He was preceded in death by parents Clifford and Gertrude Kelch. He is survived by his loving wife, Joann; his sister Paula (Thomas) Elliott; sister-in-law Judy (Terry) Russell; two nephews David and Timothy Russell; and niece Tracy Russell. [L T L]
[SEP SEP]

Due to the pandemic, a celebration of his life will be held at a later date. The family asks that you please take a moment to remember the fun times you have shared with him. Stubbs-Conner Funeral Home in Waynesville is serving the family. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and/or the World Wild Life Fund. Condolences at www.stubbsconner.com.

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Stubbs-Conner Funeral Home - October 30, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ Dave and I shared the projectionist job at the Blackstone Theatre throughout the last two years of high school. Good memories of the midnight runs to the truck stop for breakfast. I learned a lot from Dave about photography. I am greatly saddened by the news of his passing.

Bob Hurwich

Robert Hurwich - November 14, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ I went to RIT with David and remember our mutual fascination with the photographic possibilities of downtown Rochester, NY. Even though we were “science” students, the illustrative aspect of photography has made our lives richer as much as our mutual friendship. Later, David.

Lorenzo Cristaudo - November 04, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ Dear Joanne,

We think back to all of the good times together at art shows, the Buckhorn, the dinners with, of course, a couple of bottles of wine when the conversation and laughter never stopped.

We've learned the hard way that no matter how much you anticipate how you'll feel at this moment, somehow you are unprepared when it happens.
You are in our thoughts and prayers

Love, Ann and Wayne Cruze

Ann Cruze - November 01, 2020 at 05:38 PM



“ Dear Joanne,

Ron and I are saddened to hear of David's passing. Hold your loving memories close and know that God will never leave you. Praying you will feel God's presence and comfort, always. Romans 8: 35-39.

Sincerely
Ron and Nancy Wade

Ron and Nancy Wade - October 31, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ Hi Joann,

I am a voice from the past. Sorry to read about Dave. My prayers are with you and the family. Take care

Sincerely,
Loretta Newman

loretta newman - October 30, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ Hi Joann,

Dee and I are sorry to learn of Dave's passing.
What a talented and creative guy he was.

We will always remember our time together at art shows. We always looked forward to seeing you two. You always had an amazing display. The work that went into setting up an tearing down was huge. We were truly impressed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Bill and Dee Hilt
The Whimsical Garden Art People

Bill an Dee Hilt - October 30, 2020 at 11:17 AM