



David Nelson Brockett

November 5, 1957 - May 6, 2025

Hampton- David Nelson Brockett came to the world in 1957. A true New Englander, he was born in Hartford and grew up in Wallingford, Connecticut. The family eventually moved to Massachusetts, where he quickly amassed friends at Shrewsbury High School. He ran varsity cross-country and track, and while training was easily recognized about town by his mop of blond hair. He graduated in 1975.

An economics major and ROTC cadet, Dave graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1979 before receiving his commission as an Air Force officer. He went to pilot training at Williams AFB in Arizona then flew the C-130E with the 37th Airlift Squadron at Rhein Main AB, Germany; and the 39th Airlift Squadron at Pope AFB, North Carolina. He then returned to Rhein Main, where he flew the MC-130E, Combat Talon I, becoming chief pilot, crew commander, and instructor pilot at the 7th Special Operations Squadron.

After his military service he flew for Southwest Airlines, bringing with him his dry sense of humor and witty story telling. He is described by his peers a great pilot and all-around good guy. He retired in 2020 but never lost his love of flying.

Dave loved his time in Europe, especially time spent with friends attending wine and beer festivals across Germany. With his wife Dawn, he would later

enjoy river cruises through numerous European wine regions. A true connoisseur, he collected hundreds of varieties in his cellar.

Famous for his eclectic taste in music, Dave loved anything good, ranging from the Beatles to Gregorian monks. He never relinquished his turntable or the hundreds of vinyls he collected from the 1960s to 80s.

A talented and adventurous cook, Dave would plan beautiful meals, introducing friends to dishes like baba ganoush and fattoush salad. He loved anchovies on pizza, and try as he might, could not convince his children that the fishy flavor would not contaminate their half of a half anchovy half pepperoni pizza. His aversion to snakes was exceeded only by his aversion to bell peppers.

Dave loved spending summers on Crescent Lake in Maine with his family, completing the New York Times crossword in ink, and swimming with his dog Chuckie.

Dave is survived by his loving wife, Dawn; his children Ian, Emily, and Meg; and his sister Beth.

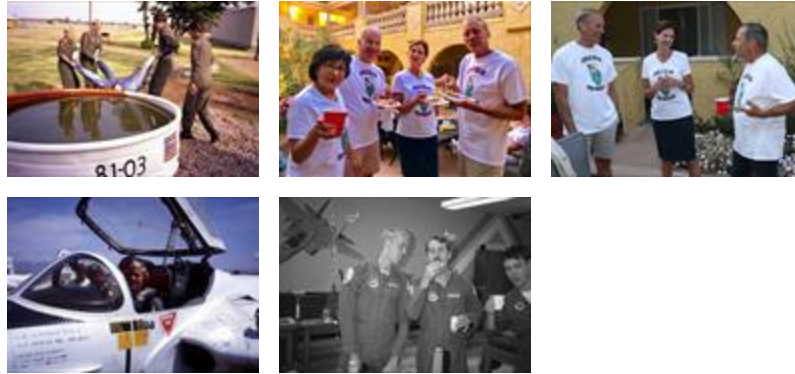
He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Phyllis Brockett, his brother Pete, and his canine soulmate Chuckie.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date for all friends, family and loved ones to honor the life of Dave.

Tribute Wall

MK

“ 6 files added to the album Dave Brockett Pictures



Michael Keating - August 21, 2025 at 02:58 PM

HS

“ I and many of us who grew up with Dave in Shrewsbury and were friends with him are absolutely heartsick at this loss...I am not at all surprised that he has dozens and dozens of friends from all across his lifetime, because that was the kind of person he was. Even though I hadn't seen him in years, I was looking forward to seeing him at our next high school reunion. Dave came out to visit me with friends in California after college and even though I saw him only a few times over the years, I loved him as a true friend from our formative years, and I knew what a wonderful person he was. For forty years, every time I flew on Southwest (I was one of their loyal customers!), I would always try to peek in the cockpit to see if he was flying my plane. Now when I go aboard, I will look instead to the heavens and say hello, my friend; we all miss you, we love you, rest in peace. Heidi Staples

Heidi Staples - August 01, 2025 at 08:03 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album *Dave Brockett Pictures*



