



## David W. Laidlaw

October 24, 1951 - May 4, 2022

David William Laidlaw, 70, of Saline, MI died from complications of t-cell lymphoma on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Dave is predeceased by his parents, Bob and Della Laidlaw, and his brother, Tom. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Mary, son Kevin, daughters Erin (Ryan) and Lizzy (Andrew), granddaughter Izzy, brother Bob (Val), sisters Mary (Ted) and Susie (Martin), sister-in-law Lisa and many nieces and nephews who are still recovering from and laughing at his many tricks and jokes, such as the time he hid Aunt Mary's Easter basket on the roof. The line between friends, neighbors, colleagues and family was a thin one for Dave, and thus many, many others - from the halls of the hospitals he served to the docks of the yacht clubs he loved - join Mary, Erin, Kevin and Lizzy in honoring his remarkably full and well-rounded life.

Dave was born on October 24, 1951, in Tecumseh, MI. He once shared with his children that the best approach to life is to "learn, earn, serve," and that is exactly what he did. After graduating from Tecumseh High School in 1969, he earned his BA from Williams College in 1973 and then his MD from the University of Michigan in 1977. The degree he is most proud of, however, is the "MRS" he awarded to Mary in 1978. "Dr. Dave" - as many referred to him - enjoyed a meaningful, fulfilling and dynamic career at the Beyer, Saline and St. Joe's hospitals, as well as at Emergency Physicians Medical Group (EPMG), where he oversaw the finance department. But more important to

him than his career was the quality time he spent with his friends and family; Wednesday nights with the Send in the Clowns crew on Lake Erie, Sunday mornings with Fleet 31, UM basketball games at Crisler Arena, family vacations in Cabo and Anna Maria Island, Thanksgivings with his siblings, nieces and nephews. He is a past commodore of the Williams College Sailing Club, Barton Boat Club and Devil's Lake Yacht Club. A former Eagle Scout, he traveled extensively and adventurously, heli- and cat-skiing both domestically and in Europe, sailing all over the Great Lakes (including the Race to Mackinac), and fishing & scuba diving the Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf and Pacific. And yet despite these grand adventures, he never grew tired of a pontoon boat ride with his beloved dogs or a nap on the couch with a cat in his lap. His humility was one of his many great strengths, second only to his ability to crack himself up in such a way that his shoulders shook with silent laughter. If you know, you know!

In matters of illness, heartache, disappointment, pain and trouble, Dave often wrote his loved ones a different sort of Rx, prescribing a "tincture of time." It seems inconceivable that any amount of time will heal the sorrow his death brings. But Dave was explicit in his wishes to be remembered with fondness and not sadness, and no one who has met Dave has any desire to let him down. It was also very important to him to thank everyone who reached out, cheered him on and supported him during his illness, including the kind and talented staff of the 11th floor oncology unit at St. Joe's.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Dave's memory may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and/or the MS Society. Envelopes will be available at the service. You may also wish to honor him by doing one or more of the following: completing a routine chore with excellence, buying a lottery ticket when the pot gets big, planning a vacation for your family, playing with your dog or cat, eating a big piece of chocolate cake or telling a joke that you think is hysterical to someone who either will not get it or will not find it funny.

A visitation will take place at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline on Sunday, May 8, 2022 from 3:30 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. Additionally, the family will receive friends at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Saline on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 9:30 A.M. A funeral mass will then begin at 10:30 A.M. and a luncheon will be held at the church following the service. To sign Dave's guestbook, to leave a memory you have of him or for more information please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Columbarium

910 Austin Road  
Saline, MI 48176

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 8.** 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Visitation

**MAY 9.** 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Drive  
Saline, MI 48176  
<https://standrewsaline.org/>

## Mass of the Resurrection

MAY 9. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Drive  
Saline, MI 48176  
<https://standrewsaline.org/>

## Committal Service

MAY 9. 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Columbarium  
910 Austin Road  
Saline, MI 48176

## Luncheon

MAY 9. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Drive  
Saline, MI 48176  
<https://standrewsaline.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *David W. Laidlaw*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family. I worked with David at Beyer for many years. He was one of my favorite doctors to serve with. A great doctor and a more wonderful person. Condolences.*

