



Dave Kimball

September 11, 1963 - December 27, 2019

How can the story of a great big life, like the one lived by David Scot Kimball, possibly fit into a small white space? Dave, as he was known by most people, packed 100 years of living into 56 years of life—a life that was cut way too short. The man who seemed larger than life passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 27, 2019, at his home in Elk Creek, Nebraska.

Dave was a nuclear professional, traveler, prankster, and friend to everyone who knew him. He divided his time between homes in Lincoln, Elk Creek, and Mesa, AZ, and enjoyed each place with childlike exuberance. He made sure that everyone around him did, too.

He was first and foremost a father who adored and doted on his children—Tyler, 32, of Los Angeles, CA, and Dariane, 30, of Mesa, AZ. He was incredibly proud of each and was quick to say so. He was also extremely proud of his fiancée, Tammie Burns of Lincoln, NE, whom he lovingly called “TamBurns.” She was his perfect match in every way, and filled his final years with joy. Friends and family often said that they had never seen Dave or Tammie so happy. Theirs was a love that was worth the wait.

Dave was also a Christ follower, a spiritual man who let his light shine in everything he did. He was kind and giving, enormously generous, and firmly believed in heaven, where he now resides.

He was raised in a Christian home, having been born on September 11, 1963 to Richard and Judy Kimball of Auburn. He attended Auburn Public Schools, where he was a stand-out athlete, scholar, actor, singer, class officer, and homecoming king. He had a twinkle in his eye that endeared him to teachers, and a playful spirit that drew people to him in droves. He graduated from Auburn High School in 1982, and played football for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, lettering as part of the freshman squad. He then transferred to Peru State College, where he played for the Bobcats, and where he ultimately earned his bachelor’s degree in mathematics.

Dave took a job at NPPD’s Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownville, Nebraska, in 1986, and he was hired full-time as a health physics technician in early 1988. He married Tracy Searcey in 1987 and together they had Tyler and Dariane. The couple co-owned and operated the Village Tavern in Elk Creek for many years, until their separation.

Dave served NPPD for over 33 years, and rose through the ranks until he achieved seniority as the Director of Nuclear Oversight. He often traveled the country as a Cooper representative, and represented NPPD at conferences in Japan and Europe, as well. He was as respected in his professional life as he was loved in his personal life.

Never a stranger to anyone for long, Dave had friends across the country. His closest friends, however, were those whose roots were entangled with his own. In his presence, each friend felt like the most important person in the room. He teased with playful jabs, but also shared his huge heart with anyone who needed him. The best word to describe him was genuine. He truly cared about others, and cheered enthusiastically for their successes. With Dave, his word was his bond. His heart broke for those in need. When he knew someone was struggling, he was the first one to lend a hand.

Dave was passionate about everything, and pursued his interests with undaunted enthusiasm. He loved to ride his Harley and enjoyed working on house projects. He also loved being outdoors. Whether he was hitting long drives at his favorite golf course or taking long sips of his favorite whiskey, he made every moment count. He especially did so with people. He wanted everyone around him to feel special and known.

He and Tammie were Husker fans who held season tickets to home football and volleyball games. When they walked around Husker nation and greeted fans at tail-gate parties, he worked the area like he was running for president. His excitement for the team, and for everything else in his life, shone through his sparkling eyes and radiant smile. His zeal for life was truly contagious.

There will never be another soul like David. Everyone who knew him loved him. Always had. Always will.

Dave was preceded in death by his father, Richard A. Kimball; grandparents, Philip and Anna Palmer; Carl and Majorie Kimball and Ellen Heins; two aunts and two uncles.

Those left to mourn his passing are: his children, Tyler Kimball, Los Angeles, CA; Dariane Kimball and boyfriend, Bryce Howard, both of Mesa, AZ; fiancée, Tammie Burns of Lincoln, NE; mother, Judy Kimball of Auburn; siblings, Mike Kimball and Michelle Kimball, both of Auburn, and Lori (Randy) Gottula of Falls City, NE; nieces Cassie (Brian) Shaw of Brownville, NE, and Shanda (Andy) Hall of Schuyler, NE; and nephew Todd (Kristin) Gottula of Kearney, NE; several great-nephews and nieces; other relatives, and a host of friends whose lives have been changed forever, simply for having known him.

As Dave often said, it's not goodbye, it's see ya later. Until we meet again....

A celebration of life will be held Wednesday, January 1, 2:00 p.m. at the Auburn High School in Auburn. Visitation will be at the funeral home Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with family greeting friends from 4:00 to 6:00. Burial of ashes will take place at a later date in Sheridan Cemetery at Auburn.

Memorials are suggested to the family for later designation.

