



David Richard James

July 12, 1959 - October 30, 2015

David Richard James passed away Friday Oct. 30, 2015 in American Fork UT from causes related to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases. Dave was born July 12, 1959 in Fontana, CA to Glen and Betty James. He graduated from BYU with a Master's Degree in Science where he later taught Geography. Dave also taught Earth Science at Eisenhower Jr High and Pleasant Grove Jr High. He was a beloved teacher and influenced many lives for good. Dave served an LDS Spanish speaking mission in Chicago, Ill.

Dave is survived by his wife Sue Killian James and their six children: Chris, Nick, Alex, Katie, Abby and Madi. He is also survived by his sisters Jennifer and Melanie James, sister-in-law Joanie James, nephews: Patrick James, Justin Wenger and Geoff Wenger, nieces: Lorie Marschall and Danielle Fernandez. Preceded in death by his parents, and brother Terry James.

Dave was a loving husband and father. He has many friends who will miss his laugh, his kind nature and listening ear. We hope he has a chance to influence the weather and bring some big storms to our area.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, November 7 at 1 pm in the North Field 4th Ward Chapel, 408 West 1300 N, Pleasant Grove, UT with a viewing Friday evening from 6-8 pm and Saturday morning from 11:30-12:30. Interment in the Pleasant Grove City Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove City Cemetery

500 N Main Street
Pleasant Grove, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

NOV 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

North Field 4th Ward
408 W. 1300 N.
Pleasant Grove, UT

Viewing

NOV 7. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

North Field 4th Ward
408 W. 1300 N.
Pleasant Grove, UT

Funeral Service

NOV 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

North Field 4th Ward
408 W. 1300 N.
Pleasant Grove, UT

Tribute Wall



“ *David Richard James*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *I remember David from our Deacons/scouts days in Rialto. He was really good at winning prizes from radio stations. I was just trying to locate David on Facebook where I learned of his passing in 2015. He was a great guy who was a great example to others. I will always remember him fondly.*

Bruce Skousen

Bruce Skousen - January 30, 2022 at 12:42 AM



“ *David was a dedicated teacher in the BYU Geography Department, and in 1985 established a cooperative NWS weather station on campus. Numerous students were trained by him to take the measurements over the past 30 years, and daily observations continue today.*



Matt Bekker - November 07, 2015 at 01:41 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of David Richard James.*



November 04, 2015 at 04:43 PM

LH

“ Dave, our "Church Lady," our "hippydippy weatherman," our colleague and friend, we have missed you acutely since your retirement. You are one of the most balanced individuals I've ever met--intelligent, funny, tolerant and open-minded. In the sixteen years I've worked with you, there was never a negative word about you --and you know how vocal our students could be if they had a complaint about a teacher. I am grateful that you were in my life. When my two eldest children would come to visit the school, you were always the first--and sometimes the only--teacher they wanted to visit. I'm grateful you were in Kevin and Kayleigh's lives as well.



I wish peace and healing for the loved ones you have left behind.

Lynne Harter - November 04, 2015 at 11:41 AM

DM

“ Dave was a good friend, a face I saw several times a week at school. He seemed to be always positive and happy. He was able to encourage others just by his attitude. I have taught many of his children at Pleasant Grove Jr high over the years. I wish them and his wife, Sue, comfort in knowing earth life is over for Dave but for for the eternities.

David Myers -wood shop/engineering/CTE

Dave Myers - November 04, 2015 at 08:42 AM

“ I’ve known David James since the early 1980’s. After we met he quickly became like a brother to me. I will greatly miss his cheerful voice, his smile and laughter, and his caring personality and friendship.

Dave definitely loved his fellowman. He had a positive nature and influence for good that came from his faith in God and his desire to serve others. He often expressed his love for his wife and children, his concern and hopes for his students, and his desire to help others better understand the world they lived in.

Dave was a wonderful husband, father, teacher and scientist.

Professionally, he was a geographer, who taught physical geography to BYU students and earth science to junior high school students. In my opinion, Dave’s professional career followed the statements found in two verses of scripture, which read: "Teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom, seek learning even by study and also by faith" (D&C 109:7); and "Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness" (D&C 58:27). Dave did these things.

Dave was also a dedicated weather observer, enthusiastic weather forecaster and excellent climatological researcher. Over the course of thirty years--between 1983 and 2012--Dave contributed extensive information to multiple publications about Utah’s weather and climate; and he reported on numerous weather events that were used by Utah newspapers and radio and television stations.

Here are a few examples of Dave’s contributions that helped atmospheric scientists and the general public better understand Utah’s weather and climate: In 1983, Dave researched and co-produced a publication on the types of weather that had happened during LDS General Conferences since 1888. In 1987, he produced a ground-breaking BYU master’s thesis on Utah’s tornadoes and waterspouts which corrected the misconception of many people at the time who believed that Utah rarely—if ever--experienced tornadoes or waterspouts. In 1997, he was a major contributor to weather information that appeared in the widely-distributed book *Utah’s Weather and Climate*. And in 1999, when a well-documented

tornado hit downtown Salt Lake City, Dave's continued research on Utah's tornadic history paved the way for atmospheric scientists to better understanding the frequency, distribution and probabilities of tornadic activity in the Beehive State.

Perhaps like many of his friends I wish I could see Dave again and hear him talk about his wife and children, his teaching experiences, and the weather. However, I trust that he now knows—better than ever before—that his family, friends and associates cherish the Christ-like love and friendship he continually showed towards them and others while he was alive; and that he will continue to watch over his family and friends from the other side.

Clayton Brough

KTVX Climatologist (Retired)

Teacher, Eisenhower Jr. High (Retired)

Clayton Brough - November 03, 2015 at 06:44 PM