



David Earl Pickard

September 6, 1945 - August 28, 2024

Need your tires replaced? Wheels aligned? Brakes changed? Well too late...
Tire Man is officially Out of Business.

David Earl "Tire Man" Pickard, Navy Veteran, respected local businessman, cheerleader on the sidelines, euchre enthusiast, and everyone's favorite "Grandpa Santa," passed away surrounded by family on August 28, 2024, at Alden of Naperville, leaving behind a legacy of joy, laughter, and boundless generosity. He was born on September 6, 1945, in Syracuse, NY, to Samuel Earl Pickard and Grace Petrie, both of whom preceded him in death.

Dave, or as he was affectionately known by many as Grandpa Santa, Pop, Dad, Old Man, Gramps, Pick and Red, was a man whose heart was as big as his beaming smile. In his tireless or "tire-full" career as Tire Man, Dave didn't just fix tires; he fixed people's days with his infectious laugh and unyielding kindness. His ability to light up a room with his presence was rivaled only by his uncanny knack for being recognized by people, no matter where in the world he happened to be.

Dave's story of love began with Andrea Pickard, whom he married in 1968. Their partnership was a shining example of true love and laughter until her passing on February 16, 2020. Together, they created a family rich in love and fond memories, from the sidelines of countless sporting events where Dave could always be found with a bag of popcorn, a cheering voice, and a few

choice words for the coaches and referees, creating endless embarrassment for his children and grandchildren.

He leaves behind a family who cherished him deeply: surviving children Donald (Cecelia) Pickard, Charles "Chooch" Pickard, and Catherine (Ian) Ripmaster. His legacy also lives on through his grandchildren Amber, Colten, Kelsi, Connor, Robert, Cory, Kat, Stephanie, Ethan, Evan, Greyson, Carlyn, Sullivan, and Theo. Each of them has a treasure trove of memories of Gramp's generosity and unwavering support.

Dave was a friend to everyone he met. He believed in the power of lending a hand, an ear, a truck, or a place to stay. His life was a testament to the belief that kindness and generosity were not just virtues but the very essence of living. His ability to listen, support, and uplift those around him created a ripple effect of goodwill that returned to him in countless ways. In the middle of the night or the middle of the day, his friends and family knew they could count on him.

Though he has left us, Dave's legacy lives on in the warm stories and joyous memories he left behind. His laugh, his love for life, and his Santa-like charm will be dearly missed but never forgotten. He taught us that the best way to live is by spreading joy and showing up for others, no matter the time or place.

Dave is survived by his family who loved him dearly and a wide network of friends who were touched by his generosity. His spirit will forever remain in our hearts, especially whenever we hear a hearty laugh, see a twinkling smile, or catch a glimpse of someone enjoying a good peanut butter sandwich.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2024 from 4:00-8:00 pm at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home in Braidwood, IL. In true Dave fashion, the event will be filled with love, laughter, and stories. A Veteran's memorial service will be held on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 12:00 pm at

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you perform an act of kindness in Dave's memory—just as he would have done.

Rest well, Tire Man. You've earned your place among the stars. We're certain you'll be cheering us on from above, behind the wheel of a convertible with Andie at your side, popcorn in hand, and a laugh that echoes through the cosmos.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Rd.
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

OCT **24**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2336
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

Graveside Service

OCT **25**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 W. Hoff Rd.
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall

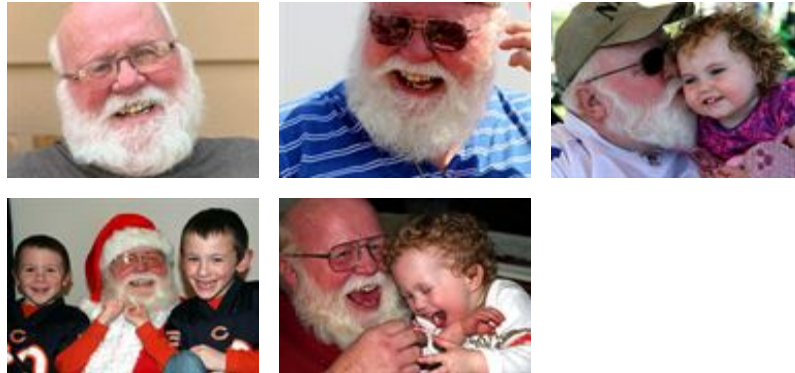


“ I meet Dave and his family while teaching at Braceville School. He was on the board and was a great supporter of our school and staff. I always had fun and lots of laughs when on committees together. I was very lucky to have known him. God speed. Miss Evon Wise First Grade

Evon Wise - October 24, 2024 at 06:07 PM



“ 211 files added to the album Life Tributes



R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - October 22, 2024 at 10:56 AM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - October 14, 2024 at 05:29 PM