Events

DEC **Visitation** 09:00AM - 06:00PM

31

Hemmingsen Funeral Home
801 S Street, Auburn, NE, US

DEC **Family Greeting Friends** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

31

Hemmingsen Funeral Home
801 S Street, Auburn, NE, US

JAN **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM

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Auburn High School
1829 Central Avenue, Auburn, NE, US, 68305

Comments



“ I just heard of Dave's passing and am in shock! I met Dave in 2003 at CNS. He was a RP Supervisor and showed the leadership I was looking for. I hired him as an Outage Manager, and to this day, sing his praises! He could move mountains with his enthusiasm! He was a great Outage Manager. I was so proud to watch Dave's career blossom! On a personal note, we would come across each other in the industry every now and then and he always welcomed me with a smile and a thanks for the "opportunity". I was grateful for him! He was a bright spot to a difficult period professionally and personally for me. I spoke with Dave this past November on a call just to catch up and he told me how happy he was with his life. He had found someone to share life with and was looking forward to retirement and a more minimalized life. He bragged about his children and graciously listened as I bragged about mine. I have always respected Dave and will be forever grateful to call him my friend. May you rest in peace Dave and shine your light on all who look to "see you again". God Bless your family and friends. May the memories they hold guide them through these difficult times.

Kenda Knight

Kenda Knight - February 13, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ My sincere condolences to Judy, Mike, Michelle, Lori and the rest of Dave's Family. I was out of State and did not hear of this news until I returned today. As a distant relative, please accept my expression of sympathy to all. Rest In Peace Dave.

Randy and Cheryl Den

Randy and Cheryl Den - January 05, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ I couldn't be there for Dave's celebration of life but my heart sure was. He was one of the good ones. A true gentleman. I'll miss you, Dave. Thank you for the memories.

Traci Gillispie - January 03, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ Sincerest sympathies to Dave's family. We worked together at Cooper. He always had a smile and a kind word. Even after I left Cooper, he reached out periodically to see how things were going with me at my new plant.

Meshelle Augustin - January 01, 2020 at 10:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



January 01, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ Dave was a good friend since grade school. A great person with a smile and kind words to everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Gary Oldfield - January 01, 2020 at 12:00 PM



“ With tears in my eyes that was the best obituary I have ever read. Dave was everything that was written and more. Definitely a one of a kind. Rest in Peace my dear friend.



Missy Grooms - January 01, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ Kriste (Heideman) DeBauche lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Kriste (Heideman) DeBauche - January 01, 2020 at 09:07 AM



“ Great memories with David & the family from boating/camping days to Cancun, Mexico and our first bull fight. Lake Tahoe together was another wonderful time! The Jones Family was blessed to know you & yours!

Marla Jones - December 31, 2019 at 10:49 PM



“ Charlie Kennedy lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Charlie Kennedy - December 31, 2019 at 07:01 PM



“ Without sorrow, the heart would never learn the meaning of joy.
Without tears, our eyes would never see what we hold inside.
Without darkness, we would have no reason to look to the light of Heaven.
Irish Proverb

Charlie Kennedy - December 31, 2019 at 07:06 PM



“ Tammie, family and friends all knew a very special man . Our heart aches for you. The obituary shared wonderful insight to a great guy! It was all so true. We'll remember your trips to see us in Arizona and being a special friend in Nebraska. His smile and BIG hugs will be cherished.

Love and prayers for all,
Ken & Mary Beth Kunze
Sun City West, AZ and
York, Nebraska
NPPD Board Member

Ken /Mary Beth Kunze - January 01, 2020 at 02:05 PM



“ Karla Parkhurst Stanley lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Karla Parkhurst Stanley - December 31, 2019 at 04:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 31, 2019 at 04:39 PM



“ Ann & Robert Plohal lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Ann & Robert Plohal - December 31, 2019 at 04:11 PM



“ Bruce And Karen Haughton lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Bruce and Karen Haughton - December 31, 2019 at 02:23 PM



“ Ronda (Schroeder) Chab lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Ronda (Schroeder) Chab - December 31, 2019 at 01:41 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 31, 2019 at 12:27 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 31, 2019 at 11:33 AM



“ Brian and Laura Runge, Randy and Deb Barton purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Dave Kimball.



Brian and Laura Runge, Randy and Deb Barton - December 31, 2019 at 11:26 AM



“ Ritchie, Ted, Phyllis, Kriste and Todd Russ Family purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Dave Kimball.



Ritchie, Ted, Phyllis, Kriste and Todd Russ Family - December 30, 2019 at 10:30 PM



“ Janet Beazley purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Dave Kimball.



Janet Beazley - December 30, 2019 at 10:01 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to Tyler, Dariane, Tammie and all of Dave's family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God grant you comfort, strength and peace.



