



Samuel David Knisley

May 3, 1933 - April 10, 2019

Samuel David Knisley (85) died April 10, 2019 at the John F. Keever Solace Center in Asheville, NC. He was born May 3, 1933, in Knox County, TN to Samuel David Knisley, Sr. and Sallie Henley Knisley.

After graduating from Carson Newman College in 1955, David served three years in the U. S. Army before earning his MS and PhD degrees in history from the University of North Carolina. He married Frances Steadman in 1959, and they settled in western NC. After serving 38 years as a history professor and sometimes administrator at Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, NC, David retired in 1999 to enjoy his hobbies of motorcycling, glider flying, traveling and tinkering in his workshop.

Preceded in death by his parents, David leaves his loving friend and former wife, Frances Knisley and their three children: Eric Knisley and Kim Andersen of Raleigh, NC; Amy Knisley and Ed Bowser of Asheville, NC; and Joel Knisley and Leah Hampton of Waynesville, NC, and one grandchild: Phoebe Knisley. He is survived by four siblings: Mary Jane Salyers and Bill Salyers of Hillsborough; NC, Jeff Knisley and Mary Knisley of Knoxville, TN; Ruth Todd and Gene Todd of Alto, GA; and John Knisley of Knoxville, TN, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A service in memorial will be held on Saturday April 27, 2019 at 1:00pm, at

Grace Episcopal Church, 871 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804.
Memorial contributions may be made to Consider Haiti, P.O. Box 8515,
Asheville, NC 28814-8515, <https://www.considerhaiti.org/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Grace Episcopal Church
871 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28804
graceparish@bellsouth.net
<http://graceepiscopalchurch.us/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Samuel David Knisley*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *I will always associate him with the dreaded "Blue Book":, the test booklets we had to write our answers in. Dr. Knisley was a brilliant man, caring and dedicated professor, with great wit and a keen sense of humor. Goodbye, sir. D MHC Class of 1993.*

D - September 12, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Your are a special family to me and part of my cherished Mars Hill memories.*
Deborah Compton

Deborah Compton - May 01, 2019 at 10:36 PM



“ *Many cherished memories of David*
Bob zumstein

Bob Zumstein - April 22, 2019 at 07:14 PM

RK

“ Such wonderful memories of falling in love with the study of history in that classroom in Wall in the campus of Mars Hill followed by post lecture discussions of the passion of gliding. I so respected David. He was a gentle soul and demonstrated a way to be deeply faithful without the judgmental barbs which were so prevalent in our community. In many ways my journey to the Episcopal church began in some of those early conversations which ultimately led me to Grace Episcopal Church in subsequent years. I regret not keeping in touch with David, especially in the early years after my ordination. I have no doubt that Eric, Amy, and Joel can rest in the knowledge that their father impacted and inspired a generation. He gave us the gift of curiosity and an ability to see the beauty of the world as though sailing on the wind on a sunny day. May Almighty God give you comfort and hope in your grief.

Rev B Kris Kramer - April 22, 2019 at 07:16 AM

TF

“ To all the Knisley family from the Morgans in Wartburg, Tn. Good memories of all of you from Liberty Church; gone for a while but never forgotten

The Morgan family - April 20, 2019 at 09:04 PM

KM

“ Y'all -- Good picture of David. May y'all have good moments of story-telling, laughter, memories, and reflection. Thinking about y'all - Joel and Amy. Take care of yourselves. -- Kathy

Kathy Meacham - April 18, 2019 at 09:51 PM

DH

“ So sorry for your loss

David&Bernice Hennessee - April 18, 2019 at 09:47 PM