



David Ray Tenpenny Sr

December 16, 1938 - November 8, 2023

We are heartbroken to announce the death of our father, David Ray Tenpenny Sr, who passed on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at Aston Park Health Care Center, Asheville, NC after becoming ill in December 2022.

David, 84, was born on December 16, 1938, in Nashville, TN to James Robert and Ocie Jane Davenport Tenpenny. David was a graduate of Donelson High School, class of 1958. He furthered his education by studying architecture at secondary school for two years. From 1955 to 1963, David served in the Army National Guard, where he excelled as a marksman. After his military service, David pursued a successful career as an Architect, Builder/Contractor, Draftsman, and Realtor. As a builder, he took great pride in his craftsmanship and was known for making families' dreams come true.

David had a wide range of interests and hobbies. He enjoyed old cars, (his children grew up riding in Austin-Healy's, Jaguars, and share his love of fine autos), feeding squirrels, hummingbirds (and bears!), photography, donating blood, supporting various charities, gardening, coin collecting, attending his grandchildren's sporting events, and spending time with family. He was particularly dedicated to donating blood and received multiple awards for his numerous contributions. Even after being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2001, David continued to donate to the pheresis program.

Christmas was David's favorite time of the year, and he wholeheartedly embraced the holiday spirit. David made numerous lists and began saving money and shopping early in the year. His lists were revised several times before December when David's family were each given a pile of presents which grew immensely in later years. His children were blessed with a father of generosity, kindness, a quirky sense of humor, and love.

David is survived by his children: Ray Jr. (Tammy) of Asheville, Toni Thompson (Dale Little) of Denver, NC, Tracy Sudderth (Jeffrey) of Asheville, and Chris (Melissa) of Rutherfordton, NC. He is also survived by his brother Johnny (Linda), sister-in-laws Barbara and Kyra, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. David was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his brothers Kent, Wallace, Hayden, and Charles, and his sister Patsy Polk.

The family will hold a gathering at a later date to continue the cherished tradition of bringing together David's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Heart Association(heart.org), the Dementia Society(<http://dementiasociety.org>), or the American Red Cross(redcross.org). These organizations were close to David's heart, and he would be honored to have donations made in his memory.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Aston Park Health Care Center for their care and support from February 2023 to November 8, 2023. They would also like to thank the dedicated staff, especially Pepper, Diane, Hannah, Patricia, Mark, Brian, Vickie, and Laura. Additionally, heartfelt appreciation goes to Bernadette, affectionately known as "Bernie," for her exceptional care, kind bedside manner, communication, love, and attention to their father. The family is also thankful to Firehouse 11 for their efforts on November 8.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Highlands Cremation and Funeral Care. Cards and condolences can be sent to the Family of David Tenpenny, 10 Lamb Ave, Asheville, NC 28806. Online condolences may be made at <https://www.highlandscremationandfuneralcare.com/>

Please join the family in honoring the life and legacy of David Ray Tenpenny by making a contribution to one of the aforementioned charities or by sharing your memories and condolences.