



David Edward Ortman

June 15, 1954 - October 7, 2024

DAVID EDWARD ORTMAN

Passed away after a courageous fight with cancer on October 7, 2024.

David is survived by his wife, Susan Anderson. Survived also by his parents, Edward and Evelyn Ortman; sister, Christine Arcara (Derek Peacock); brothers-in-law, Paul, Todd, and Peter Anderson; niece, Lindsay (Aaron) Luna; nephew, Daniel (Olivia) Otto; aunt, Ruth Fraty; uncle, Donald Wainright; great-niece and nephews and cousins.

David was born in Rochester, New York, on June 15, 1954, and graduated from Gates-Chili High School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked as a Chemical Engineer for Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan, for over 30 years. After Dow divested his business, Dave continued his same R&D role with Trinseo, LLC, first as an employee and later as a contractor. His work involved the development and support of R&D business software that was used globally. He spent extensive time over the years in Germany, Venezuela, South Korea, California, and Georgia.

At his high school reunion in 1992, Dave re-met Sue, an acquaintance since fourth grade. After a long-distance relationship between Washington, D.C. and Michigan, Sue moved to Midland, and they were married in 1994. Dave and Sue shared a love of travel, and they vacationed often with trips throughout the United States, Europe, Central and Latin America, and Africa. They moved back to Rochester in 2006, primarily to be closer to family; both were able to work virtually from their home.

Dave was an avid photographer. He loved daily walks with his dogs, first Scooby and then Cole. He was active in the MIT Club of Rochester and had volunteered with Literacy Volunteers and LifeSpan. He enjoyed dining out and going to the theater at GEVA. Dave was a political news junkie and worked as an election poll worker for Monroe County. He was the family and friends' go-to guy for all computer hardware and software issues.

His was a life well lived. He will be sorely missed by family and friends.

Private inurnment at White Haven Memorial Park, Pittsford, New York.

Cemetery Details

White Haven Memorial Park

210 Marsh Road
Pittsford, NY 14534

Tribute Wall

JW

“ So sorry to just hear this news after our traditional exchanging of holiday messages.

Dave provided R&D plant support for the Latex plant in California and saw us through major plant renovations. He spent weeks with us over many years and through staff turnover, working all hours to assure success. He was a key part of an incredible turnaround for that plant around 1984, supporting us remotely before anyone knew how to effectively do so. He believed in us, and because he took time to know us and our plant, he was one of the few we listened to.

Our Dow (extended) world has lost a dogged problem solver and special friend. His dry humor, incredible insight, and hard work will be remembered.

Thanks to those who shared photos - exactly as I remember him.

Joyce Woods - December 30, 2024 at 09:46 PM

PF

“ *It was an honor and a privilege to work with Dave throughout the years. He was always available to share advice and a laugh. Dave was not just a great co-worker; he was my friend. Wishing his family strength and peace during this challenging time.*

Pamela S Foster - October 30, 2024 at 12:27 PM

BC

“ Dave was a unique man. He taught me much of what I know about emulsion polymers. I met him on my first day at work in Dow, and consulted with him almost every day that we worked together. His calm tolerance of my stupidity allowed me to learn quickly. Eventually, I even learned enough to disagree with him on occasion and we had some wonderful debates. He was kind and generous with his time. You are missed.

Bruce C - October 30, 2024 at 12:24 PM

PF

“ Pamela F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edward Ortman.

Pamela F. - October 30, 2024 at 08:31 AM

MK

“ Dave was the nicest person and always willing to help. As a young engineer working for Dow in the Latex business, he was the go-to person and taught me everything I know about recipe management. I am thankful to have known him and appreciate all that he has done. My prayers and sympathies are with his family during this difficult time.

Melissa Kirkland - October 17, 2024 at 03:12 PM

GW

“ 3 files added to the album Latex Pictures



Gregory Welsch - October 14, 2024 at 03:51 PM

GW

“ Dave was one of the most calm "thinkers" I have ever met. To steal a quote from Jules Hagymassy from years back, Dave never succumbed to "mindless enthusiasm". He always focused on the facts, the data, and a bit of common sense sprinkled in to solve problems, help colleagues, and help to make us the best and most consistent supplier in the industry. I remember my first true engagement with Dave was as a young engineer challenged to resurrect and bring back to statistical control our particle size measurement instrumentation in 1604 building. At first perhaps a bit intimidated by Dave's supreme intelligence, he quickly brought me to a good place with a well thought out plan of attack. I will post some pictures from years past as I am still digging. What amazes me is Dave's picture from 1984 until recent shows the same calm, sometimes stoic appearance that we all counted on over Dave's 40+ years of service to the latex business. Rest in peace Dave and our condolences to Susan and family for your great loss. Greg Welsch

Gregory Welsch - October 14, 2024 at 12:30 PM

JP

“ David was the father and brain for developing a system that will be used for many years to come. He was an inspiration for many and devoted till the very last minute. You will be missed but never forgotten.
Thanks

Joop Peeters - October 14, 2024 at 02:49 AM

LC

“ I met Dave several years ago, as a fellow member of the board of the MIT Club of Rochester. I enjoyed working with him - a steady and wise presence on our board, always willing to help out with the various tasks that arose as the club was revitalized since 2018. We'll miss his positive and constructive presence, and his fellowship at both club outings and virtual meetings. RIP Dave, Laurel

Laurel Carney - October 13, 2024 at 09:21 PM

RK

“ I met Dave during my time with Dow in Midland and had the pleasure of working with for many years. His professional advice and support was key to many projects. Dave was one of those people who made a difference, to the team and company. I offer my condolences to his family. Rainer

Rainer Knappich - October 13, 2024 at 11:00 AM

DV

“ Dave was a fantastic person. He helped me and advised me many times and always was happy to do it. He also shared with me his travelling adventures and experiences and happy to share recommendations for things for me to do in my retirement. You are missed.
Don Ventresca

Don Ventresca - October 12, 2024 at 04:01 PM

FK

“ Met Dave as a researcher at Dow Chemical Company, Styron and Trinseo. He was a hard working, professional and a very intelligent scientist.
I offer my condolences to his family and friends. I pray for comfort to all he left behind. May his soul rest in peace

Femi Kotoye - October 12, 2024 at 02:26 PM

JO

“ Dave was unsurpassed at Dow and Trinseo in the breadth and depth of his technical knowledge. I was fortunate to have known and worked with him.

John Oates

John Oates - October 11, 2024 at 06:34 PM

JM

“ Jacqueline M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edward Ortman.

Jacqueline M. - October 11, 2024 at 08:49 AM

JH

“ Pam and I send our condolences and prayers to you Susan , at David's passing. I especially remember when the two of you visited us in Fairbanks, Alaska a few years back, and I do remember the high school reunion in 1992 when the two of you got reacquainted. May your good memories of your time together be a comfort.

John Van Haneghan - October 10, 2024 at 05:10 PM



“ Purple Violet Yellow Wildflower Mix (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of David Edward Ortman.



October 10, 2024 at 04:24 PM

MS

“ Marco Gerhard Schindler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edward Ortman.

Marco Gerhard Schindler - October 10, 2024 at 04:24 PM

JC

“ So sorry to see this. I didnt know he was ill. We worked together in the early/mid 70's at McDonalds! We referred to him as "Oats". Good guy. I remember we would stop at other MCD's and David would act like he was an inspector from corporate, write up a review/report, and then ask to see the manager and go over the review with him!
Glad we reconnected via Facebook a couple years ago....I once drove him back to Rocheter with his cat back then. He was at RPI, I was a Sr. in HS or freshman at HVCC...

Jerry Crucetti - October 10, 2024 at 04:19 PM

SA

Jerry, in all our years together, I never heard this story. I'm sitting at home, smiling, because I know Dave's humor and I can absolutely picture him doing this. Thank you so much for sharing this. -Sue

susan Anderson - October 16, 2024 at 06:15 PM

MS

“ Dave was my inspiration in many respects. I've been working with him over several decades and I learned a lot during this time. I am missing you.



Marco Schindler - October 10, 2024 at 04:15 PM