

Dave Rempe - Hominy

The Apostle Paul says that, “We grieve, but we do not grieve as those without hope.” We gather to remember and to celebrate the life of Dave Rempe, to give thanks for all the ways he helped us and inspired us. We gather to draw strength and consolation from one another. And we gather as a family of faith, trusting that Dave now knows the full and abundant life of the Kingdom of God . Giving thanks for Dave’s life and that his life continues still, let us worship God.

Call to Worship

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Gracious God, Source of strength, Giver of both life and life eternal, we pray for your peace, your presence, and for a spirit of hope. Remind us of special moments that we shared with Dave --times of sharing and conversation, of friendship and at family gatherings, of the ways that his example guided us, that his goodness inspired us, that his love pointed us towards You. Remind us, our God, that You are here, as our Rock and our Redeemer, as an ever-present help in times of trouble and that in the coming days, You will undergird us with a hope and courage beyond our own.

In the spirit of Easter, we claim for Dave and for ourselves, the good news of resurrection. Thank You for this reassurance, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Memories of Dave

This is undoubtedly the last thing that Dave would have wanted – to have us here making him the center of attention. Late in His ministry, Jesus said simply, “The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom

for many.” That sense of humility, of self-giving, of wanting to make sure that everyone else was happy, of insuring that our needs were met before his, summed up David’s life.

“Oh, I don’t need a fancy Christmas gift.” “Yes, we could travel to Europe , but what I really want to do is see Beth and Theo, Brian and Melissa, Susan and Lineu, and to spend time with Joseph, Isabel, Gabrielle and Hazel.” “I want to listen to your story, my story isn’t really that important.”

But, of course, David’s story is important to us. He meant so much to us – as a husband, as a father and grandfather, as a parishioner, as a friend. We’ve lost someone very special, but gather with the faith that Dave himself possessed that he is now alive and well, safe in the arms of His Creator and Lord.

David was born in Yonkers on September 4th, 1937. He grew up in the Washington D.C. area. In his youth, he played the trumpet and delivered newspapers. After graduation from Bethesda High School , he entered a five year civil engineering program at Cornell University . Earning his way through college, he drove an ambulance and trimmed hedges. He wasn’t afraid of hard, hard work.

After college, being in the reserves, he took basic training. Fortunately he ended up in the Engineering Battalion. He also began his career and spent 18 months in Liberia , living in the bush, helping to design roads. A spirit of adventure led him to take a year off, which he spent traveling around the world. In 1968, he came to Champaign , to enroll in the Ph.D. program in Civil Engineering here at U of I. Champaign is also where he met Naomi Walter, the love of his life. They dated, quickly fell in love, and after Naomi proposed – Dave had bitten his tongue and was quiet and Naomi just mentioned, “You know, we should get married,” so behold, they were engaged. A great decision! Dave and Naomi were then married on December 21st, 1968.

Dave continued his studies, wrote his thesis on “wave equations,” and took great delight in the fact that his thesis had numerous, very practical applications. He received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering in 1975, and from there, his business and his consulting took off. He contributed to construction projects worldwide, including the Pentagon, the NASA launch pad at Cap Canaveral and the Baltimore Ravens stadium.

Dave was very successful, but he would quickly tell you that the greatest joy of his life was his family and friends. He always found time for us; he never missed that soccer game or music recital; without complaint, he stayed up half the night helping us finish our science project. He was loving and concerned and protective and authentic.

Dave served this community faithfully. He was on the board of Habitat for Humanity. Even while sick himself, he drove patients to the hospital and to doctor’s appointments. He was a fine elder. At Session meetings, Dave would quietly listen to the pros and cons of a suggestion, and wouldn’t always immediately weigh in with an opinion. But when he did, his suggestion would be thoughtful and broad and wise.

Dave came to faith as an adult, and he studied diligently. His dog-eared Bible showed that he expended the same effort in his spiritual life that he did towards both work and family. I always appreciated his questions, as challenging as they might be.