



David Coke

May 26, 1947 - July 23, 2024

David Gilpatrick Coke Jr., 77, of Rockford died July 23, 2024. Born May 26, 1947 in Wichita, KS; son of David Gilpatrick and Lucille (Ballard) Coke Sr. Graduate of Hampton Dubose Academy in FL. Dave obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Asbury College and his Master's of Divinity Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in Willmore, KY. United in marriage to Paula Middleton on December 26, 1969 in Memphis, TN. Dave had a warm, welcoming personality and was truly a "Jack of All Trades". He enjoyed household projects, fixing cars, and giving his time and talent to those in his circle. Dave was raised in Dixon, Illinois and attended Grand Detour Union Church as a child. He later attended Chapelwood Community Church and served as Pastor of Living Faith Church in Rockton, IL. Dave was a lifelong learner who surrounded himself with the sermons, writings, and teachings of great Evangelists. He was personal friends with Gordon Olson and Harry Conn, renowned Bible scholars. Dave lived out his faith each day; emulating the life of his Savior, Jesus Christ. There was no conversation that Dave would not bring God into. He preached every chance he could. In his younger years, he worked at Warner Brake and Electric, later retiring from Clinton Electronics after 36 years of dedicated service. In his retirement, Dave opened Denali's Pizza, with his family in the former Colonial Village Mall. A devoted following of people loved his pizza, garlic knots, and cheesecake over the years. Survived by his wife, Paula; children, Joshua (Megan) Coke, Jeremy (Sarah) Coke, Jonathan Coke and also grandchildren, Caleb, Ben,

Ryley (Olivia), Josiah (Annalene), Isaac, Anna, Birkey, Mae, great-grandchildren, Lincoln, Reid; sister, Linda (Mike) Cain; niece, Marissa Cain; special friends, Duke Riseling and Pastor Dean Harvey. Preceded in death by his parents and daughter Johannah Coke. Dave's family is grateful to the medical team at Beloit Memorial Hospital ICU for their loving, compassionate care. Visitation Friday, July 26, 2024 from 5 pm to 7 pm at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services; 4301 N. Main St. Rockford. Additional visitation on Saturday, July 27, 2024 from 10 am to 10:45 am at the funeral home, followed by a funeral service at 11 am. Tom Lukashow will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Dave's memory may be made to Paula Coke. Burial is at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Share a memory or condolence at www.graceFH.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Visitation

JUL 27. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Funeral Service

JUL 27. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Graveside Service

JUL 27. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Sunset Memorial Gardens
8800 N. Alpine Rd.
Machensney Park, IL

Tribute Wall

JD

“ *Paula and family, my condolences to you. I regret not having heard of Dave's passing before now. It's been some time since I last saw him. Memories of conversations and time spent with him will rest easy in my mind for the rest of my days. We are all blessed that his path crossed ours and enriched so many lives. This I am sure, was no accident. His devotion to and faith in our savior defined his life and will serve as an example to all who knew him. Dave, may you revel in the beatific vision of God, know all there is to know and spend eternity with Him. John Danielson*

John Danielson - September 11, 2024 at 03:33 PM

JL

“ *Judy Laird lit a candle in memory of David Coke*



Judy Laird - July 30, 2024 at 06:21 PM



“*Dave was one of the most loving and yet straight forward men I have ever known. He never ever stepped back from telling exactly what he believed he needed to say for Jesus to anyone. That was wonderful because you always knew exactly where you stood with Dave. I first met him when I was very young - 18 and a student at MIT. I don't think he thought much of my MIT intellect, but was rather worried that I was going to be carried away by their worldly ways. I wasn't but he didn't know me well and I appreciated his care for me. I was a very quiet and introverted young lady and I think he worried about me and Jesus. A few years later when I was staying at his home with my young family (after I left MIT to marry) he said to me . . . age looks good on you, Laurie. I appreciated his sweet candor. I understood what he meant that he wasn't so worried about me any more. I always respected and loved Dave no matter what he thought of me. He and Paula were extremely influential on our family. This world is one great saint down without him. Much love, Paula, Joshua, Jeremy, Jonathan and families.*

Laurie Callihan - July 28, 2024 at 05:56 PM

DG

“*Paula and family, so sorry to hear about Dave. My life was significantly impacted by Dave (and Paula) when I was in High School. During a difficult season, Dave invested time and energy in me, loving me in ways that I know today, were so needed in my life. My fondest memory is Dave taking me on a canoe trip to the Northwoods – it is a story/adventure I remember often and share regularly. May the God of all comfort be with you and your family in special ways in the days ahead. Mourning the loss but celebrating Dave being with the God he loved and talked about often! Dennis Gaul*

Dennis Gaul - July 27, 2024 at 07:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of David Coke.



July 26, 2024 at 12:22 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of David Coke.



July 25, 2024 at 07:21 PM



“ *Steve, Suzie & Charlotte* purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of David Coke.



Steve, Suzie & Charlotte - July 25, 2024 at 02:53 PM



“ *Dr. Ron Rhea* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Coke.

Dr. Ron Rhea - July 25, 2024 at 02:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Coke.*



July 25, 2024 at 02:42 PM



“ *Sandra M. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of David Coke.*



Sandra M. - July 25, 2024 at 02:02 PM



“ *Susan Lynn Franklin lit a candle in memory of David Coke*



Susan Lynn Franklin - July 25, 2024 at 01:01 PM



“ *Susan Lynn Franklin lit a candle in memory of David Coke*



Susan Lynn Franklin - July 25, 2024 at 01:00 PM

SF

“ Susan Lynn Franklin lit a candle in memory of David Coke



Susan Lynn Franklin - July 25, 2024 at 01:00 PM

SF

“ Susan Lynn Franklin lit a candle in memory of David Coke



Susan Lynn Franklin - July 25, 2024 at 01:00 PM

MM

“ Mitchell M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Gilpatrick Coke, Jr..

Mitchell M. - July 25, 2024 at 11:06 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of David Coke.



July 25, 2024 at 07:08 AM