Eldon and Lois Ann Bartels - December 30, 2019 at 09:44 PM



“ Dave was a Great back yard neighbor to us in Elk Creek these past few years. He always had a smile & said Hey when he seen us. Our girls enjoyed working for him at the village tavern. He even gave Michelle the nickname Smalls that has stuck with her to this day! We will miss our dog barking to let us know you were back there sitting at your fire pit or just getting home for the day. You were kind, caring & friendly to all of us. You will be missed by everyone who got to know you. Our prayers, love, hugs & sympathy to Tyler, Dariane, Tammie & all of Daves family

Brett, Laura, Megan, Michelle & Zachary - December 30, 2019 at 09:08 PM



“ Thank you so much for your kind words. All of the comments about Dave help to bring comfort to this unbearable tragedy. Lori Gottula (Dave's sister).

Lori Gottula - December 31, 2019 at 03:01 AM



“ Every time I saw Dave he gave me a big hug and smile. Going to miss those. Prayers to your family.

Dianna Grafton - December 31, 2019 at 10:52 AM



“ Our thoughts & prayers to Dave's family. The world is a better place having Dave shared it with everyone. May Dave rest in peace & may God bless his family.

Don & Joy Robison

Don & Joy Robison - December 31, 2019 at 03:10 PM



“ I remember the first time I met David. It was in the mid 80's at his home in Auburn. He was the first person I met (beside myself and my sister Lori) who LOVED Hank Jr!!! He had as many albums as I did!! He was a great father to his children and friend to all. He probably never met a stranger!

He will be missed greatly by all who knew him. He is at peace in his new Heavenly Home.

Prayers for all his family and friends.

Roxy Gottula

Roxanne Gottula - December 31, 2019 at 08:21 PM



“ Brett, Laura, Megan, Michelle & Zachary lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Brett, Laura, Megan, Michelle & Zachary - December 30, 2019 at 08:58 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the family
God Bless

Garth Shafer

Garth Shafer - December 30, 2019 at 08:30 PM



“ Prayers to the Dave Kimball family. We have many fond memories that we will treasure. We had a grand plan to do the loop when he retired. Our hearts are saddened and prayers are with you all. Dave was a light to many and will be missed by all.

Tom and Carol Holt



TOM and CAROL HOLT - December 30, 2019 at 07:37 PM



“ TOM And CAROL HOLT lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



TOM and CAROL HOLT - December 30, 2019 at 07:10 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 30, 2019 at 05:24 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 30, 2019 at 04:52 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 30, 2019 at 04:32 PM



“ Wendy Mason lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



wendy mason - December 30, 2019 at 04:04 PM



“ Prayers and Hugs sent to the Kimball family

wendy mason - December 30, 2019 at 04:06 PM



“ Michael & Daria Springer-Vance & Kristen Stauffer purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Dave Kimball.



Michael & Daria Springer-Vance & Kristen Stauffer - December 30, 2019 at 03:11 PM



“ Trini Hendricks and Holly Phinney purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dave Kimball.



Trini Hendricks and Holly Phinney - December 30, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ Keith Henning sent a virtual gift in memory of Dave Kimball



Keith Henning - December 30, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ Keith Henning sent a virtual gift in memory of Dave Kimball



Keith Henning - December 30, 2019 at 02:45 PM



“ Keith Henning lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Keith Henning - December 30, 2019 at 02:38 PM



“ Steven Rezab lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Steven Rezab - December 30, 2019 at 01:52 PM



“ Prayers for the Kimball family. May Gods light shine upon you all during this time and give you peace. Dave was a great person and will be missed by all, even those afar.

Doug George - December 30, 2019 at 01:23 PM



“ Thomas and Joanne Catlett and Family purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Dave Kimball.



Thomas and Joanne Catlett and Family - December 30, 2019 at 11:43 AM



“ Dave was a great, caring person who gave more than he received. I will miss our reminiscent thoughts about the old days at Cooper and his constant objective of making it a better place. His passing should be a wake up call for all of us to do good each and every day because tomorrow is not promised. Tom P.

Tom Poindexter - December 30, 2019 at 11:25 AM



“ XO Charlie & Kevin purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dave Kimball.



XO Charlie & Kevin - December 30, 2019 at 11:17 AM



“ From Utilities Service Alliance Board of Directors purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Dave Kimball.



From Utilities Service Alliance Board of Directors - December 30, 2019 at 08:20 AM



“ Utilities Service Alliance Staff and Members purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Dave Kimball.



Utilities Service Alliance Staff and Members - December 30, 2019 at 08:17 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Dave's passing, he was such a great person! I always enjoyed and looked forward to the Auburn Alumni Basketball Tournament because it was a few days every year I got to catch up with Dave. Just recently moved back and had just started to reconnect with him. All of his family are in my thoughts and prayers!! He will be greatly missed.

