



David Joseph Griffin

January 1, 1923 - January 4, 2019

Passed away unexpectedly in his sleep on January 4 at his home in Cold Spring, MN. Born to Richard and Florence Griffin at San Diego Naval Hospital on Valentine's Day 1923, he was the eldest of eleven children. Dave graduated from Benson High School. He studied biology at St. John's University, where he was an All-American football player, having played on the 1965 national championship team. From 1970 to 1976 he worked at the St. Cloud Children's Home as a counselor, after which he became a self-taught cabinetmaker, gardener, winemaker, and fruit tree farmer. With endless curiosity, he explored the world of Minnesota peach and apricot propagation, and worked passionately toward developing cold hardy fruit varieties. Dave loved nature and was a devoted steward of the earth. He was a builder and fixer, an independent thinker; he was wise, kind, humble, jolly, influential, and he had the courage to live the life he wanted. Dave was preceded in death by his father, and nephews Kevin Jensen and Will Griffin. He is survived by his mother; best friend Carmen Converse; children Dan (Amanda), Ben (Jen), and Maggie of former spouse Mary Roos; siblings Kathy (Paul) Smaagaard, Tim (Holly Munson), Irene Jensen, Loretta, Jack (Trish Murphy), Karen (Eric) Haynes, Tom (Jude), Martha (Keith Thompson), Sarah (Greg) Pflaster, and Jim (Josie); and beloved grandchildren Liam, Ewen, Laney, Aubrey, and Jace; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends. To be contacted with memorial service information or to share memories, please email davegriffinmemories@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, send memorials to

“Dave’s Garden Fund” at State Bank of Cold Spring, which will help ensure the legacy of Dave’s work.

Tribute Wall



“ *David Joseph Griffin*

January 29, 2023 at 09:26 AM



“ *Jack and Trish - our hearts go out to you for your sudden loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your whole family. Quinn and Kaitlyn we will be thinking of you in this difficult time.*

Mike and Gail Gertken - January 13, 2014 at 12:05 PM



“ *To the family of Dave Griffin*

Connie and I were saddened by the loss of Dave. He was such a part of our time in Benson. At our last class reunion Dave was so kind and spent time visiting with us both. Our memories of Dave, the Griffin family, Meadow Lane, and the lake, will always remain with us. Those times can never be replicated but they can be remembered always. God Speed. Tim and Connie Kavanaugh

Tim and Connie Kavanaugh - January 11, 2014 at 08:38 AM