



David Robert Nitchals

July 18, 1959 - November 25, 2010

David Robert "Dave" Nitchals, 51, a 10-year Wenatchee resident and a former Leavenworth resident, unexpectedly stopped breathing in his sleep at his home on Sunday morning, November 21, 2010. He was taken to Central Washington Hospital and passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 25th, with his wife, Lori; sister, Janice; and his treasured canine companion, Ginger, at his side.

Dave was born on July 18, 1959 in Evanston, Illinois to the late John and Margery (Elder) Nitchals. He was raised in Skokie, Illinois, where he graduated from Niles North High School in 1977. He continued his education at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois, a time of freedom and great exploration for him, graduating with honors in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He then furthered his education at the University of Washington, where he received his master's degree in environmental engineering and

science in 1983, and was awarded the Valle Scandinavian Exchange Scholarship to perform post-master's degree independent research in Sweden for one year. He treasured this opportunity to experience another culture. He was a member of the Tau Beta Pi and Chi Epsilon Engineering Honor Societies.

After completing his professional education, he worked at several engineering firms in Seattle. In 1991, he received his certification as a P.E. (Professional Engineer). He relocated to Leavenworth in 1998 and worked as a water-wastewater engineer at Forsgren Associates in Wenatchee. At the time of his passing, Dave was a Senior Project Engineer at Tetra Tech in Seattle, Washington and was continuing to evolve and explore options in his professional life.

Dave met the love of his life, Lori Marie Bonner, in Leavenworth in 1999, and they were married on November 1, 2003 in Woodridge, Illinois. They made their home together in Wenatchee, where he worked at Hammond Collier Engineering for several years. In 2002 they moved to their current home on Burch Mountain and, together, created a lush

sanctuary graced
with a wonderful garden. It was into this nurturing environment that they
welcomed their much
loved companion, Ginger, a golden retriever with whom Dave had a special
affection and who
accompanied him and Lori on many hikes, adventures, and road trips.

Besides Lori, Dave's passion was being in the mountains where he could be
found
hiking, running, backpacking, climbing, cycling, snowshoeing, telemark skiing,
and cross
country skiing. For many years, he was a member of The Mountaineers in
Seattle. Dave was an
accomplished mountaineer and had summited many of the peaks in the
Cascade Mountain
Range, including Mt Rainier. His journeys included trekking through the
Himalayas in Nepal,
scuba diving in the Caribbean, cycling through Oregon, attending NOLS
(National Outdoor
Leadership School), and traveling throughout Europe and Costa Rica. Dave
was also
accomplished in the martial art form of Aikido.

Dave was a member of the Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in East
Wenatchee, where he was well thought of and well liked. His interest in
spirituality blossomed

within his relationship with Lori, and he explored this area in different forums, including a local men's group where he was a respected and valued member.

He is survived by his wife, Lori M. Nitchals, Wenatchee, WA; his sister, Janice Nitchals, Downers Grove, Illinois; and his beloved dog, Ginger. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at The Wenatchee Convention Center in the Orchard South room with the Rev. Cecilia Kingman officiating. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Dave's name may be made to the Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. Please visit Dave's memorial & sign his online guest book at www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com . Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee.

Tribute Wall

DL

“ *Janice and Lori,*

My sincere condolences. David was a great neighbor and friend. Camping with him in 1982 enhanced my passion for camping that I carry to this day and have passed on to my children. I thought I knew a lot about the outdoors until I went camping with David and learned so much more. I am still grateful for his skills in removing about 50 ticks from my leg after bushwhacking in Northern Wisconsin. He was an incredibly pleasant, smart, and giving soul. He will be missed greatly.

Danny Lazar

Danny Lazar - October 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *I am so saddened to hear about Dave. I grew up in the house directly across from his family home on Karlov. We were the same grade and went through all the same schools until graduation from High school. I had been searching for him along with many others from our street as we all had such a great relationship together as playmates.*

I cannot imagine the pain you are feeling now as I am just devastated. I hope that you were able to enjoy life as much as possible together for as long as you were allowed.

Michelle Doppelt - January 10, 2011 at 02:54 AM

PS

“ Lori and Jan

I am so sad to have heard about David. My thoughts and prayers go out to both of you. Lori I never had the pleasure to meet you. There is no doubt in my mind that David was a wonderful husband, knowing his great family down the street from where I lived. Jan of course I knew growing up on Karlov Avenue and babysitting for us frequently. I have a very fond memory of David and I "hijacking" a Good Humor truck, taking these promotional "Lucky Sticks" from the truck, running over to Henry O. Gleiss Park and splitting the spoils trying to spell out the word G-O-O-D (even though we weren't at that moment) in order to get a free ice cream bar. I believe we ended up with a "Dubl-Stick" -- a popsicle with two sticks to accommodate our voracious appetite for Good Humor products.

I bumped into David several years back and had the pleasure of chatting with him, now as adults, with the same fond memories of growing up in Skokie. Again I want to express my sincere condolences to your family and friends from my family.

