

DAVID LEE WALLACH



David Lee Wallach passed away on August 11, 2024, after days of loving family visits, following a quick decline from a debilitating stroke. David was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Dorothy; and his beloved wife of almost 60 years, Carole Gerstacker Wallach. He is survived by his sister Paula Eppinger; and sister-in-law Marcia Anselmo; children, Beth Wallach, Dan (Joyce) Wallach, Deborah

(Joseph) Busche; grandchildren, Kaitlin Grabowski, Jonathan Wallach, Christine (Alex) Armstrong, Jackson and Damien Busche; stepson Dennis Hulihan; great-grandchildren, Ty and Michael Grabowski, Brayden Armstrong; and many cousins, nieces and nephews and their children; "extra family" Holly (Rich) Schmidt and Ann (Chris) Hall; and wonderful caregivers Corrine, Diane, Emily, Bobbie, and Nora, among others.

David was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on August 21, 1940, and graduated from Shaker High School in 1958. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and graduated from Case Institute of Technology. A few days after graduating with a B.S. in physics in 1962, he married his "angel" Carole Gerstacker. They moved to the Pittsburgh area, where David worked at Westinghouse Bettis from 1962-1967, while attending night school at Carnegie Tech and earning a master's degree in Physics. While working at Westinghouse, he was a nuclear physicist involved in the first large-scale civilian nuclear power plant, and represented Westinghouse when their first nuclear submarine's reactor powered up. In 1967, David got a "lifetime dose" of radiation in a small mishap at the Shippingport plant. This resulted in a new career in teaching physics, to which he was extremely well suited. He taught at Penn State McKeesport until 1998, achieving his Ph.D. in Planetary Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1979 while working full-time and raising three children. At Penn State, he mentored students, and developed a physics curriculum for engineering technology programs. He also co-authored the third edition of Frederick Bueche's college textbook, "Technical Physics". David had a very active retirement, including two teaching stints at Pitt, and Washington, and Jefferson, tutoring physics to high schoolers, and managing Carole's psychology practice.

David was a devoted husband, son, father, and cat person. He was very active in raising his three children. He served on the Peters Township School Board from 1979-1989, including two years as president. David's passion in life was helping people, always putting others needs before his own. Throughout his marriage, he took care of Carole, through sickness and health, until her death in 2022, and traveled with her to all seven continents. Judaism was a core part of his identity. He was actively involved at Rodef Shalom Congregation and served as president of its Junior Congregation. Aside from family, his proudest achievement was writing and publishing his book, "God and Science, Resolving the Paradox." David was a long term participant in longitudinal studies on Alzheimer's Disease at UPMC, and has donated his body to medical research.

All are welcome to attend David's memorial service on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Rodef Shalom Congregation, in Pittsburgh, which will be live-streamed (call Rodef for the link). Please also join us for a fitting celebration of David's life with a Pittsburgh cookie table (bring some if you want) from 3:00 PM-7:00 PM the same day at Rolling Hills Park's Shelter A, in McMurray. Contributions in David's memory may be sent to the Washington PA area Humane Society, the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, or the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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