



Mr. David Robinson Piper

September 7, 1940 - July 4, 2018

David R. Piper, 77, of Asheville passed away at 10:00 PM on Wednesday, July 4, 2018 at the John F. Keever, Jr. Solace Center due to complications of cancer.

A native of Hartford, CT, David was the son of the late Philip and Gertrude Mary Robinson Piper. Dave was also preceded in death by his brother, Philip R. "Skeet" Piper.

Dave graduated from Lycoming College in 1964 with a Bachelor's degree in Special Education and went on to the University of New Haven, CT where he obtained his Masters in Organizational Industrial Psychology in 1986.

Some of the work that Dave had been most proud of included: Volunteer Fire Dept. Preston, CT (1966-1980); Emergency Medical Services Instructor (1970-1980); Special Education Teacher Old Stonington, CT; Teacher Preston Plains Junior High; General Dynamics Electric Boat Division/ Ships Test Operations Engineer (1977-1995); Naval Nuclear Lab, Kenneth A. Kesselring Site; Asheville Easter Seals UCP Director (2003-2005) and Davidson Homes Director of Operations (2008- 2018).

"My passion has always been the desire to help others. I have found so much pleasure in sharing experiences and knowledge and watching the "lights go on."

Teaching, training, instructing, publishing a book, working with the intellectually and developmentally disadvantaged, and providing tools for others have contributed to my sense of accomplishment."-DP

Dave made the United States Olympic team for canoeing. He also enjoyed scuba, spelunking, camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, boating, exploring the Arctic and Galapagos Islands.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Christine Nicholson Piper, whom he married in Windsor, CT, on March 30, 1968; five children, Sean, Scott, Keith, Dawn Piper Hubbard and Bethany Piper; daughters in law, Shelly, Jennifer and Diane; son in law, Matthew

Hubbard; nine grandchildren, Jayden, Rowan, Hannah, Jackson, Elijah, Brook, Seth, Kyle and Chad. He is also the loving Uncle to John, Janet, Tim, Wendy, Ryan and Tim.

Dave is also survived by his best friend, Walter Anderson, who he enjoyed camping, fishing and all things outdoors with.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, July 28, 2018 at First Baptist Church of Asheville, 5 Oak Street, Asheville, NC 28801. Pastor Brian Peterson will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Dave's favorite charity, Friends Across NC-Fun Shine, Lucy Wilson, 264 Lodge Cabin Lane, Burnsville, NC 28714. Working with the mentally challenged was Dave's passion which he was involved in all his adult life.

Events

JUL **Memorial Service** 11:00AM
28

First Baptist Church of Asheville
5 Oak Street, Asheville, NC, US, 28801

Comments



“ I am so very sad to here about Dave's death. When I first arrived at Lycoming College and pledged KDR fraternity, Dave and I became immediate friends because we had so much in common. I knew he was an adventurer and so was I. We spent many hours outside the classroom, wild cave exploring. When roaming around the woods and farmers fields, if we spotted a hole in the ground..down we would go. Don't think we ever considered the danger because they were limestone caves. One day, Dave read a book called the LAST RAFT and it sparked an idea in his mind. He gathered together a few KDR brothers, came up with a very unique game plan and decided we should build our own raft out of trees from Bald Eagle Mountain and float it down the Susquehanna river as a tribute to the 7 people that died on the LAST RAFT when it hit a bridge abutment in Muncie, Pa. We did just that by cutting down trees (with permission from the Forest Service) and sliding them down the mountain to the river in the winter snow . Had to check the local train schedule, of course, because we had to haul the trees across the railroad tracks to get them into the river. Once completed, we shoved off and spent 3 days on the river heading to Harrisburg, where we eventually crashed on the rocks and had to be rescued by the river rescue squad in an airboat..when we knew we were going to crash Dave told everyone on the raft to lay down and hold on tight.he said not to worry, "we'll make it". No one got killed and it turned out to be one of the biggest adventures in my life and all the credit goes to Dave. Dave actually had the brilliant idea of putting a grill on the raft and we cooked hotdogs and hamburgers while drifting down the river...Huckleberry Finn came to mind several times. He will certainly be missed by me and many, many others. He was one of the greatest personalities I have ever met in my 76 years. Later Dave, your buddy...Ken Henry

Ken Henry - July 28, 2018 at 09:26 AM



“ Yes Ken, you said it all. That particular trip is still a 'highlight' of his life. He was definitely an adventurer and had many wonderful opportunities during his life. He enjoyed your friendship and I know how much he thought of you. You were and will always be 'his buddy'. Thank you for your remembrance and your friendship throughout the years.

Chris Piper - August 02, 2018 at 04:38 PM



“ Dave Piper was a true advocate and sincere leader for people with challenges. Dave always had a smile and a authentic caring heart. Dave was a great partner with many of us from Vaya Health. We will miss his passionate voice and honesty to help all of us remember to always keep people first and make the system easier for everyone. Dave was a loyal member of the Vaya Provider Council and his collaborative presence will be missed.

I had my own personal relationship with Dave. He was a very kind person and always took time to inquire about my life. He offered a caring heart to my life struggles. He encouraged me to take care of myself and stay true to my own journey.

He was a great person and he truly made my life and the world a better place.

On behalf of Vaya Health, we offer our sincere condolences. We will carry the "Dave Piper Torch" into the future and commit to be loyal to his beautiful values and beliefs for people less fortunate.

Offering Comfort and Peace,
Christina Dupuch (formerly Carter)
Vaya Health

Christina - July 22, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ Oh Christina - what a wonderful tribute to Dave. It makes me so happy to know how much people cared and I truly pray that the "Dave Piper Torch" will continue in his beliefs to be loyal to the values and beliefs for people less fortunate.

Chris Piper - August 02, 2018 at 04:25 PM



“ Mr. Piper was one of my teachers at Preston Plains School. I will remember him always for tasking us to learn the Preamble to the Constitution which I still remember to this day. Sending my condolences to his family and friends.

Merry Mattern Sylvia

Merry Mattern Sylvia - July 22, 2018 at 10:47 AM



“ Thank you for your kind words. He loved teaching at the Preston Plains School. He always said his kids were the best, enthusiastic, and fun to teach.

Chris Piper - August 02, 2018 at 04:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tim - July 17, 2018 at 08:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Adventures



Mark - July 09, 2018 at 09:42 AM