Steve Ball - June 25, 2025 at 12:05 PM

WB

“ *I had the pleasure of being Dave's roommate at UMASS Amherst during my freshman year in 1977. Dave was an amazing soul and one of my best memories of that school.*

Wayne Blockel - June 16, 2025 at 06:46 PM

JM

“ *Dave was a Great Teammate of mine @ SHS!! dedicated and always gave a 100 % - U will be Sorely Missed. RIP My Friend 🙏*

Jeff Marcimo - June 08, 2025 at 08:02 PM

VB

“ *Dawn - so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. My deepest condolences - keeping you in my heart and prayers.*

Vicki (Smialek) Bezoenik - June 08, 2025 at 06:04 PM

GW

“ I extend my most sincere condolences to David's wife and children and sister Beth. I was quite saddened to hear about Dave's passing. I was a young coach just out of college when I joined the coaching staff at Shrewsbury High. Dave, along with his close friends of Dave Lasorsa, Keith Buffington, Steve Ball and others were all on the team. It was an absolute joy to coach these gentlemen. They all had great personalities, dedicated training ethics and were a loyal group of individuals. I remember Dave as a quick witted, classy, sharp young man. He most always had a smile. The last time I saw Dave was back in the early 2000's when he stopped by my house to chat and catch up on what's been happening in his life. I feel fortunate to have known Dave. Rest in Peace my friend. You made the world a better place.

Gordon Warren

Gordon Warren - June 08, 2025 at 07:23 AM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album Dave Brockett Pictures



DavLasorsa - June 03, 2025 at 09:07 PM

DL

“ What more can I say about Dave but to give him the highest compliment possible: Dave was a friend. Some friends we meet are acquaintances we share a few good times with. Others are those who, no matter how long has past nor how far away, will always be ones we can look to, have a bond with and stay by our side. That was Dave. He was always there to share in our high school shenanigans, make us all laugh, lean on during the hardest of our running workouts, share so many concerts and adventures together. My favorite image of him will be standing atop a hill, wearing a white scarf and football helmet as he pointed to the sky and climbed into our homemade hang glider. When he ran down that hill and didn't lift, we told him to just go for it and lie prone. He did and immediately crashed head first into poison ivy. Who would know he would later become a pilot? But that was Dave - willing to take the risk and just go for it. His passing has brought so many of our friends back together and that is a testament to how others thought so much of him. I hope his family will remember him the way I do: smiling face, pointing to the sky.

Dave Lasorsa - June 03, 2025 at 08:48 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David Nelson Brockett.



June 03, 2025 at 08:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David Nelson Brockett.

June 03, 2025 at 08:57 AM

CH

“ I flew with Dave several times at Southwest Airlines. He was a great Captain, pilot and overall friendly person. Godspeed brother.

Cary Howard - June 02, 2025 at 11:29 AM

EB

I had the privilege of flying with Dave many times. His dry sense of humor along with his famous line about going to the gym to earn Beer credits never got old. RIP Brother! Ed Bailey

Ed Bailey - June 03, 2025 at 03:35 PM

LH

“ I was in Dave's USAF pilot training class and I can attest first-hand to what a wonderful, witty, and kind person he was. Flying the C-130 in special ops is a real-deal tasking that only the very best could do. He served his country well. That he was loved and respected at Southwest is a given. The world is less without him around. Rest In Peace my dear friend. Your classmates from Willy Class 81-03 "The Right Stuff" will miss you.

Larry Hawkins - June 01, 2025 at 07:36 PM

MF

Thanks Larry for the defined info on Dave, for those of us who didn't know him, seems like it was our loss. He did incredible things with his life such as South West airlines, always wondered how that woman got all over the world as seen in pics. I know he took Dawn under his wing "pun intended" She was his life, loved her with all he was worth, she was so blessed to have him!! Thanks for the kind words, Mike, I graduated with Dawn!! Absolutely stunning!!!

Mike Frey - June 02, 2025 at 12:46 AM

RG

“ *Such a great neighbor. I enjoyed our time together eating homemade foods and Dave’s wine selections of the week. My wife will never forget flying with Dave on a jump flight to Baltimore. She still laughs about it till this day. I hope Dawn and Meg will always appreciate how lucky Dave was to call them my wife and my little girl.*

Rand Goddard - June 01, 2025 at 05:54 PM