Perry Sutker - December 24, 2010 at 03:37 AM

MC

“ DAVE, WE ARE KEEPING YOU CLOSE IN
THOUGHT AND PRAYERS AS WE
CELEBRATE YOUR LIFE TODAY,
SINCERELY, MERRILL AND BUZZY



MERRILL & BUZZY CHAMBERLAIN - December 04, 2010 at 12:42 PM

MC

“ Dearest Lori, The one you Loved so much is safe within God's care, and you're safe within the love of those who care so much for you. Over the years, we have known you are so happy and loved with Dave. We can't begin to imagine the grief and sorrow you are going through and why such a thing could happen to such a vital man. We hope that the love you shared gives you strength to go forward. We send our condolences to Dave's family also. Please know we are here for you, Love Merrill & Buzzy, XXX

Merrill Chamberlain - December 04, 2010 at 02:14 AM

KT

“ Lori,

I feel so fortunate to have known Dave. He was such a caring and loving spirit. We are given many precious gifts as we go through life...he was a treasure. I hope you find comfort daily in your precious memories with Dave. Call me any time you need a friend to talk to or just listen.

Kimberly R. Toftness - December 03, 2010 at 12:59 PM

HB

“ Dear Janice and Lori,
I was deeply saddened by the news of Dave's death. He was taken from this world too soon. But, I know God has a purpose in everything. Both of you are in our prayers. We knew Dave mostly through Marge and John (his parents) as we moved into the Karlov neighborhood in 1985 just after the "kids" seemed to be graduating and moving on. As we shared a driveway, we often had a quick chat and Marge was eager to share news of her children. When Dave was in town, we always loved to hear a story of his latest travels. One year, at New Year's Eve, Dave and many of his old friends dropped in to see the old "house next door" and what we had changed. But - it was sort of funny because we had just exposed a wall of childhood graffiti and neighborhood comics under the wallpaper! Brought back fond, silly memories! Dave was close with his family. Lori, I only met you once, at Marge's funeral, but I could see the happiness and love (and smiles) shared by the two of you. I'm sorry we never made it to Wenatchee - now, that we had moved to Oregon, it would have been a little easier.

You are in our prayers and thoughts,
Helga and Steve Bush

Helga and Steve Bush - December 03, 2010 at 12:45 PM

MP

“ Dear Lori,

My heart goes out to you. I am so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. He had the brightest smile of almost anyone, you must have filled his spirit with joy. I am so glad you were able to enjoy each other and explore nature with Ginger too!

My prayers are for you,
Mary Peiffer

Mary Peiffer - December 03, 2010 at 12:04 PM

JK

“ Lori, I am so very sorry for your loss. I didn't know Dave very well, I had meet him a couple of times, yet I felt like I knew him through your eyes and words. You were always beaming when you talked about he and ginger. I know he made you soooo very happy. We never can understand situations like this, yet we have to have faith that our loved one was need else where, although that doesn't make it any easier. My thoughts and prayer are with you at this very difficult time. You have always been a very strong women, and I know you will be as strong as you can now. Praying for you.....Jan Kaiser

Jan Kaiser - December 03, 2010 at 10:58 AM

LD

“ Dear Janice and Lori,

I was so saddened to hear that David passed away. I have so many fond memories growing up as kids together. Kickball games, fireworks, etc, and particularly all of the sleep-overs we had as kids. Ill never forget at his house having popcorn and having to drink "Tab" or "Fresca", the 2 most awful tasting beverages ever! It amazing the little things you remember as a kid.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you both.

*Loren (and Stephanie)Doppelt
Palatine, IL*

Loren Doppelt - December 03, 2010 at 08:41 AM

BK

“ Lori,
It has been such a pleasure to have you part of the hiking group. Your support and Love for Dave, as we talked on the trail, were a reminder of what couple Love could be. Dave will be in your memories for the rest of your life and perhaps enter those of us who associate with you.

*All My Best for Your Future
Ben*

Ben Knecht - December 03, 2010 at 05:38 AM

AN

“ Lori, we are so very sorry. I still remember well your joyful smile when we heard from you that you and Dave were getting married!

I wish there was something we could do to be helpful. We will try to be at the service, tomorrow. Please stop by to visit us any time you feel like it.

Anne and Andre Nowacki - December 03, 2010 at 04:30 AM

JM

“ Lori,
I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of Dave. While he lived in West Seattle, he was a key component to a band of folk I call the Y-gang because we all met doing tacky 90's aerobics (Did he tell you he did a fine Richard Simmons?). I skied, I hiked, I watched really bad movies with Dave. However, what I loved most was his laughter and humor. I still have a photo of Dave on my refrigerator from 1995. He helped me move to my new home. I asked him to look for something in a box in the basement....he came up wearing a red flapper dress from my Halloween Costume box. He soon had all the men at the moving party wearing some sort of dress from the box! It was hilarious and a memory of Dave that I will hold dear. His zest for life touched a lot of people.

