



David Laird

February 23, 1958 - May 11, 2023

David Laird passed away on May 11, 2023 in the presence of family and friends from the complications of living with Type I diabetes for over fifty years.

David attended Gilson Brown Elementary, North Junior High, and Alton High School where he was a National Merit Scholar. He graduated from Grinnell College with a BA in Mathematics and received a BS in Electrical Engineering from Washington University. He then moved to Silicon Valley to start his engineering career.

The majority of his career was as a test engineer. His favorite gig was at Silicon Graphics, where he was able to combine his love of drawing, painting and cartooning with his engineering expertise as part of the team that created the Indigo and Indigo 2 workstations, which had unparalleled 3D graphics capabilities. His career took him to the East Coast, West Coast, Japan, and places in between.

David was an artist at heart, with an appreciation for art of all types – from film to poetry. He loved painting, music, and restoring antique bicycles. He played viola, piano, and guitar, and had a wonderful baritone voice. He was a great ballroom dancer and expansive music lover. David also had impeccable taste in movies. He loved watching and discussing everything cinema.

Above all, David would consider his children, whom he loved dearly, as his most significant achievement. He was a master of “Dad jokes”, with a quick wit and a pun for every situation. David will be remembered as a kind, gentle, intelligent, and humble person. Most of all, he will be remembered as a loving father, wonderful older brother, caring son, and thoughtful friend.

David was preceded in death by his father, Dr. John M Laird, Jr. and his brother, Rodney Laird. He is survived by his two children, Nicolette Laird and Lucas Laird; his mother Carol Laird of Godfrey, IL; his siblings – Christy Laird Staats (Fritz) of Portland, OR, Andy Laird (Maureen Cyr) of Seattle, WA; and his half-siblings John (Stacey), Jim (Ozge), Joe, Jenn Horton (Steve), and Jared (Dianne). An aunt, Marcia Lucietta of Bay Village, OH, his lady friend, Diane Muehlenbeck of St Louis, MO, and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and family friends also remain.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Smile Train <https://www.smiletrain.org/>, Diabetes Action <https://diabetesaction.org/donate>, Grinnell College <https://grinnell.edu/>, or your favorite charitable organization.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, 2023 at Main Street United Methodist Church, 1400 Main Street, Alton, IL . Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 15. 3:00 PM (CT)

Main Street United Methodist Church
1400 Main Street
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall



“ As you celebrate David's life today, I hope you find comfort in the memories of him, which will always be with you, and that people like me around the world are holding you in our hearts. David was a year ahead of me at Grinnell and I even saw him at an alumni reunion on campus sometime back. He was always kind to me, intensely interested in the world around him, and seemed to forever have a smile on his face. David's gentle and joyful spirit felt comfortable, especially as a young woman when relationships can be so fraught, and his intellect so amazing. I enjoyed every one of our interactions. The world is a better place for him having been in it. Thank you for sharing some of the details of David's life with all of the rest of us. My husband, Pat, and I have made a small donation to Grinnell, as requested, in his honor and memory. Sending love and peace, Anne Rawland Gabriel, Grinnell College Class of 1982.

Anne Gabriel - July 15, 2023 at 02:59 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of David Laird.



July 14, 2023 at 10:12 AM



“ David was a classmate of my brother, David. We all lived in D'Adrian Gardens. I remember David as a caring soul that always tried to join in on all activities with my brother's friends. I am saddened by hearing of David's passing.

Bob Jackson - May 22, 2023 at 07:18 PM

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“ I finally allowed myself a moment to read this. Not for the details around his death but for the details of his life. I knew some of this but thank you for adding to the details of what was an amazing life as I think many of us already sensed. But what came through most of all even in the dry words of an obituary was his compassion and passion for life. Thank you for sharing this time and memories.

Ken Etter - May 22, 2023 at 06:07 AM