



David Harry Curl

June 2, 1932 - August 1, 2020

David H. Curl, of Kalamazoo, passed away on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at the age of 88. David was born on June 2, 1932 in Columbus, OH. He was the son of John and Florence Curl. David was an alumnus of Ohio University and Indiana University, taught photography and graphic arts at Kalamazoo College, Western Michigan University, and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and had been a photographer, media producer, author, editor, and publisher. He retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force and served with the U.S Agency for International Development and the National Park Service.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Ardyce; also his former wife Dorothy Goodwin; daughter: Laura (James) Armstrong; son: Steven (Sara) Curl; two granddaughters: Dorothy and Philippa Armstrong; stepson: Bruce (Paul Winberg) Czuchna; and two stepdaughters: Marcia (Randall) Stoppenhagen; Jodi (Matthew) Milks; and two step grandsons: Mitchell and Mason Milks; step granddaughter: Sarah (Matt) Stoppenhagen Kittleson; two step great grandchildren: Koen, and Audrie Kittleson.

David has been cremated and no services are planned at this time.

While at David's webpage at www.avinkcremation.com please take time to sign the guestbook by lighting a candle and/or sharing a memory with the family.

The Curl family is being assisted by the Avink Funeral Home & Cremation Society, 129 S. Grand, Schoolcraft, MI 49087 269-679-5622.

Comments



“ I was privileged to be a student in one of Dave’s Photography classes while pursuing a Master’s Degree at WMU in the mid-1970’s.

John McLellan - August 16 at 11:19 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Harry Curl.



August 13 at 10:57 AM



“ It was my privilege and pleasure to share many functions at People's Church with David. I remember so well the Photo Montages he prepared with Roger Greeley. He prepared a photo history for my own passing. With so many deaths of old-timers and friends from People's I feel more and more like "Last Man Standing".
"We loved you living and we love you now."

Alan Parcels

Alan Parcels - August 11 at 01:16 PM



“ To David's family,
When my husband, George, died in 2002, I had lots of photos I wanted to share with family and friends at his memorial service. David graciously organized them, with musical accompaniment into a beautiful walk through a well-lived life. I was touched and grateful for Dave's outstanding skill and sensitivity to our wishes. I will miss chatting with Dave at church on Sunday mornings and hope to continue to see his collection of personal photos from time to time in the years to come. I send love to you all.

Mary Lewis

Mary Lewis - August 10 at 02:22 PM



“ I met Dave Curl in 1973 , in a photography class at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. It was my first real photo class and Dave wasted no time revealing the mysteries of historically influential photographers like Adams, Arbus, Steichen, Lange, Cunningham and Harry Callahan, being sure to include his own viewpoint and enthusiasms of each artists. I sat spellbound by his insights and only hoped that I could measure up to his high bar of aesthetic criticism.

In class he was always positive and encouraging, but also direct and clear in his expectations, which was a beautiful combination of being helpful and demanding, just enough intellectual push to motivate you to progress. When I wanted to have my first one-person show, and clearly was not artistically ready nor was my work, he gently inquired why I was in such a rush to show, and then didn't scold me once the work was hung and his concern was glaringly shown to be true.

Over the last 40+ years we saw each other occasionally, shared current projects and travel plans and reminded each other why we became so interested in the photographic medium and the ways it could express our emotions.

What a beautiful spirit, full of curiosity and depth, always revealed in a quiet wisdom, exemplified in his soft vocal tone and encouraging and supportive eyes.

My 30+ year career teaching photography and film at KVCC could not have had a better fundamental beginning nor I a better mentor than Dave. Just loved him.

Dave Posther

Dave Posther - August 09 at 05:34 PM



“ I first got to know Dave when I was working as editor of ACARefleXions which is sent to crystallographers all over the world. Dave helped me whenever I used photographs. He used his expertise to guide me. His son Steve was a high school friend of my son, also named Steve and Steve Curl is an artist in town who has amazing creations out of things anyone else would consider junk. I treasure a photo (by Dave Curl, naturally) of Steve at work in his room surrounded by what LOOKS like junk but is actually his working material. All three of my children, now grown up and living in Massachusetts, Minnesota and Arizona have Steve Curl creations and appreciate them.

My sympathy to Ardyce and Dave's extended family,

Connie Rajnak

Connie Rajnak - August 09 at 11:50 AM



“ I found out as we do these days when David's son Steve posted to Facebook. I will never forget the LARP battles my friends and I had at the tree farm hosted by Steve and his family. David Curl was a gentleman and a scholar, and I am proud to have known him. He was certainly gentlemanly about some of the shenanigans that Steve and I got up to. Steve is amazing person for many reasons and due to the influence of many people but a great deal of that greatness is due to Col. David Curl. He will be missed.

Christopher Tower - August 07 at 10:57 PM



“ I was sorry to hear of David's passing. He was so helpful to me and my family after my father died. His work with a few old family photos and some songs I picked out was so beautiful and moving. Many people told me they were impressed by the service, and it was largely due to his work. I'm also a fan of his photography and will remember him when I look at his sunflower photo hanging on my wall.

Karen Tinklenberg

Karen Tinklenberg - August 07 at 09:17 PM



“ Through his photography Dave could always notice and elevate something in nature that was worthy of our attention. He elevated the artwork of others as well. There is no higher calling. Dave was an inspiration to us all.

Girdon Bolar - August 07 at 06:29 PM



“ On behalf of our family, I extend our deepest sympathy to all in Dave Curl’s extended family. Dave was truly a remarkable man.

