



## David Frederick Ruch

May 16, 1960 - May 8, 2023

Culminating a lengthy battle with health issues related to strokes, on May 8, 2023, David Frederick Ruch peacefully escaped the earthly bonds and joined Jesus, and loved ones gone before, in heaven. Dave defied the odds, and doctors' prognoses, by surviving eight years after his first stroke, at which time he and his beloved wife Patty were advised to get Dave's affairs in order. During those God-given bonus years, Dave earned immeasurable pleasure seeing his older son Kevin graduate in electrical engineering from Kennesaw State, embark on a promising career, and marry his love Katelyn Hayes; and his younger son Randy graduate with highest honors in Physics from Georgia Tech (two days before Dave passed) to go on and pursue his PhD. Dave relished the additional time with the love of his life, Patty, as well as family and friends, managing health-related issues and life in general with his hallmark determination and tenacity. Dave was born on May 16, 1960, the third of four children, to NASA Engineer Robert Ruch and his lovely bride Joan Ann Huber Ruch. The family moved from Lorain, Ohio to the Atlanta area when Dave was in third grade and his father began working for the Environmental Protection Agency. With his up-for-adventure nature, Dave promptly developed close friendships in his new hometown, some of which lasted the remainder of his life. Dave graduated in 1978 from Shamrock High School in Decatur, Georgia. Dave and Patty met at the University of Georgia and quickly became inseparable. He finished college in 1983 with a specialized degree in biomedical engineering and forged his 29-year career at AVL Scientific, later

to become Idexx Laboratories' OptiMedical Division. He fully supported Patty in excelling in her nonprofit marketing career, which often called her to travel. During the times Patty had to be away, Dave juggled household and parenting duties like a champ. Dave's hobbies included cheering on UGA football, boating on Lake Lanier, studying astronomy and working in the yard. Whether it be fine-tuning the art of grilling steaks or continually tweaking his top-notch basement workshop, Dave approached his earthly endeavors with the goal of perfection. Dave is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Patricia Lynn Pickard Ruch, and his sons Kevin Stephens Ruch (Katelyn) and Randall Thomas Ruch; his sister Katherine A. Willis (Bob), his brother Richard W. Ruch, and brother and best friend Douglas R. Ruch. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his father Robert Ruch and mother Joan Ann Huber Ruch. Those left behind will miss Dave's dry wit, his faithful friendship and devoted nature. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home in Buford, GA., with Dr. Lamar Holley officiating. The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 13. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home  
4400 South Lee Street  
Buford, GA 30518

## Memorial Service

MAY 13. 3:00 PM.

Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home

# Tribute Wall

DL

“ Sorry to hear of Dave's passing. Deepest sympathies and condolences to the Ruch family.

*Dan & Kelley Llewellyn*

---

**Dan Llewellyn** - May 13, 2023 at 01:18 PM

EL

“ I am so sorry to learn of David's passing and feel so for his family's loss. David was a student in my 11th grade English class at Shamrock High School in 1976/77. That class was one of the most memorable ones I ever taught, and David was a bright spot in it. I remember being especially touched when he and his family invited me to dinner one evening that year. That meant a lot to a second-year teacher. Later, in the summer of 1980 David was the waterfront instructor when he served as a counselor at Camp Cherokee for boys on Lake Burton, where I worked for many summers. The campers loved David. He seemed to enjoy everything he did, and he wasn't often without that infectious smile. It still caught my attention in his AJC obituary photo even before I read his name. I'm glad he and his sons accomplished so much before his passing. My deepest sympathies go to his family. —Ellis Loyd

---

**Ellis Loyd** - May 12, 2023 at 08:17 PM

DJ

“ Please accept my sympathies for the loss of David. I so fondly remember our years together at Shamrock High School. While David and I did not keep in touch after high school, I have thought of him often. He was a real mainstay at Shamrock, so very kind, engaged and energetic. He was a good friend to all of us. May God Bless the Ruch family now and always.

*Daniel Johnson*

---

**Daniel Johnson** - May 10, 2023 at 10:14 AM

CS

“ Dave was a great friend and partner in all things fun, back in "the days". We didn't see each other much after high school, but when we did, it was as if we hadn't missed a beat! My sympathies to Patty and his sons, and also to Wally and Doug. Dave will be so missed by all of us.

*Clyde Scheel*

---

**Clyde Scheel** - May 10, 2023 at 06:01 AM

SD

“ My deepest condolences to the Ruch family . David was always a guy I admired for his strong sense of humor . We had some really good times w him and Patty camping. We will miss him dearly and may he rest in peace.

*Love the Demos family*

---

**Stephanie Demos** - May 09, 2023 at 05:34 PM

JC

“ Patty, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the boys.

---

**Jennifer (Parker) Carter** - May 09, 2023 at 05:22 PM

AM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you Patty and Family*



---

**Amelia** - May 09, 2023 at 04:32 PM

MS

“ *Patty, Kevin, & Randy and all of Dave's family and friends - Wayne and I are so sorry to hear of your loss. He was loved dearly and loved you all so much. Our thoughts and sympathies are with you. - Melissa & Wayne Sheppard*

---

**Melissa Sheppard** - May 09, 2023 at 04:11 PM