**Phyllis Schrecengost** - May 08, 2022 at 09:08 PM



“ *To Mary and family, I was so saddened to hear of Dave's passing and your great loss. Please know that I am holding you all in prayers and love as you navigate life without him. I know you have tons of memories and laughs to help you through the dark moments so to have the light. Thinking of you all so much, Carol Skala*

**Carol Skala** - May 07, 2022 at 08:01 PM

“ Dear Mary, Erin, Kevin, Lizzy, Bob, Mary A. and Susie,

*I know Dave insisted we focus on happy memories following his passing, but it is very hard to get past the immediate shock and pain. I will try to do as he asked, however, and in truth it is quite easy to come up with those positive memories because, quite frankly, in my experience there weren't any negative ones.*

*I will remember Dave as someone who made me feel part of the family from day one of my marriage into it. If I happened to answer the phone when he called to check in with Bob, he would engage me in conversation as if I were the one he had planned to call and speak with all along. He was a wonderful listener and always curious about what was going on in our lives, even though often times it was pretty mundane stuff.*

*Dave projected an amazingly calm demeanor no matter the circumstance. There may have been an ego in there somewhere, and given all his accomplishments there should have been, but I never saw it on display. He was totally business-like when the situation called for it, but fully able to seek out and enjoy all manner of leisure activities. I don't know of anyone who packed more into 70 years.*

*And then there was the sense of humor. Sometimes off the wall, but it always got your attention. After we moved to Montana, his phone calls would always begin with a query about the status of our “dental floss venture”. This threw me for a loop initially, until Bob explained it was a reference to a Frank Zappa song called “Montana” (not kidding...Google it). That line of questioning didn't go away until we moved to Chile. I don't remember the jokes that resulted from that change in locale, but there had to have been some, as Dave was never one to miss the opportunity to generate a smile.*

*Finally, from all that I observed, Dave was always a very steadfast, proud, supportive, and loving member of his family. And for me, it is*

*hard to imagine having had a better brother-in-law. I will miss him terribly in that role.*

*I am so profoundly sad you are gone, Dave, but I know you are up in heaven with that twinkle in your eye working your darndest on some way to make us all smile in the days ahead. Val Laidlaw*

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**Valerie Laidlaw** - May 07, 2022 at 07:04 PM

JM

“*Dear Mary, I am so sorry to hear of Dave’s passing. He was a great Partner and Friend (also a better skier than me). I have always admired his calm and friendly way of dealing with the world. All the best to you and Family in this trying time.*

*John McCabe*

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**John McCabe** - May 07, 2022 at 04:33 PM

GW

“*Mary - I am so sorry to hear about Dave. I fondly remember his mischievous smile. My best wishes to you & your familyo.*

*Grant Winston*

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**Grant Winston** - May 06, 2022 at 05:05 PM

BN

“*David was a partner and more importantly a friend. His voice was always honest, always helpful, always positive and his sense about life was always tilted towards the big perspective. And the big perspective according to Dave, was that we were very blessed. After our work lives ended, I discovered a friendship and fellow sailer. The sailing will have to wait now until I catch up. I am so thankful for the time we shared. Barry Nemon*

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**Barry Nemon** - May 05, 2022 at 06:13 PM

MS

“ Dear Mary and Family, so very sorry to hear of Dave's passing. Good memories of working with him in Saline. You are such a special person I know he was blessed to have you by his side. May his spirit remain always in your heart. Lots of prayers coming your way. Marianne Schmanske

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**Marianne Schmanske** - May 05, 2022 at 02:06 PM

LS

“ Mary, my heart goes out for your loss. May God fill you during these days with all of his loving Graces. May he fill you with the strength and courage to comfort you. I will keep you in my prayers. We will lan a trip that includes being on the water in his memories. Lynn Strach.

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**lynn Strach** - May 05, 2022 at 08:34 AM

SD

“ Such heartache is felt over a good life cut too short. Dave lived well then fought hard to beat cancer and deserved to live longer. We can only trust our faith and find comfort knowing he is resting peacefully in the kingdom of heaven. The road ahead for Mary, family and friends without him will be a struggle but to honor his wishes, we will choose to savor fond memories and not indulge in too much sadness. A big loss after a very special life story. Rest In Peace, Dr. Dave and I know Mary and family will forge ahead with courage, hope and gratitude. My heart goes out to all. With Love and profound sympathy, Susan (Jones) Draffen

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**Susan H. (Jones) Draffen** - May 04, 2022 at 06:39 PM