



Mr. David Harold Firebaugh

June 12, 1964 - August 5, 2018

On August 5, 2018, David Harold Firebaugh, a talented artist and retired businessman, passed away at the age of 54.

David was born on June 12, 1964, in Wayne, Michigan to Harold and Norma Firebaugh. As a child he was a member of the Cub Scouts. He played baseball, studied judo, and in 1974, at the young age of 10, David became a certified diver. His instructor told our family that at the time, David was the youngest person in Florida to pass the certification test and there were adults in the same class that didn't pass.

David graduated from Kathleen Senior High School in Lakeland, Florida in 1982. He worked in the restaurant industry, and spent time working for his Uncle Dale and Aunt Jackie Firebaugh in their family business. Later, he was a business partner at Animal Designs, Inc., an imprinted sportswear company where he worked together with his mother and sister. David was a screen printer, an artist and a salesman traveling to trade shows to promote the design line. In 1998, David retired and focused on his interests in drawing, painting and woodworking.

David was a good, compassionate, and extraordinarily generous person. I remember one winter asking him where his jacket was. He said he was out walking and met someone who was cold, so he gave it to them. David was also

a lot of fun and had some great dance moves. He loved cats and fed and sheltered the neighborhood strays. He was deeply moved by nature, and many times would sit outside by the lake in his backyard enjoying the view. David was a Christian, and had a particular love for the Methodist Church, which he was raised in from childhood.

David was preceded in death by his father, Harold Lee Firebaugh, and his mother, Norma. He is survived by his sister, Tami Firebaugh Waters, his Brother-in-Law, Rudy R. Waters, II, and his nephew, John Waters. He is deeply loved, and we miss him dearly.

David's Memorial Service will be held on August 18, 2018, at Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations Downtown Chapel, 606 Southwest 2nd Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34471, phone number (352) 537-8111. The viewing is at 9:00 am and the service is at 10:00 am. Following the service will be a luncheon. The graveside service will be held at the Silver Hill Cemetery in Frostproof, Florida at 3:00 pm. David will be buried next to his mother, in the same cemetery where his Grandpa John V. Bentley and Grandma Beulah Bentley were laid to rest.

Tribute Wall

MI

“ I woke up this morning thinking of David. I lost track of him a few years ago, and every now and again would type (as I did again this morning) "David Firebaugh Florida" into a google search, hoping to find some evidence that he was well and happy. Whilst I am not surprised to find his obituary today, I am greatly saddened by it, and the knowledge that I just missed him...again. The earrings are a new thing. I will always remember him as the fellow artist with the long, elegant hands, speaking in rhymes and rhythms, and teaching without knowing it. I will remember his handsome face, and the dark curls that tousled in the wind as he sat smoking cigarettes on the beach, telling me in fine detail how to make a sea aquarium for my clown fish so that they would live long, "happy, happy fish lives." In 2001, David said to me, "Write this down," and he dictated a long poem. When he was finished, I asked him what it meant. He said tersely, "that's you," as if I had missed the obvious. I blinked, and read it again. "Bleeding heart, filled with barbed wire...praying for peace." To this day, it is one of my most cherished possessions; turned out that he knew me better than I could have imagined, even when he was not quite in this world, with his and in the clouds of his own reason. Thanks for the visit this morning, David. I'm sorry I missed you, again. But I am relieved, if not happy, that you are finally safe, Good Man. Love you.

miki - August 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ This precious man was blessed to have such a loving, supportive, and helpful family. David had a special sense of humor and a very distinctive sense of "style". I was blessed to know David and his precious, loving sister for a very long time. Rest in peace, David. I will see you on the other side.

Ann Perry - August 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Deepest sympathies from the hospital staff. It was an honor to be of service to David and to you. We will remember you in our prayers on the day of the funeral. Chaplain Gene Burnsed Hebrews 6:10*

Chaplain Gene Burnsed - August 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *A Sincerest Thoughts was sent on August 12, 2018 YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AS WE SHARE IN THE SADNESS OF DAVID'S PASSING. LOVE HARRIET, ALEX BRANDON AND GARRETT*

Expression of Sympathy - August 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *A BALANCE EASEL SPRAY was sent on August 10, 2018 Rest in peace with precious Jesus, David. We will meet you in Heaven! ~Your HemaCare Plus family.*

Expression of Sympathy - August 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM