



John Daniel "Z" Zedrow

September 26, 2023

John Daniel "Z" Zedrow passed away unexpectedly of unknown causes on September 26, 2023 at age 75 (going on 50) years young. He died just after doing one of the things he loved most: taking a pontoon ride on his boat "Jimmy" and listening to music near his beloved lake house on Lake Lanier. He had just taken a picture of the Lord's beautiful sunset. He spent the day doing "projects" – one of his biggest passions in life. His desire to stay busy was unsurpassed; whether he was building decks, doing home maintenance, helping others, or just blowing the leaves. Z was loved by so many and never met a stranger. His warmth and charisma touched not only all who knew and loved him, but also those he had just met. He will be remembered as kind, selfless, humorous, loving, devoted, knowledgeable, humble, hard-working, generous, and completely unpretentious. He was the definition of "a really great guy."

Z was an Illinois native growing up on a dairy farm in Naperville. He held state track records for many years, ran collegiate track, and attended the University of Illinois and Western Michigan University, earning a BS degree in Aviation Management & Engineering. His thesis was to build a plane and then be graded by a successful solo flight. Needless to say, he passed with "flying" colors. His memories of those days were priceless, and he had always wanted to continue flying, but the fuel shortages in the mid-70s precluded that career. He was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and was proud to connect with many Sigma Chis (including his son-in-law) later in life. He served in the US

Army during the Vietnam War and was an M16 marksman and a field mechanic, working on jeeps and helicopters. He was also in the US Army Reserves for 6 years. He moved to Atlanta in 1976 where he met his best friend and soon to be wife, Patti. They married a year later and celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary in April. Their connection began over their love of the lake and music, and continued throughout their marriage as they shared hobbies and many joyous years raising their daughter and celebrating life with friends and family.

Z worked for Carrier Corporation for almost 40 years in Commercial & Industrial sales. He was connected to so many people in the industry, and he couldn't ride around the city without pointing out the buildings whose air conditioning was a courtesy of his efforts. One of his most beloved customers was Lockheed Martin. His gate pass into their complex was a very treasured item, one he jokingly bragged about.

Z was a man of many hobbies. He was a scuba diver, a snow skier, a gardener, a train collector, a "Mr. Fix-it," and an avid sports fan (especially for Auburn, the Braves, and the Cubs). He was ceremoniously and humorously inducted into the Auburn Alumni Association by his dear Auburn friends. He was genuinely and proudly part of the Auburn family.

Z's daughter, Jayme, was the twinkle in his eye and the beat of his heart. Their connection was incredibly deep and incomparable. Jayme's friends had a second dad, and he always felt so blessed to be a part of their lives. Jayme and her husband Casey are expecting their first child in January. Z and Patti had such fun preparing a nursery in anticipation of their granddaughter, and we know Z will forever be her guardian angel.

Z was an incredible husband, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend to all. He has been united in heaven with his parents (John and Laura Zedrow), the mother-in-law he adored (Isabel Palmer), and some of his dearest friends, all of whom we know welcomed him with open arms. Z is survived by his wife Patti, his daughter Jayme (Casey) Maher, his siblings Laura Jo Zedrow (Mike Milligan), Don (Linda) Zedrow, and Martha (Chip) Heun, his sisters-in-law,

Joan Johnson and Shirley (Scott) Childs, and his many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A service will be held at the Catholic Church of St. Ann in Marietta, GA on November 10th at 11am followed by a reception at the Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to BrightPoint for Children, a non-profit organization dear to his heart. <https://brightpointforchildren.org>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Catholic Church of St. Ann
4905 Roswell Rd
Marietta, GA

Tribute Wall

CC

“*Sending love to the Zedrow family. I work with Patti and love her stories of Z and Jayme, their adventures at the lake and on their travels. I especially loved hearing of their snowmobile adventure when Z booked them on the intermediate-level course by mistake! In true Zedrow fashion, they tackled and completed the course! I was fortunate to meet Z and experience what a warm and caring person he was, so easy to talk to, just like Patti! I love you all and send prayers for comfort and peace.*”



Cathi Cahn - October 09, 2023 at 11:10 AM

MD

“*“Z”, the legend and the Man. Dan it’s been a minute since we have spoken or seen each other and I will cherish every moment we had together at Carrier and outside of our daily routine at work. I’ll never forget the times we had out your lake house with our buddies from the office, planning- cooking- enjoying our friends. Dan you made a tremendous difference in my life and many others. I know you worshiped Patti and Jamie . I’ll never forget to hear when Jamie started to date - how you were going to be watching over her. Well “Z” I know you loved your lake house, your family and friends, God called you home from your happy place to be reunited with your parents who I know you loved. Brother I was shocked to hear what happened, as I share my thoughts with others, I will morn and miss the man and his favorite phrase “ Dam-it” love you brother and will see you on day again.
Prayers for Patti , Jamie her spouse and your upcoming grandchild.*”

Love you- Mike and Lisa Dunn

Mike Dunn - October 08, 2023 at 12:01 PM



“ Z was our next door neighbor growing up. He was always so friendly to everyone. He and my dad always enjoyed the Auburn-UGA rivalry. My heart goes out to the family.

Andy Pohl - October 07, 2023 at 04:46 PM



“ Z was my first Sales Manager; though I never felt “managed”. He mentored, he gently guided by asking questions; he was like the farmer who whispered to his mules, and the crops always went in straight. He nurtured with humor, like “if your customer ever offers you a mint or a piece of gum TAKE IT rather than wondering if you have bad breath!” Or, simple Z wisdom like “don’t let anybody else do your selling for you”, or “ when you ask for the order, take your customers hand and look him in the eye”. He was one of a kind, but he shared his simple methods with so many, with a genuine wish to help you succeed. A steadfast and positive force, with an absolutely hilarious sense of humor, you were a joy to be near, even so many years later with the physical distance between us; a true friend for a lifetime. You will be sorely missed, peace be your journey. Petey, or fat boy, or whatever else you might have called me through the years. I love ya buddy, Pete Russell

Pete Russell - October 07, 2023 at 12:01 PM



“ My heart is heavy with sadness. Words cannot express how deeply sorry I am for this tremendous loss that you and your family have experienced. I pray that the Lord will surround you with a peace that surpasses all understanding and give you an abundance of grace and strength in the days ahead.
Much Love, Stephanie Quinlan

Stephanie Quinlan - October 06, 2023 at 06:58 PM

SQ

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Much Love, Stephanie Quinlan

Stephanie Quinlan - October 06, 2023 at 06:07 PM

AL

“ *Absolutely heartbreaking. Dan was a true gentleman with the kindest heart and the most beautiful smile. The forever smile. Dan will be missed by thousands.*

Anne Liney - October 06, 2023 at 05:38 PM

JZ

“ *Many years ago, Danny(Z) was probably 5-6 and I was 3-4. We were living at the farm and I was walking around the edge of the cow trough. I fell in and then couldn't stand up bc it was slippery. My big brother threw me a long piece of twine and instructed me to put it around my neck and hold on. He pulled me to the edge and helped me out. He became my hero that day and remained my guardian from then onwards! He was watching me through life and offered loving criticism often. Ha! LOVED THAT GUY*

Jo Zedrow - October 06, 2023 at 05:36 PM

CM

“ So sorry to hear about the unexpected passing of Coach Z. My deepest condolences to the Zedrow family during this difficult time. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. My daughter had Z as her basketball coach when she was little and absolutely loved him. He will be dearly missed.
Cheryl Marchesseault



Cheryl Marchesseault - October 06, 2023 at 04:07 PM

CA

Z (Dan) was a wonderful human being. He was very special to me and his family. I met him at his daughters wedding, jamie and Patti. I've been very close to me for the past few years. Zey came and got his haircut by me in the last three years or 2 1/2 if you're counting I could be wrong with my calculations but he was always fun in my chair full of laughter joking around and always having fun and very caring husband. Also he worked hard on his houses and his landscaping was beautiful will be missed but I want to be positive for him and his family , he won't be forgotten and I will still laugh when I hear his name !

Charles Awtrey - October 06, 2023 at 06:11 PM

MS

Patty all our Phi Mu Auburn hearts go out to you. We love you and know this is unbelievably hard. Just know you put a true sparkle I. His eyes. For years. You've always had that impact on people. Deep love to you xox
Margaret Morgan Stewart

margaret stewart - October 07, 2023 at 08:59 PM

C"

Our friendship dates back sixty five or more years. We lived across the street from each other and our families were great friends.

We grew up knowing almost each others thoughts, likes, dislikes, who was stronger, FASTER, and thought that there was nothing we couldn't do.

Sports, friends, brothers and sisters, our parents all played a part in our growth to now being a parent and spouse to our new "best friend".

We cherished news about our children and their travels through life, our cherished lake front property and our deep appreciation for all that was provided us

Physical separation began when we left for college and navigated those years away from family and friends. Careers also separated us from Chicagoland to Georgia BUT our friendship remained as always....solid.

I miss you and our phone calls as we travel long distances in our cars. Those talks kept the miles from being too long and seemed to shorten our time behind the wheel.

You will always be my brother. Your bothers and sisters will too be part of my extended family. Most of all, I hope I can be part of your immediate family in Georgia for all time.

Pete Mile Relay 3:23.4 NCHS Track and Field

Charles Schlueter "Pete" - October 11, 2023 at 06:41 PM

EP

Dan was a perfect gentleman, with absolute love for his family. He and I spent many hours, days, and weeks together with Carrier projects, sales and technical issues. I enjoyed every minute being with his humor, knowledge and perspectives. Although sales was his goal, he always kept in mind generating possibilities for all the technicians, being concerned with keeping us busy. I never heard a single negative comment about Dan from anybody, likewise he never offered any negatives about other people. Our discussions sometimes went to spiritual matters, and there he was well a informed believer, willing to share his love for others as Christ loved others. Dan, I really miss those conversations with you. With much love to Patti, Jayme and family I offer the deepest emotion I can express. Know that your heart will always possess him.

Earnest Pierce - November 08, 2023 at 10:49 AM

MM

It's a shame when good friends lose contact. I retired from Carrier Corp in 2004 and was the Branch Sales Manager in Nashville when Dan first started traveling to Tennessee as a service salesman. It was about 1980 when I first met Dan and my wife and I had just moved into our new house. Dan came into town so we had Dan come over for dinner. We sat around after dinner laughing as we listened to a Jerry Clower album. Always as great friend. We will miss him.

Sorry for this late post but I just found out about this great loss. Prayers to his family who I know he loved.

Mike Martin - Nashville

Mike Martin - September 10, 2024 at 06:40 PM