Jan Moss - December 02, 2010 at 01:15 PM

JT

“ *Whether we were exploring the nature of God and the universe, science and spirit, or the eternal debate concerning cats versus dogs, Dave's sincerity, thoughtfulness, and goofiness always kept me more humble. Thanks Dave. I needed that.*

And then again there was the exuberant, exhilarating dancing we created at the those Paperboy concerts; and closer to my heart, the knowledge that IF I could arise early enough to beat the crowds and IF I picked up the phone, I usually had a hiking or skiing buddy; sure wish I had done that more often.

Finally, Thank you Lori for bringing Dave into our life, for loving him so enthusiastically and so darn well.

Only love endures,

Jacqueline Thomas

Jacqueline Thomas - December 02, 2010 at 12:30 PM

DT

“ Lori, I am so sorry to hear about Dave. Please know that the thoughts of your friends at DSHS are with you.

Donna Titleman - December 02, 2010 at 10:45 AM

RS

“ LORI

I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR DAVE VERY WELL BUT I KNEW HOW MUCH YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH HIM. I CAN STILL SEE THE SPARKLE AND TWINKLE IN YOU EYES EVERY TIME YOU WOULD MENTION HIS NAME. YOUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER WAS A VERY RARE AND SPECIAL THING. MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYS ARE WITH YOU. RENEE SCHETTLER

RENEE SCHETTLER - December 02, 2010 at 05:13 AM

IT

“ Lori: Words just can't express how sorry I am to hear of Dave's passing. I remember when we worked together and how excited you were to marry this good looking, fun loving guy and how happy you both were. May God continue to be with you and help you daily to get through this tough time. It is only with his help and strength that I have made it though these years without Russell. Will continue to pray for you and remember all the good, fun times together that you both enjoyed. Imogene

Imogene Thomas - December 02, 2010 at 04:07 AM

PL

“ Dear Lori and Janice,

My heart goes out to both of you at this extremely difficult time in your lives. I was so shocked and saddened to hear of David's passing.

Lori, we only met once, which was at Marge's funeral, where David spoke so eloquently about his mother, and her final journey which would reunite her with her beloved husband John. I hadn't seen David in many years, and was struck by what a fine man he had become, as I listened to his beautiful tribute to his parents. It seems you and David, like Marge and John are soul-mates in life and beyond.

Growing up together on Karlov Avenue in Skokie, brings back so many wonderful memories of David and the whole Nitchals family. It was on their front lawn, during many long summer nights, playing "Statue Maker" or eating Good Humor bars, that Karlov Avenue came to life.

I hope that all of your memories of David and the good times spent together will comfort you and give you strength in the days ahead.

All the best,

Peggy (Robinson) Levine & Family

Peggy Robinson Levine - December 01, 2010 at 12:57 PM

JR

“ Lori,

I still see how you glowed when you introduced Dave to me (long ago now) and am glad you had time, though too short a time in which to enjoy each other to the fullest.

May the light of Dave's smile and the love of your many friends and family support help you through this time.

My love to you, Ginger, and Janice.

Jan

Jan Revell - December 01, 2010 at 04:03 AM

FB

“ Janice and Lori,

My deepest condolences to you at this difficult time. I have wonderful memories of growing up as Dave's next door neighbor in Skokie,IL. Remembering his great smile and kind heart are the first that come to my mind. You are in my thoughts and my prayers. I wish you strength and beautiful memories.

Love, Felice Lazar Boyer

Felice Lazar Boyer - November 30, 2010 at 12:50 PM

LC

“ *I have a grateful, loving memory of Dave when he helped the CUUF Long Range Planning committee understand the engineering aspects of the land we were considering purchasing next door. Dave prepared blue prints that included set backs, drainage requirements and other important details for the committee. Dave was most generous with his time and expertise even donating several copies of the prints. With love and sympathy, Lois*

Lois Cole - November 30, 2010 at 12:35 PM

SH

“ Dear Family and friends of Dave,

*I worked with Dave and appreciated his humor, and constant smile.
He will be missed.*

May the Lord comfort you during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

Shari Haverkamp

Shari Haverkamp - November 30, 2010 at 12:10 PM

DM

“ Lori and Jan,
My heart is with you.
Diane

Diane McKenzie - November 30, 2010 at 10:55 AM

PB

“ Lori,

*Know that the positive energy of love cannot be destroyed by mere
death. Sending you warm thoughts for the time ahead.*

Peter Bauer

Peter Bauer - November 30, 2010 at 08:48 AM

RM

“ *Our thoughts and love are with you Lori, during this most grievous
period of your life. Always remember the good times the two of you
had with each other.*

Ruth & Charlie Mason - November 30, 2010 at 07:57 AM

DR

“ Dear Lori & family, all our love and affirmations are sent your way. 1 PM Saturday we will hold a special vigil for Dave here in Bahia Kino. Hugs and love,
Dan & Sandy Riordan

Dan & Sandy Riordan - November 30, 2010 at 06:13 AM

SP

“ Dear Lori & family, Todd and my hearts are heavy with the loss of Dave. He will be missed at CUUF and all the activities there. We continue to send you all the light and love in the Universe.

Sharon Petit - November 29, 2010 at 09:23 AM