



David Carl Ellefson

April 10, 1934 - March 2, 2024

David Carl Ellefson, 89, passed away on March 2, 2024, surrounded by family, at Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina from injuries associated with a snow skiing accident. He resided in Brevard, North Carolina with his life partner, Leslie Lathrop, where they shared a loving, compassionate, and loyal relationship.

David was born in Philip, South Dakota on April 10, 1934, to the Rev. Elmer O. and Verna D. (Dokken) Ellefson, who through their example instilled in him attributes of humble Christian servanthood. Principles he also challenged his children to live by.

Surviving family members include his four children; Dan (Michelle) of Mikana, WI, Julie of St. Paul, MN, Eric (Kristin) of Overland Park, KS, and Ann Sortino (Bob) of Omaha, NE; his ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Dave gifted his descendants with unconditional love and support. He encouraged them to pursue their passions, work hard, and do things the “right way.” He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Harris Hostager.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and sister-in-law, John and Joan Ellefson, and his sister, Luetta Hostager.

David graduated High School from Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, MN, in

June 1952. He attended Luther College, in Decorah, IA, graduating in June 1956, and honorably served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from October 1957 through August 1961. David graduated from the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry in June 1966 and practiced dentistry in Iowa and North Carolina over a period of forty years.

Dave was a cancer survivor and dedicated himself to fitness and a healthy lifestyle. He deeply appreciated the outdoors from the mountains to the beaches. Dave worked extensively in the yard and putting up firewood. He was enthusiastic about bicycling and downhill skiing, particularly with family and friends. Dave believed in living in the present and being responsible for his own happiness. He enjoyed socializing, often with a glass of red wine, and meeting new people. He recently told a grandson that “in 30 years I’ve never had a bad day.”

Life celebration services will be held Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 2:00 pm at Saint Philip’s Episcopal Church, 256 East Main St., Brevard, NC with the Rev. Elizabeth Roles officiating. A reception will follow.

A burial service is scheduled on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 1:30 pm at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church, 1725 Washington Prairie Rd, Decorah, IA. The presiding minister will be Harris Hostager. A reception will follow.

All are welcome.

Charitable donations in memory of Dave may be made to:

Doctors Without Borders

<https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/secure/donate?type=tribute>

Sharing House, Transylvania Christian Ministry, Inc.

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/Mq4QyehtLCOtegiUMEGreg?subm

it.x=52&submit.y=

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

APR 20. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
256 East Main St.
Brevard, NC 28712

Service

JUN 1. 1:30 PM (CT)

Washington Prairie Lutheran Church
1725 Washington Prairie Road
Decorah, IA 52101

Tribute Wall

TB

“ Dr. Ellefson and I first met in the late 1980's when he had moved to Atlanta, GA to work for Premier Systems, a dental software company that I also worked for. Just to be honest, he wasn't very good at it - and neither was I. He came to work and live in Fayetteville, NC with my dear friends, Jim and Georgianna Hancock. He worked as Dr. Hancock's associate, and even lived with them for a short while, as did I. I left to go to dental school as he continued with Dr. Hancock. Several years later, Dr. E. had retired and moved to Banner Elk. I had married, graduated from dental school, and was working about an hour from Banner Elk. I successfully pried him out of retirement where he worked with/for me for probably 10 years, although only a day or two a week. It was perfect!!! Through Dr. E., I relived my days in Fayetteville. Our dear friends Jim and Georgianna (and many other dental greats) were gone. I went to see Dr. E., about two years ago. We had a great day. He was preparing to move from Banner Elk to Brevard. He looked awesome! Why was I not surprised that he had found a new love, whom I never met, and was preparing to move to Brevard? I messaged Dr. E., on February 16th to tell him that we had rented a cabin not far from him for 2 months and would love to see him again. We never met up again. So so so very happy to have known him and to have worked with him and also as his employer. He was awesome and well liked by those that knew him personally and as his patient. I never met any of his children. I'm sure they are wonderful people. I love you without ever having met you. So very sorry for your loss. I remember those days with Premier Systems, with Dr. Hancock, and in my practice in Wilkesboro, NC with such fondness. So close and also so very far away. I miss Dr, Ellefson.



Tom Browder - July 20, 2024 at 10:03 PM

AD

“ He had a great time staying at my condo in Brevard for tennis matches and watching the Super Bowl. Quite a vigorous and energetic guy who always kept going!

Ann D'Hondt - March 16, 2024 at 10:23 PM



“ Dave was always an inspiration for me. I was his Family Doctor for the past several years. He always encouraged me with biking and general optimism. I will miss his stories. Sending sincere condolences to his family.

Mark Murrey - March 15, 2024 at 02:33 PM