Ray Luhning

Ray Luhning - December 30, 2019 at 07:43 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 30, 2019 at 06:43 AM



“ Janine Uldrich lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Janine Uldrich - December 30, 2019 at 05:35 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy. Dave will be greatly missed. He touched so many lives in such a positive way. Our daughters enjoyed their time working at the Village Tavern with Dave. He taught them a lot.



Lloyd and Deb Pfister - December 30, 2019 at 12:23 AM



“ Steve & Dee Smallfoot lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Steve & Dee Smallfoot - December 29, 2019 at 11:51 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 29, 2019 at 09:15 PM



“ From Your Fellow Auburn Rotarians purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dave Kimball.



From Your Fellow Auburn Rotarians - December 29, 2019 at 09:08 PM



“ Dave was a “one of a kind” gentleman. They broke the mold with Dave. I met him first as a boss, then as a friend. He was remarkable. Dave always had a smile for you, a kind word, a little extra or positive re-inforcement. His energy was always high. I will always smile when I think of Dave. My heart breaks for his family. But I know he is smiling down upon all of us. Barb Stramel



Barb Stramel - December 29, 2019 at 09:03 PM



“ Everett & Michelle Watkins lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Everett & Michelle Watkins - December 29, 2019 at 08:35 PM



“ Kelly Adams lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Kelly Adams - December 29, 2019 at 08:31 PM



“ Dave was a nice young man with a great smile. Always visited with you when he saw you. He has a great family whom we send our sincere condolences to. Are thinking of you all. Larry Donna Mcmann and family

Larry Donna Mcmann - December 29, 2019 at 08:20 PM



“ Barbara & Roy Radloff lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Barbara & Roy Radloff - December 29, 2019 at 08:18 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 29, 2019 at 07:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 29, 2019 at 07:44 PM



“ Terry & Renee Vice lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Terry & Renee Vice - December 29, 2019 at 07:42 PM



“ In remembrance of David. Praying for the Kimball family and Tammie. David was a vibrant, kind, fun loving man. He will be greatly missed.



Deb Whitaker - December 29, 2019 at 07:36 PM



“ Rick & Margaret Clifton lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Rick & Margaret Clifton - December 29, 2019 at 07:05 PM



“ Susie Hanson lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Susie Hanson - December 29, 2019 at 06:54 PM



“ Our hearts are broken for the loss of my cavarone brother he will be missed and never forgotten Love you all!



Russ/Deb Koerner - December 29, 2019 at 06:35 PM



“ Many thoughts and prayers for everyone who will feel this huge hole I'm their hearts. May God grant you many memories! May God Bless You ALL.



Bill and JoLana Randall - December 29, 2019 at 06:29 PM



“ Shirley Torres lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Shirley Torres - December 29, 2019 at 06:29 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss... Our thoughts and prayers~



Adam&Lacey Noa - December 29, 2019 at 05:54 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 29, 2019 at 05:24 PM



“ Tyler, Dari, Tammy, Lori and the rest of Dave’s family. There isn’t enough room on this page to describe your Dad, brother, son and the love of everyone’s life. While on this earth, we will never fully understand why someone so young and needed are taken from us but thankfully we have Gods grace and assurance of life eternal to see us through the dark days. May you all be filled with the peace only God can give, to ease the pain and fill your hearts with precious memories that you all had with Dave! We certainly all have great memories to cherish, like the big hug I got every time we saw him one I will always cherish Love you all, and thankful we had the opportunity to know and love Dave God Bless you all,Fred and Petey



Fred and Petey Pooch - December 29, 2019 at 05:02 PM



“ Tim & Juana Mitchell purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Dave Kimball.



Tim & Juana Mitchell - December 29, 2019 at 05:01 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Dave Kimball.



December 29, 2019 at 04:59 PM



“ Lisa Jones lit a candle in memory of Dave Kimball



Lisa Jones - December 29, 2019 at 04:53 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss. You're in my prayers.

Lisa Jones - December 29, 2019 at 04:55 PM



“ Jeff & Lori Wheeler purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dave Kimball.



Jeff & Lori Wheeler - December 29, 2019 at 04:41 PM



“ Tyler, Dari, Judy, Lori, Michelle, Mike, Tammie and the rest of the family. As you all know, Dave was the best. He was the best father, best son, best brother, best fiancée, best husband and best friend that anyone could have ever asked for. Dave loved all. Dave would do anything for anyone and would put you first, before himself. I hope you all can find a little peace in knowing that Dave was the best of the best. I am forever grateful to have had a little Dave in my life. Rest In Peace, Dave. Love you!

James Lintz - December 29, 2019 at 04:00 PM