



## David A. Pesapane

December 10, 1945 - May 28, 2021

David A. Pesapane -- loving father, grandfather and brother, respected educator and football coach, devoted Boston College Eagle (67) -- died on Friday, May 28 in Raleigh, North Carolina. He was 75.

Dave was born on December 10, 1945 in New Haven, CT to Joseph and Elizabeth (Betty) Pesapane. He attended Notre Dame High School where he played on the 1962 state championship football team and went on to play for Boston College. He later coached his own state championship team (1978) at St. Bernard High School in Uncasville, CT. Dave was a longtime volunteer for the Connecticut Special Olympics where he organized sports clinics and inspired high school athletes to serve as volunteer coaches.

Dave was a young teacher when he met his future wife, Grace Franco. They married in February 1973 during a blizzard and went on to raise their four daughters in Deep River, CT, where they lived until Grace passed away in December 2015 after 42 years of marriage.

A lifelong resident of Connecticut, Dave retired to Carolina Arbors in Durham, NC five years ago to be nearer to family. Together with his youngest daughter Alicia, who has special needs, Dave made the Triangle-area their home away from home, and enjoyed exploring North Carolina from the hills of Asheville to the shores of the Outer Banks -- pushing the mileage on his late wife's '98 Lexus over 231,000. And he loved the tradition of having Sunday suppers at his daughter Laurie's house in nearby Apex, NC.

He found community and friendship at Carolina Arbors. In addition to organizing the neighborhood Lotto club, Dave enjoyed socializing with neighbors over progressive dinner parties and holiday picnics, playing in the community poker club and tending vegetables in the community garden.

Dave was a friend for life to all he knew. He lived a blessed and happy life and took delight in the everyday gifts around him. A plaque in his living room reads, "The most important

thing in life is family. Followed by football. Then food.” Indeed, family meant everything to Dave -- and his youngest daughter Alicia, born with Down Syndrome, was the light of his life. He took great care of Alicia over the years, and vice versa. It’s heartbreaking to imagine her life without him in it.

A proud and loving family man, Dave is survived by his four daughters, Amy Lally (CA), Laurie Parsons (NC), Karen Zadavec (MD) and Alicia Pesapane (NC), his seven grandchildren, Allyson Zadavec, Katherine Lally, Jonathan Zadavec, Sean Lally, Kaitlyn Lally, Ryan Parsons and Evan Parsons, his sister Elizabeth (Betsey) Pesapane, brother Steven Pesapane and sister-in-law Joyce Pesapane, his brother-in-law John Franco, sons-in-law Joseph Lally, Martin Zadavec and Daniel Parsons, his nieces Risa Pesapane, Olivia Hinnau, Liza Zanca and Beth Gilliam, his nephew Andrew Hinnau and many cousins and friends.

Gone too soon, Dave had more life to live and more love to give. He will be forever missed.

Services will be held in Dave’s home state of Connecticut later in June. In celebration of his life, donations can be made in Dave’s name to Gigi’s Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center, Raleigh (<https://gigisplayhouse.org/raleigh>).

# Comments

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“ Laurie, I'm thinking of you and your family. This tribute really shares how incredible of a man your father was, and explains why you are the dedicated, kind, charismatic woman you are today. Sending you a big hug. Kayla Woitkowski

**Kayla Woitkowski** - June 10 at 10:37 AM

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“ It was my good fortune to be Dave's neighbor on Dare Pines Way. We shared a Connecticut background and often chatted about our common memories of "back home". One of the kindest men I've ever met, Dave was loved and admired by all of his neighbors. His devotion to Alicia was a joy to observe. So loving. So caring. I never once heard him complain about anything. He was always smiling and that big smile will be greatly missed.

**Georgia Bushman** - June 08 at 12:17 PM

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“ David, You were a special person to so many of us growing up. Will never forget you as a friend, one of the ND teammates who accomplished so much to change our lives, classmate and leader. Your memory will never be forgotten. You cared and shared so much to many of us. We will miss you and will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. You brought so much sunshine into the lives of others. May you rest in peace forever. Amen.

**Paul Malone** - June 05 at 08:01 AM