



## David J Waltz

September 2, 1945 - April 30, 2020

David J. Waltz passed peacefully from this world on April 30, 2020, surrounded by his family. Dave was born in New Hampton, IA and grew up in Fredericksburg, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents Harold and Virginette Waltz. He is survived by his wife, Theresa (Porto) and their three children and families: Bret and Rebecca Waltz and Josephine and Wyatt; Jessica Waltz and Tom Brown and Fiona; Kristin and Tim Perra and Max, Sam, and Grace; sister Diane and her husband Richard Johnson, who was Dave's lifelong friend; sister Suzanne Waltz; and sister Nancy Klenske.

Dave loved life and lived it well. He loved to tell stories of his youth in Iowa at his grandparents' farm and his father's grocery store. He graduated from Iowa State University, where his fascination with history and his love for Theresa began. He lived in Des Moines, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, raised his family in Connecticut where he lived for over 30 years, and lived out his retirement by the beach on Singer Island, Florida.

It was also in Connecticut that Dave created a whole new family—his colleagues and employees at GH Berlin Oil. Under Dave's leadership, GHB grew from a small, local distributor based in Hartford, CT, to one of the largest lubricant companies in the country. During these two decades, Dave was known for his focus on, compassion for, appreciation of, and dedication to the employees that helped him run and grow the company.

Dave was almost larger than life. He loved to travel and share those experiences with family and friends and had just booked a trip to Antarctica in 2022 to cross the final continent off of his bucket list. He loved UConn Men's and Women's Basketball, UConn Football, and the NY Yankees. He also maintained a soft spot for the Iowa State Cyclones. He and Theresa shared a passion for duplicate bridge and became life masters together. He loved negotiating a good deal, especially at a tag sale, and he loved telling others about his great finds. He loved good food and having a few drinky-poops. He had a huge sense of humor that was appreciated by many and endured by some. He had a big personality and similarly big opinions to share, some of which weren't always easy to hear, but most of which were worth their weight in gold.

Above all, Dave was a generous and steadfast husband, father, brother, grandfather, friend, and citizen. He impacted everyone he came into contact with and even some he never knew, and his loss will be felt by many. Dave's time ended too soon: he was ready to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary with Theresa in August and his 75th birthday in September. He had more bridge to play, more pools to swim in, more places to visit, and more wisdom to pass on. We should have anticipated that Dave's love of quick and strategic exits would carry him to the Great Beyond that way as well.

Because of the current national situation, no memorial services are planned at the present time; however, when social distancing rules have been relaxed, we hope to gather for a Celebration of Life. In lieu of gifts or flowers, please consider making a donation in David's name to Foodshare of Greater Hartford, the Palm Beach County Food Bank, or to your local food bank, as this need was close to Dave's heart and on his mind in his final weeks.

# Tribute Wall



“ *David J Waltz*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *Unforgettable memories of our games and dining at the Rent, our fabulous trip to Atlantis and our simple but warm couples breakfasts all hosted by this generous man. My deepest sympathy to Reese and her beautiful family. Your champion is 1st in line at those pearly gates and will reserve the best spot ever when you meet again. David will be greatly missed.*

**Nancy Wailonis** - May 05, 2020 at 09:30 AM



“ *I was privileged to know David for only a couple of years but it seemed like I knew him all of my life. I enjoyed our talks in the pool or as my wife called them our BS sessions. David had a personality that was larger than life and a laugh and smile that was contagious. I enjoyed hearing about his adventures and travels that he took with his lovely wife Theresa who also tolerated our FL pool talks. David passed too young but for the time we had him he lived life to the fullest. We will all miss him greatly.*

*Dr. & Mrs. James Zimmer*

**James Zimmer** - May 04, 2020 at 02:13 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Carol Clark** - May 04, 2020 at 01:42 PM



“ You would never have known that when I met David and Theresa in Florence, Italy on a Smithsonian Trip that we were total strangers,. David's smile and wit kept me laughing throughout the three weeks trip. Both Theresa and David's generosity and overwhelming friendship is unforgettable. Our small gang of "off the formal tour" adventure to Cinque Terre and unofficial "breaks", led by David, of course, as well as roof top meals at their apartment made this my most favorite trip ever.

*David: Por siempre en mi meomoria.*

*Carol Clark*



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**Carol Clark** - May 04, 2020 at 01:23 PM

DD

“ I met David & Teresa in Florence, Italy on a Smithsonian tour. I was shocked to know that we were all from Iowa, the only ones, there! David & Teresa were so kind to include me. David was one of a kind, a generous, big hearted man with a huge laugh, and a zest for life!!! He will be greatly missed, by all of his family and his friends! God speed David!!!

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**Debora Dickinson** - May 04, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“ I am so saddened at the loss of my friend David. We shared so many great times together at UCONN football and basketball games as well as wonderful memories at Yankee Stadium. I loved our discussions, his knowledge of each team and his enthusiasm at the start of each new season. We were never at a loss for words. David was a full-steam-ahead person and was never shy in expressing the love he had for his family, especially his young grandchildren. I would like to express my sympathies to his loving and devoted wife Theresa and his entire family. I'll miss David. It will be hard to think of UCONN sports without thinking of him.

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**Donald Wailonis** - May 04, 2020 at 09:07 AM

MM

“ Dave and Theresa have been good friends for almost 50 years. During that time I never knew David to be wrong, at least in his mind. Always welcoming, generous, and rooted in reality. Dave will be deeply missed.

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**Michael Malecha** - May 03, 2020 at 07:50 PM

TM

“ My deepest sympathy to David’s family. I enjoyed our brief discussions at the bridge club and will miss him. I feel for our loss.

*Tom Meier*

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**tom meier** - May 03, 2020 at 07:19 PM

MD

“ My sincerest sympathy to the family of David Waltz. It was a pleasure for me to have played bridge in his company. Heaven got a good one.

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**Maudette Devenow** - May 03, 2020 at 07:11 PM

RH

*So sorry for Theresa and the Waltz family. Dave was one of our ARMS oil distributor group and a good friend. We all met regularly and Dave was always eager to share his thoughts. I will miss my buddy Dave.*  
*Rick Hunter*

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**Rick Hunter** - May 03, 2020 at 08:57 PM

DJ

“ So very sorry for your loss.



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**Debra Johnson** - May 03, 2020 at 06:56 PM