



Mr. David L. Howard

October 2, 1944 - December 17, 2016

David L. Howard

David Lee Howard, 72, of Shelbyville, Tenn., passed away Saturday, December 17, at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center surrounded by his loving family.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, December 20, at the Feldhaus Funeral Home in Shelbyville from 4 to 7pm. The funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, December 21 at noon at St. William's Catholic Church. A reception in celebration of his life for his family and friends will follow at the family's home at 117 Ashe Road.

David was born in New Jersey to Helen and Julian R. Howard at their home on October 2, 1944. The family moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where David attended Our Lady of Perpetual Health Catholic School where he met his wife Mary Watson when they were in middle school, starting a love affair that lasted all of their lives including 50 years of marriage. David went to Notre Dame High School and was able to graduate from the University of Tennessee due to his beloved sister Barbara Knott's assistance and his incredible work ethic. David graduated with a degree in journalism and he and Mary attended many sporting events in Knoxville as he planned to pursue a career as a sports writer.

David had a summer job at the Voice of the Tennessee Walking Horse magazine, and Bruce Spencer influenced David's life by assisting him

financially to graduate from UT and introducing him to the Tennessee Walking Horse. David and Mary married in Chattanooga on August 20, 1966. Shortly thereafter they began their family and moved to Shelbyville, Tennessee to start the Walking Horse Report with the assistance of 12 investors including his mentor Randall Rollins.

David and Mary had three children, Christy, Jennifer and Jeffrey, and they built a successful publishing business at Dabora, Inc., including multiple publications. Many of Dabora's employees have been with the company for 35+ years, and the Dabora family is also saddened by his loss. David also served on the First National Bank Board as well as many other boards and associations, each time willing to put in extreme amounts of work to find the best facts in order to make the best decisions. He was proud to serve on the board of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration for almost 20 years and the board of the American Saddlebred Horse Association. David also served on several boards and committees at the University of Tennessee. David enjoyed real estate development and focused on property in Florida. He was a longtime parishioner and benefactor of St. William's Catholic Church. A self-made man, David's greatest joy was his family. With his wife, Mary, their three children and their spouses and his eight grandchildren, David enjoyed travelling, attending sporting events, and family dinners at the family's game house. David is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary; his children, Christy, Jennifer and Jeffrey, their spouses Rick Womack, Russ Connelly, and Mindee Howard; and eight grandchildren, Holt Parsons, Brooke Connelly, David Parsons, Cole Connelly, Caroline Connelly, Jax Howard, Sam Connelly and Blake Howard. Each of their lives has been enriched by his love and his counsel and he will be deeply missed.

The family asks that donations in his honor be made to the University of Tennessee, St. William's Catholic Church, the Boys & Girls Club, or to a scholarship program that allows students to pursue their education.

The family is forever grateful to Dr. Kyle Joyner of Murfreesboro Medical Center, and Dr. Wes Ely of Vanderbilt University Medical Center and their

teams for their outstanding care and compassion, and for their spiritual support.

Tribute Wall

SS

“ God Bless David Howard and family. I had many good conversations on SEC football with him at SBTS. A good man; he will be missed.

Steve Szydlik - December 23, 2016 at 11:57 AM

MM

“ There are many fond memories of times David and Mary have opened their home for celebration events. He will be missed and remembered. He is blessed by his loving family.
Mary Lee Morton

Mary Lee Morton - December 20, 2016 at 04:58 PM

MS

“ Melinda Sawyer lit a candle in memory of Mr. David L. Howard



Melinda Sawyer - December 20, 2016 at 04:50 PM

JK

“ It is with great sorry and shock as I read of the passing of David. I will never forget seeing him in the lobby of the East Skybox after the Missouri game. A high-five and a hug ensued, as it did every victory for many years. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. I appreciate his friendship and kindness in the years I have worked in Neyland Stadium, and will miss him dearly!

Jeff Kelley
East Skybox Coordinator

Jeff Kelley - December 20, 2016 at 04:09 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 20, 2016 at 01:55 PM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 20, 2016 at 01:55 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 20, 2016 at 12:16 PM



“ *Memories to Treasure was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 20, 2016 at 09:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 19, 2016 at 08:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 19, 2016 at 06:19 PM



“ *Attorneys & Staff of The Norton Law Firm, P.C. purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



Attorneys & Staff of The Norton Law Firm, P.C. - December 19, 2016 at 05:07 PM



“ *The Hogans and Genungs. Hatteras Dock, Chattanooga purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



The Hogans and Genungs. Hatteras Dock, Chattanooga - December 19, 2016 at 04:43 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 19, 2016 at 04:36 PM



“ *Sanctuary By The Sea Homeowners Association purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



Sanctuary By The Sea Homeowners Association - December 19, 2016 at 01:23 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 19, 2016 at 01:22 PM



“ *The Huff Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



The Huff Family - December 19, 2016 at 10:28 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. David L. Howard.*



December 18, 2016 at 04:33 PM



“ *I am saddened to hear about David's passing. He was the first to give me the opportunity to write. My first article for David was about the contagious equine metritis outbreak in the thoroughbred community, and advised me to talk personally to sources in the industry who were knowledgeable. And when I gave him the story, he told me I had done a good job. What a motivation for a beginning writer! He continued to encourage me and later he told me I was one of the best writers he knew of. A compliment from David was indeed a treasure. And his giving a chance to me led to many good opportunities as a writer. He did, however, tell me once that I was a better writer than an employee. I had to agree with him. My experience with Dabora was invaluable. I have never forgotten his kindness and the benefit of working for David. And I must include my respect and affection also for Mary, who is a lovely lady.*

Bob Scruggs - December 18, 2016 at 02:33 PM



“ *My dash covers 2-28-94 to 12-17-16 and includes personal , business, travel, consultation, partnerships , sports , vacations, Friday night dinners, may you now be free from pain and discomfort.
Tommy and Linda Anderton*

Tommy Anderton - December 18, 2016 at 02:09 PM

TS

My condolences to the Howard family. I always looked forward to seeing him every year at The Celebration. A great friend to many. May God bless.

Tom Sumners - December 20, 2016 at 08:23 PM

JO

“ *Jan Ontiveros lit a candle in memory of Mr. David L. Howard*



Jan Ontiveros - December 18, 2016 at 02:02 PM