



David Henry Montplaisir

February 11, 1936 - October 2, 2023

David Henry Montplaisir, Sr. passed away Monday morning, October 2nd, peacefully in his sleep at Prince William Hospital in Manassas, Virginia. David was born in Fargo, North Dakota on February 11, 1936. He grew up on a farm near Horace, North Dakota – the oldest of 12 siblings. He met his college sweetheart Shirley Mary Kellen at Moorehead State University in 1954 and they got married in August 1956.

David has led an industrious life. He was a Geography teacher and wrestling coach at West Fargo High School. He was a member of the North Dakota Legislature, and he had an illustrious career in the North Dakota Air National Guard as a back-seater in various fighter jets before eventually moving to Washington, DC where he was the first ever Commander of the Air National Guard Support Center. Wanting to be the best at everything David went back to school and earned a PhD in International Affairs at Catholic University. Eventually he retired from the military as a full Colonel and then moving on to be a military advisor for the US Senator from North Dakota. When he finally left Government service – he became the Chief Financial Officer for a government consulting firm until his final retirement when he turned 62 years old.

David has enjoyed a good life. He traveled the world with his wife Shirley. Flying to the Panama Canal zone, Germany and frequent trips to the Azores

with the Air National Guard. He had a joyous marriage to his college sweetheart that lasted 43 years until cancer took her from him, but before that they raised three children and were blessed with four grandchildren. He will join some of his family in heaven who went before him. Parents Henry and Jeanette Montplaisir, wife Shirley Montplaisir who left him in February 2000. Brothers and sisters Richard Montplaisir, Jerome Montplaisir (Joan), Edward Montplaisir, Kathy Harrington (Larry), and Eleanore Larson (Clifford). He is survived by his son David Montplaisir, Jr.(Cristina), daughter Dawn Laws (Lee), and son Daniel Montplaisir. In addition, four grandchildren – Sean Montplaisir, Layton Laws (Danielle), Lauren Laws, and Kaan Montplaisir. He is also survived by brothers Ron Montplaisir (Linnea), Bruce Montplaisir (Mary Beth), and Mike Montplaisir (Wendy) as well as sisters Roseanne Seaburg (Thomas), Karen Chase (Rick), Linda See (Mike Schwab) plus sisters-in-law Carolyn Montplaisir and Mary Montplaisir as well as numerous nieces, nephews, friends and co-workers from over the years.

A mass of Christian burial will be offered at 10 a.m., Friday, October 6, 2023, at All Saints Catholic Church, 9300 Stonewall Rd. Manassas, Virginia. Pierce Funeral Home (9609 Center St, Manassas) will be taking care of all arrangements. David will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd
Manassas, VA 20110-2566
(703) 368-4500

Tribute Wall

PR

“ *Mr. Montplaisir was my Geography teacher in West Fargo High School. He and his family lived in my neighborhood. I often babysat for his children. I also got a ride in his airplane along with classmate Ronald Almer. We were picked by our classmates to receive the ride. We flew to Kindred,ND. Walked into town and had ice cream. It was a very memorable experience, one I will never forget. He was an excellent teacher always relating life experiences to his teaching. My condolences to his family and friends. He will be missed by many. Peace and Prayers, Peggy Graff Rantanen*

Peggy Graff Rantanen - October 07, 2023 at 03:33 PM

DH

Coach Monty was my geography teacher and wrestling coach at West Fargo High school. GREAT guy as both a teacher and a coach. Blessed to have known him.

David Hennings - October 10, 2025 at 12:12 AM

DW

“ *To the family of Col. Montplaisir. Sending sincere condolences to you. I remember well Dave as he and I attended the Continental Air Command Basic Training program together in 1953-1954 as members of the ND Air National Guard. I have tho't of him often over these many years, often inquiring of his brother Mike about him. So sorry to hear of his passing. I last talked with Dave when I was on a active tour in the Pentagon several years ago. We were good friends and "comrades in blue". All tailwinds Dave, all tailwinds!*

Doug Warnecke - October 07, 2023 at 12:16 PM

J1

“ *Mr Montplaisir was my geography teacher my junior year at WFHS in 1963. What a pleasure it was to be in his class! He was so knowledgable, personable, and fun to relate to ! I always looked forward to attending his class! What an outstanding career he had! My condolences to his family.*

Jim Potter WFHS class 1964 - October 06, 2023 at 09:38 PM

J1

Jim Potter Gold Canyon, AZ

Jim Potter WFHS class 1964 - October 06, 2023 at 09:40 PM

DO

“ *Mr Montplaisr was my wrestling coach from 1961 to graduation in 1964. He used to take me to Moorhead University to get me more competition. When I won a qualifying Olympic tournament he took me to the wrestling Olympic trials in New York City at the same time the World's Fair was there. I didn't win anything but what an experience. He went way beyond for me. What a great coach and person.*

Dwight Ormiston - October 06, 2023 at 08:06 PM

EA

“ *My sympathie...Ed Arneson, wrestling team at Moorhead State*

Ed Arneson - October 06, 2023 at 08:04 PM

RF

“ Our sympathies to the Family.
David was hard-working on the Farm for his parents (good people) while strict with the younger kids. Earl recalls eating lobsters in the Azores with Dave when they were stationed at the Pentagon & our Families lived in DC. Rosalee remembers Monty as a good roller skater at Friday nights at Horace ND School.
Earl & Rosalee (Trom) Forkner
Northfield MN

Rosalee Forkner - October 06, 2023 at 04:19 PM

CD

“ Condolences to the entire family. I too had Mr. Montplaisir for my geography teacher at WFHS. He was a very special teacher and I was blessed to have him.

Claudia Gwin Doroshuk - October 06, 2023 at 12:26 PM

BK

“ Monty was my first hero growing up! he was tough but kind in away that you wanted to win for him! He flew in a fighter jet back to watch the wrestling regionals, did not forget us!



Bruce Kringlie - October 06, 2023 at 11:08 AM

MB

“ I graduated in 1968 from WFHS and had 'Mr. Montplaisir' as a Geography teacher and wrestling coach. He was a great guy. Sorry for your loss.

Maurice "Muff" Brandt

Maurice "Muff" Brandt - October 06, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Henry Montplaisir.*



October 05, 2023 at 03:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Henry Montplaisir.*



October 04, 2023 at 09:56 PM



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

October 04, 2023 at 08:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David Henry Montplaisir.*



October 04, 2023 at 08:34 PM



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

October 04, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of David Henry Montplaisir.*



October 04, 2023 at 08:08 PM