

## J. DAVID ELSE

J. David Else, known affectionately to friends and family as David, passed away peacefully on May 18, 2024, at the age of 91, in Pittsburgh. Born on March 4, 1933, in Mt. Lebanon, David's early years were marked by a spirited zest for life and a deep sense of purpose which would define his many years.

A proud graduate of Penn State, David's quest for knowledge and his desire to serve others led him to attend seminary at Nashotah House for two years, where he cultivated his vocation to help and guide others. His faith-filled life was a testament to his unwavering commitment to his spiritual calling. His first church was at St. George in Waynesburg. After his time in the ministry, David felt called to a different path, one that would allow him to support those struggling with addiction.

David's dedication to service was also evident in his time with the United States Marines Corps, where he served his country with honor and distinction. His experiences in the military fortified his resilience and furthered his desire to contribute positively to the lives of others.

In his most notable professional achievement, David founded the Center for Spirituality in 12 Step Recovery, a beacon of hope for countless individuals seeking guidance and support through a 12-step program. His vision for the Center was rooted in compassion, understanding, and the unwavering belief that every person deserves a chance at redemption and a fulfilling life. He was on the opening staff and a therapist at Gateway Rehabilitation Center, and Mon Yough Rehabilitation in McKeesport, helping both of these programs get started in the early 1970's.

David's work at the Center for Spirituality in 12 Step Recovery was more than a career; it was a calling that he embraced wholeheartedly. His approach to recovery was characterized by his faith-filled nature, always providing a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on for those in need. His legacy is not only in the programs he established but in the lives he touched and the community he built.

Friends, colleagues, and those he mentored remember David as a pillar of strength, a man whose life was a profound embodiment of service and faith. His impact on the world was as generous as it was profound, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

David's journey through life was one of purpose, marked by his steadfast dedication to helping others find their way. As we say farewell to J. David Else, we reflect on a life lived with conviction, love, and an enduring faith that inspired countless others to seek their own paths to recovery and peace. His memory will continue to serve as a guiding light for many, and his legacy will live on in the community he cherished and the lives he helped transform.

David is survived by his two children, Cathy (Joe), and Jeffrey (Christine); four grandchildren, Julie, Michael, Andrew, and Daniel; and two great-grandchildren. In addition to his beloved wife, Patricia Ann (Schneider) Else, David was preceded in death by a daughter, Sandie; and his five siblings.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM on Friday, May 24, 2024, at St. Peters Episcopal Church, 4048 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15227. A Funeral Service will be held at 4:00 PM following the visitation at the church.

Send online condolences at [jeffersonmemorial.com](http://jeffersonmemorial.com).

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