

David J. Opdahl

April 2, 1944 - September 17, 2014

David John Opdahl of Corvallis, OR, the son of Harry and Asta (Jacobson) Opdahl was born in 1944, in rural Lake Mills, Iowa. He attended rural elementary school in Norway Township and Scarville Elementary. Dave graduated from Lake Mills High School in Lake Mills, Iowa in 1962 and from Mankato State College in Mankato, Minnesota in 1967. After graduation from Mankato State, he was drafted into the Army and served in Vietnam. In March of 1968 Dave and Patricia Berry were married in Emmons, Minnesota.

He worked for Walker MFG (Fleetguard), in Lake Mills, IA. Dave was then employed by Prestolite Manufacturing in Manchester, IA, Waterville, OH, and Visalia, CA. In the spring of 1986 he relocated to Corvallis, OR to work for Evanite Manufacturing. After being retired for several years he worked part-time with the City of Corvallis before final retirement.

He enjoyed watching the Beavers play football, NASCAR racing, and his motorcycle. Dave also enjoyed the occasional beer and spending time with his family and friends.

Tribute Wall

TK

“ I worked with Dave for about four years at the City of Corvallis. Dave and I would start each morning going over purchasing rules and procedures but would always get off topic. Dave was on the conservative side much like myself, so we had plenty to talk about. I think the one thing Dave enjoyed most was having a beer with his friends at the local pub and giving the more liberal minded a hard time. Dave liked to get their lather up so to speak. I didn't see much of Dave after he left the City but I always enjoyed it when he stopped by just to talk. He was such a character. Dave, you will be missed! I'll be thinking of you and your family.

Tony Krieg
Corvallis, OR

tony krieg - October 13, 2014 at 11:45 PM

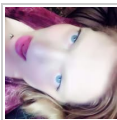
DH

“ R.I.P. Dave. It has been 49 years now, but I still remember being housemates on the University of Northern Iowa campus. We had some great times, most involving everything you would expect on a campus. The years have flown but the memories remain.

To a super nice guy--see ya down the road.

Dave Holstad
Casa Grande, Arizona

dave holstad - October 08, 2014 at 12:20 AM



Thank you I'm missing my father so much right now I need to see his face I don't even have pics of him but he was golden

Jennifer Opdahl - March 09, 2022 at 07:03 PM

CM

“Darin, Thanks for calling me know about your dad's passing. I'll miss watching the grin on his face while we sat outside his garage and chatted. I enjoyed getting to know him so much. We had good talks about politics and sports and bikes and beer, and lots of laughs over the months I visited with him. He wouldn't let me win in Cribbage and gave me a bad time about it, but it was fun anyway. He cared about people a lot more than he let on, and he knew I knew it, even though he tried to hide it. He was a good man. My thoughts are with you and your family. From Carol Mason

Carol Mason - October 07, 2014 at 10:33 AM

JC

“ When Dave came to work at the City of Corvallis, many of us weren't sure how to "take" him. He put on a grumpy, curmudgeonly front, but before long most of us saw through that and picked up on the twinkle in his eye as he teased his colleagues in a totally good-natured and terrifically funny way. In my case, the fact that I was an avid bike-commuter made great fodder for his good red-neck-truck-driver jokes.

The four years he worked alongside us went by fast -- and he accomplished some good work in his purchasing coordinator role...no easy feat in an organization with 8 "unique" departments constantly vying to do things their own way. He particularly wrestled with the "buy local" contingent and made some great inroads in bringing some definition to this approach.

My favorite memory of Dave will always be, after the scare he gave us with his heart the first time -- going to visit him on Christmas Day in the hospital. I had intended to bring just his "stocking" filled with goodies from work that he forgot to pick up before going out on holidays, but I found out from his boss Tony that Dave REALLY was missing something in particular. When I arrived in the middle of the afternoon, the nurse had to wake Dave up, which I felt bad about (for about 30 seconds), and then when he grumpily sat up and put on his glasses and saw me, the smile that lit up his face completely made the trip worthwhile. And that wasn't even the kicker -- the hoot of joy he let out when he saw the beer can I smuggled into him was worth every worry I had about being thrown out on my ear if I got caught by hospital authorities! :-) I brought him up to date on all the office news and I think we both felt a lot better about Christmas by the time I left.

I have probably only bumped into Dave about three times in the three years since he retired from the City -- but each time it was truly like he'd never been gone. We'd go right back into abusing each other about bike lanes and road-hogging trucks, and it would be hard to see him leave again. We didn't see him nearly enough in

*recent years, and now that opportunity is gone, I truly regret it.
Prayers and wishes for happy memories to his family -- the world is
a lot sadder for having lost this funny, loving man from its midst.*

Janet Chenard - October 03, 2014 at 03:41 PM

CW

“ I would like to extend my condolences to Dave's family.

I worked for Dave from 1986-1994 in a variety of positions, and over the course of that period, got to know him quite well. My cubicle, for a good deal of that time, was located directly outside of his office, making me privy to most of the activity that occurred there.

I observed Dave on his good days as well as bad, and came to develop an appreciation for the deft manner in which he carried out his job responsibilities, which sometimes included navigating his department through the company's bumpy political waters.

I came to recognize Dave's good heartedness (which he often made attempts to conceal) as well as his innate sense of fair play. Dave treated people well.

One of his most endearing characteristics as a boss was to hire good people and then leave them alone to do their jobs, which, in my experience, is an essential ingredient to successful supervision. Everyone loved him for it.

Dave always treated me fairly, and was always direct and honest, especially when telling me something that I didn't particularly want to hear. Dave realized that life was unfair, and used his position of authority to even that playing field in whatever manner he could. He did it with me, and I observed him doing it with others.

Dave was a good person to work for because Dave was a good person.

RIP Dave....

*Craig Walsh
Corvallis, Or.*

craig walsh - October 03, 2014 at 01:21 AM

LO

I was so sorry to hear that Dave had passed away. The last time I saw he was doing very well, sitting in the sun in front of his garage visiting with his neighbor. My husband, Charlie & I Were very fond of him-- Dave took great delight in needling Charlie about his politics but it was a good give & take. When Charlie learned he had to & we had to move to Portland for 7 months, your dad stayed in touch, emailing us regularly. He was also exceedingly kind to me after Charlie passed away last year. I'm not sure where we go when we die but I'd like to believe he and Charlie are hanging out arguing.

Loretta Rielly-Piquett

Loretta - October 04, 2014 at 03:56 PM