



## David Albert Klaasse

April 5, 1965 - March 13, 2020

David Albert Klaasse, age 54, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2020 in Manassas, Virginia, after a 9-month battle with cancer. Dave was the high school sweetheart and beloved husband of over 31 years to Valerie (nee Kensicki); loving father to Lauren and Alex; Son of Mabel and Marcel; Brother of Michael (Pam); Brother-in-law to Carmen (Michael), Ken (Peggie), Katie (Sam), and Phil (Gwen); Uncle to Matt, Cory, Erin, Melanie, Dawn, Joe, Lily, and Will. Born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 5, 1965 and later a graduate of The Ohio State University in 1988, he was commissioned that same year into the United States Navy where he served a distinguished 21 years. David was a decorated Gulf War combat veteran during Desert Storm, served in three F-14 Tomcat fighter squadrons (VF-101 Grim Reapers, VF-102 Diamondbacks, VF-11 Red Rippers) and graduated from both the Naval Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) and the Naval Test Pilot School (Class 105). He ended his military career as part of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter project. Service to his country did not end there as he went on to work as a civilian project manager for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Never content to rest, David was always on a quest for personal improvement as well, receiving his Masters in Mission Systems from the University of Tennessee and JD from George Mason University School of Law. He, while rife with professional achievement, will still be known for being a larger than life tour-de-force who touched the lives of many.

Family and friends will gather for a visitation on Sunday, July 26, 2020 from 3:00-6:00 PM at Pierce Funeral Home & Cremation Services, located at 9609 Center Street in Manassas, VA. A mass of Christian Burial will be held the following morning, Monday, July 27, 2020 at 10:00 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, VA.

Internment along with military honors will take place at 11:30 AM on Monday, July 27, 2020 at Quantico National Cemetery, 18424 Joplin Road, Triangle, VA.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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## Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Rd  
Triangle, VA, 22172-1636

**JUL** **Visitation** 03:00PM - 06:00PM

**26**

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Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St., Manassas, VA, US, 20110

**JUL** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

**27**

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Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, VA, US, 20155

**JUL** **Burial** 11:30PM

**27**

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Quantico National Cemetery  
18424 Joplin Rd, Triangle, VA, US, 22172-1636

# Comments

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“ There are no words that I can grasp that could possibly express the supreme respect and admiration I have for Dave, and the sorrow and pain I feel over his passing. He is certainly one of the finest senior managers that I have ever worked for in my 40+ years in the Air Force and Department of Defense. Dave was a great leader, manager, and friend, and I loved his smile and sense of humor. We had a great working relationship, and I appreciate the professional and personal respect he had for everyone at DTRA. Dave improved my Department's morale a hundredfold, and it hurts we will not share company again. To Dave's family and friends, I offer my deepest sympathies for your loss. Dave is someone I will never forget, and he still keeps me smiling.

Joseph Avery - 4 hours ago

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“ Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of David Albert Klaasse.



Yesterday at 10:45 PM

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“ I worked with Dave since my arrival at DTRA in late May 2019. He always had a smile on his face, even in tough, challenging times. He encouraged everyone to come talk to him daily - about anything. He initiated a Thursday monthly Happy Hour to help our organization bond. He has influenced and led so many. He leaves cherished memories to those who loved him. Fair Winds and Following Seas, my fellow Sailor.

I offer my utmost condolences to his family. May the precious memories that you share sustain, strengthen, and console you in your grief.

Sharon Morrow - Yesterday at 10:35 PM

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“ Dave was the consummate professional, the voice of sound reason, and unbound humor in an otherwise mundane atmosphere. He spoke of goodness and shared a positive outlook during times of uncertainty, change in direction or doubtful outcomes. This was the mark of a true leader who motivated others to go beyond their abilities to achieve success. He focused on the task at hand while providing guidance and

clarity to those around him. He lit up a room just by his presence and his personality was infectious, his wit as sharp as a razor, and his spirit unshakable. The sting of his sudden departure has left a void that can never be filled, but he also left a large number of individuals better off by knowing him. Farewell old friend and God speed, may your fuel tanks remain full, your cockpit at the ready as you thrust open the after burners through the vast blue sky to eternal glory. You will surely be missed but never forgotten!

Billy Pierce

**Billy Pierce** - Yesterday at 11:58 AM

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“ Dave was a great friend and a true leader. He is one of the finest men I have ever known and I miss him deeply every day. To you, Dave's family, I want to express my deepest sympathies, and I hope you can find at least some peace and comfort from the great outpouring of love from all of Dave's friends. From our earliest days at TMT and TMTI, and through various other assignments, Dave always found time for me, and for anyone else who just needed to talk with a friend. He was always there for us, always supportive. Dave listened, he gave great advice, people sought him out because he was genuine. Dave, my friend, you were A Class Act, and I miss you tremendously. Blue skies.

**robert v huffman** - June 25 at 04:42 PM

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“ Klaasse Family- my love, thoughts and prayers are with each of you. Sharing in your sorrow, Dave gave us all so much of who he is: love for his family, his leadership, his friendship, his stories, his ability to keep us laughing with his infectious smile and his incredible ability to keep it simple. Dave influenced so many and his legacy will continue in each of us and he will be truly missed.

Sending continuous love and support.  
Malissa Smith

**Malissa Smith** - June 25 at 11:38 AM

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“ I just learned of Santa's passing and I am shocked and saddened by the news. I had the pleasure of working for him in the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office many years ago. He was clearly a man of many talents: Naval aviator, Test Pilot School grad, leader and a man of vision. He and his team at JSF worked hard and played hard. Who will ever forget our Interoperability Team oversight session at Key West Naval Air Station. He was tough with our JSF contractor, keeping their feet to the fire if they weren't making their deliverables on time. His big smile and great sense of humor carried us through the ups and downs of life in the program office. Santa, you will be

sorely missed but you will be remembered fondly

**Ralph G Koontz** - May 24 at 12:25 PM

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“ I was so saddened to learn of Dave's passing. I cannot think of him with out smiling. Working with "Santa" at JSF was a pure joy and even while working in our most professional capacity he could make us laugh. I will always remember him with that larger than life smile . . . Keeping all of his family in my thoughts and prayers.  
Kara J. Luton

**Kara** - May 24 at 11:41 AM



“ I can echo Kara's sentiment. He was the kind of leader that made every one else around him better. My condolences to his family. This is a profound loss, but he will leave such a legacy and that is what I will remember about him.

**brian** - May 24 at 01:09 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Grew up with David have fond memories of him from grade school through high school. Great guy. I worked with Val at Romitos smoke shop we in Bedford, Ohio. Doubled with them for our a Junior Prom. Dave always had a smile and always made You laugh. God Bless you are at peace. Donna "Tabor" Fiorentini

**Donna Tabor Fiorentini** - May 03 at 08:08 PM

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“ Val, my deepest sympathies, "Santa" was a great man with a larger than life personality; I have many fond memories of our times together in Pax. Dave touched many lives and was a positive influence on many. He left us way too soon, but will always be remembered for his sharp wit and big heart. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers, and just a phone call away for anything you need.

- Dino Ferrari

**Anthony Ferrari** - April 26 at 11:02 AM

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“ There are no words adequate enough to describe Dave, he was just the best. This is such a huge loss, and he will truly be missed. My condolences to his family.

**Felicia Sutton** - April 21 at 01:05 PM