I had the pleasure and privilege of sharing an office with Dave during our teaching careers as faculty members in the WMU College of Education’s Educational Resource Center. Dave was more than an office partner - to me he was a valued colleague, cherished friend, and frequently my mentor.

He mastered the art of communication through pictures and the written word and possessed the skill to impart that knowledge to others. His willingness and desire to share his incredible and innumerable talents to improve the lives of others was a hallmark of his personality. I will always be grateful for the opportunity I had to experience these attributes first hand and to know this man as an office partner and friend.

To Dave’s extended family, I want you to know that while Dave might be gone from our earthly existence, the wonderful memories we have of him as a man and a friend will live on forever in the lives of those in my extended family.

Farewell Dave and thank you for the wisdom, kindness, compassion, and love you shared with us.

Ken Dickie

Ken Dickie - August 07 at 02:35 PM



“ Rest-in-Peace, David. You brought pleasure and learning to many and your life was valuable. Thank you. Charles Stroh - Prescott Valley, AZ



Charles Stroh - August 06 at 11:10 AM



“ Your family is in my thoughts and prayers, Ardyce. I enjoyed knowing Dave a little bit at People's Church. I love his prints that we have in our home. He was a gifted photographer. His memory will live on through his art. I always think of him when gazing at one of his beautiful prints.

Judy D'Arcangelis

Judy D'Arcangelis - August 06 at 02:46 AM



“ Dave was a bright light at People's Church. In my 20 years of professional service there, Dave was always extremely helpful and supportive of my work. He scanned countless children's books for me and created cd's of images for me to use. He guided me in how to make the best visual impact during worship and made amazing things happen. I'm grateful to have several of his beautiful prints on my walls to remember him by.



Diane Melvin - August 05 at 09:38 PM



“ Dear Ardyce and family, I was so saddened to hear of Dave's death. We have shared a church for so many decades that it feels like a big piece of our lives - George's and mine-just disappeared. We met Dave at the old church downtown, in about 1966, when our daughters were both four. He's one of the most memorable people that we met so long ago, the very definition of why we happily stayed in Kalamazoo. An artist, teacher, lover of all the arts, actor, naturalist (supplier of Christmas trees), a wellspring of talent. His middle name should have been "AV" for all he did for People's. When I was teaching at Western, he helped me with several teaching projects, skillfully and generously. We were lucky enough to see him in Skagway, Alaska, role-playing for the National Park Service as a very convincing Gold Rusher. He was always one of the people that George, who passed away eight months ago, loved seeing at Peoples. Ardyce, these are dark awful days for you I unfortunately know. Anything I can do, I will.

My deepest sympathy and empathy, Barbara McCrea



Barbara McCrea - August 05 at 03:30 PM



“ Dave Curl was my mentor, my friend, my buddy. If you're lucky enough to have someone like Dave in your life you are indeed lucky. Drafted in Aug of 72 and discharged two years later, after being a photographer, I started at Western the fall of 74. One of my first classes was in the teaching dept and a gentleman named Dave Curl was the instructor - Introduction to Photography. At the end of the second class he asked me to stay after to talk to him. His comment to me? Why are you in this class? I'm not sure what he meant. I said I needed it, and thought it'd would be a good class to begin. Dave said with a smile - You already know all of this. I explained to him my two years at LMC, then drafted and being a photographer, and now I'm here at WMU. He laughed and said "Well, you are now my TA." And so the friendship began. I helped teach, I did independent studies for his photo books, I hung out at the house, he introduced me to the people at Winona School of Photography and I was an assistant there for two summers - on and on. Because of my service in the army we had much to talk about besides photography, lots more. Simply stated - my life would not be where it is today if it wasn't for Dave. When he received in 2018 Gayle Hoogstraten award for Arts Leadership, Gary Cialdella let me know so I could attend to see him receive such a worthy honor, and surprise him as well. There is so much more I could say and hopefully I will be able to tell Ardyce, Steve & Sara in person when the time is right. I became the person and photographer I am because of Dave. He saw something in me and would always push me, never let me rest, because he had that ability. To the whole family, my condolences and gratefulness in sharing him with so many of us.



David Knight - August 05 at 03:09 PM



“ John and I are sending much love to Dave's family. We appreciate so the love and support Dave gave to both of us over the years. We will miss his warmth, his humor, and his steadfast faith in the people he cared about.

Michelle Stempien - August 05 at 12:54 PM



“ I admired Dave as a fellow docent at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts; he not only informally taught me specific things about art, but more importantly a richly critical appreciation for the difference among excellent, good, and ersatz art. I also got to know Dave as a friend at Peoples' Church, where we shared a commitment to supporting efforts by the church to justice and equity in our community as well as the wider world. I will especially miss Dave's wry and dry humor. He richly deserved the Community Medal of Arts awarded too him a couple of years ago. We have lost an invaluable font of knowledge in our community, but more importantly a real mensch.

David Isaacson - August 05 at 10:16 AM



“ Debby and I send our condolences and good thoughts to Ardyce and the entire family. David and Ardyce have been long-time friends and participants in the Kalamazoo-area arts scene, as well as on campus at WMU. David's congenial presence and talents will be missed by the entire community. Arnie & Debby Johnston

Arnie Johnston - August 05 at 09:15 AM



“ I so enjoyed working with Dave on the AV team at People's Church. I learned a lot from him and was always grateful how he welcomed me to the group and encouraged new ideas. He had a creative energy that was contagious. My heart goes out to all of your family during your time of grieving.

Bob Wallis - August 04 at 05:03 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. Sending love and light to Steve & Sara, and the entire family.
In sympathy,
Shannon Baker



Shannon Baker - August 04 at 12:45 PM