



David Eugene Conrad

August 22, 1928 - February 9, 2019

David Eugene Conrad passed away peacefully on February 9, 2019 at home with his family and loved ones around him.

He was an amazing man, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, who led an extraordinary life of honesty, integrity and service.

David was born on August 22, 1928, in Marietta, Oklahoma to David Eben Conrad and Lurlyne Marion Herrin Conrad.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Beverly, a daughter Dr. Cynthia Conrad Gingras of Plantsville, Connecticut, a son Dr. Edward Conrad of Murphysboro, Illinois, a sister Kay Lynne Henderson of Wimberley, Texas, two granddaughters: Eleanor Conrad Claffey of Prosper, Texas, and Emily Conrad Pierce of Murphysboro, Illinois; a great-granddaughter, Victoria Claffey and a great-grandson Peter Claffey, both of Prosper, Texas.

His formative years were spent in Marietta, as well as Midlothian, Texas, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. David joined the US Army a week after his 18th birthday, and served in occupied Japan in 1946 and 1947. He served again in the Korean War as an officer, at the end of which he, as a staff historian, witnessed the signing of the Korean War Armistice in Panmunjom, Korea. Between the wars, David completed a Bachelor's Degree in Letters, then after

Korea a Master's Degree in History, and a PhD in History, all from the University of Oklahoma. With the goal of an academic life, David took a faculty position at Southwest Texas State College in 1957 and remained there until 1967. At that time, he moved to a faculty position at Southern Illinois University, in the Department of History. He retired in 1995 at the position of full professor.

A long-time resident of Southern Illinois, David was very active in his community. He served as Jackson County Board Chair, leadership positions in the Democratic Party, President of the Lake Chautauqua Homeowners Association, and Commander of the Local Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. David served as the President of the Carbondale Lions Club, and was honored with the Melvin Jones award, the highest award from the Lions Clubs International Foundation for dedicated humanitarian services.

Funeral Services for David Eugene Conrad will be Saturday, February 16th at 1:00 pm in First United Methodist Church of Carbondale with Rev. Alan Rhein officiating. Interment will follow at the Pleasant Grove Memorial Park. Military rites will be accorded.

Visitation will be from 11:00 am until the hour of service at the church.

In lieu of flowers donations be made to the First United Methodist Church and/or Carbondale Lions Club and will be accepted at the services.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Memorial Park

31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1145
crain@crainsonline.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 16. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
214 W Main St
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 457-2416

church service

FEB 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
214 W Main St
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 457-2416

Tribute Wall



“ *David Eugene Conrad*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of the loss of this wonderful professor who inspired me to be a History major. I took every single undergraduate course he taught between 1989 and 1993, and thoroughly enjoyed each one!*

Dr. Conrad, thank you for taking the time to help me become a better student. You are highly valued and appreciated! I will miss you!

-Kristi Weaver, BA 93, MA 01 Historical Studies

Kristi Ann - February 16, 2019 at 06:10 PM



“ *Lynne and family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of David Eugene Conrad.*



Lynne and family - February 14, 2019 at 01:01 PM

PS

“ No words can express our feelings at the passing of our loved one. We are thankful for the years we had with him. Our prayers are with those of the family still with us, especially Beverly.

*Patricia Starzer, Beverly's sister
Linda Cornelison and Donna Todd, their nieces*

Patricia Starzer - February 12, 2019 at 05:24 PM

EO

“ Beverly,

So sorry to read of David's passing. We saw little of each other after we retired, but he was solid and valued colleague in the History Department. who expressed his opinions with conviction at department meetings, but was never argumentative. And as long-time undergraduate advisor, I know how much his students liked and learned from his courses. Requiescat in pace, David

Ed and Pat O'Day

Ed & Pat O'Day - February 12, 2019 at 01:30 PM

PM

“ *Lion David and I became acquainted via Lions Clubs (He at Carbondale and me at Chester), which developed into a friendship. He served well as Leadership Chair for Lions District 1-CS and created the now annual club leadership seminar/forum. I always tried to nudge David to become a district governor, but he would just shrug it away. I enjoyed my many conversations with David. And I do have a signed copy of one of his thrillers. David will not only be missed by me, but by many Lions who came to know him. May the fond memories you have of David comfort and surround in your time of sorrow.*

Past District Governor Larry McGuire - February 12, 2019 at 09:02 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of David Eugene Conrad.*



February 12, 2019 at 02:51 AM