

DAVID R. RATHBURN

July 7, 1957 - February 6, 2024



David R. Rathburn, 66 years old, died February 6, 2024 of complications from his hard-fought, multi-year battle with rectal cancer. He was born in Denver, CO on July 7, 1957, grew up in Moon Township, PA, and was residing in Keswick, VA at the time of his passing. He is survived by his partner, Diane Espinosa; his sons, Mark and Tyler (Sophia), their mothers, Chari and Jayne; his sister, Karen Rathburn (Peter

Schepis); and his brother, Ralph (Charlie Watanabe). He will miss being part of the lives of his nieces, Jillian Schepis Lee (Joseph Lee), and their son, Henry, and Haley Schepis Falcone (Ben Falcone). He is also survived by uncles, aunts, and cousins, including special cousins, Lisa Inkret and Jeannine Holland.

David was comforted during his battle with cancer by knowing what came after his life on earth, and rejoices in being at home with his Lord and Savior.

David was an accomplished businessman and entrepreneur. He became President of Hopeman Brothers Marine Interiors at age 33, founded US Joiner, and owned Glenmore Country Club and a thriving real estate rental business in the Outer Banks, as well as other smaller angel investments. He managed his personal affairs and businesses in accordance with his philosophy for life - in order of importance: Faith, Family, Friends, Finances; and in everything you do, Fun.

Few people were more competitive than David - he always gave his best effort. He found his outlet later in life through competition on the golf course, and particularly enjoyed playing in Scotland and Ireland. For more than 20 consecutive years he and a special group of friends traveled to Myrtle Beach for a golf marathon that covered up to nine rounds in five days, and no one enjoyed it more. He lived life at a pace few could maintain.

David believed that he had an obligation to share the blessings that had been bestowed upon him. Most important to him was his alma mater, Grove City College, class of '79. He served on its board for 25 years and as its chair for 17 years, and was named Chair Emeritus and awarded an honorary doctorate.

David found great joy in helping people and invested in Christian education domestically, as well as around the world. He believed that the solution to the challenges that the world faces today was a return to the commitment of faith in God. David served as a ruling elder at First Presbyterian of Charlottesville and on the board of Junior Achievement of Augusta County, was past Campaign Chair and President of the Waynesboro and East Augusta United Way and was a current member of the board of the Virginia Institute of Autism. He truly believed in the concept of paying it forward.

David traveled to all 50 states, six continents and 48 countries, and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to join with family and friends to experience new adventures.

He loved all Pittsburgh-based and University of Virginia sports teams, and was fortunate to have been in attendance to watch the Pirates win a World Series, the Steelers win a Super Bowl and UVA win the NCAA Basketball Championship.

David was preceded in death by his mother, Flora Rice Rathburn; and his father, Donald Rathburn. He credited both for his foundation of faith, hard work and the importance of relationships and giving back.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Grove City College David Rathburn Scholarship Fund, 200 Campus Drive, Grove City, PA 16127. A Celebration of David's Life will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, VA, on Friday, February 16, 2024 at 10:00 AM, as well as on the Grove City College campus on September 12, 2024.

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