



## David Russi

June 23, 1956 - March 2, 2021

David "Rick" Russi Jr. died peacefully on March 2nd, 2021 in Orlando at the age of 64.

David is survived by his daughters, Anne and Sara Russi, their mother, Stephanie; his father, David Russi; siblings, Mark (Cheryl) Russi, Sharon (Chris) Bateman, Terry (Ruthie) Russi, and his beloved nephews and nieces.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Edra Russi, of Sanford.

David was born on June 23, 1956 in Demorest, Georgia to David and Edra Russi. He graduated with a BS from Nova University. David has been a lifelong resident of Sanford, Florida since he was three months old. He became a schoolteacher to spend summer vacations with his family and was employed by Seminole County Public Schools as a history teacher at Markham Woods Middle School. David enjoyed coaching his daughters and nieces in basketball where he never missed a game or practice. He was devoted to his family and will be remembered as a kind, funny, smart and compassionate man who always put others first.

Visitation for family and friends will be held from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm with a Funeral Service from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm on Saturday, March 6, 2021 all at DeGusipe Funeral Home, 905 S. Laurel Ave., Sanford, FL 32771. Burial to immediately follow at Oaklawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Lake Mary, FL 32746. David Friend will officiate the ceremony. All are welcome to attend and celebrate David's life.

The family of David Russi invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his memory.

# Events

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**MAR** **Public Visitation for Family and Friends** 11:00AM - 12:30PM

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DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - Sanford Chapel  
905 Laurel Avenue, Sanford, FL, US, 32771

**MAR** **Funeral Service** 12:30PM - 01:30PM

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DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - Sanford Chapel  
905 Laurel Avenue, Sanford, FL, US, 32771

**MAR** **Graveside** 02:00PM

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Oaklawn Memorial Park  
4991 Co Rd 46A, Lake Mary, FL, US, 32746

# Comments

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“ Madalyn LaRoche lit a candle in memory of David Russi



**Madalyn LaRoche** - October 09 at 10:13 AM

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“ Still haven't forgot about you Mr. Russi, I am taking sociology like we talked about in 8th grade! Its a very interesting class, but I hope your family is doing well. You will forever be in our hearts. We miss you Mr. Russi!

**Madalyn LaRoche** - October 09 at 10:12 AM

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“ Mr Russi was my history teacher when I was in middle school he was a great teacher and he was very nice to me Rest In Peace to mr russi you will never be forgotten

**Kaden Pippin** - May 01 at 06:01 PM

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“ I remember walking through his classroom and loving every minute of it. History teachers always love to hear another history teacher. He was a wonderful teacher and his legacy is the gift of learning and friendship he gave to each of his students and friends. My sincerest sympathies to all his family, especially to Mark and Cheryl.

**Robin Dehlinger** - March 10 at 09:13 AM

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“ Coach Russi and family, my heart breaks along with all of your family from your loss of my lifelong friend Rick Russi going all the way back to southside elementary school through junior high and high school even knowing Sarah at LMHS and working with you those great years at GLMS, and with Mark and Rick as SCPS Educators. I always loved seeing him and reminiscing and catching up on family and friends. He will be missed but never forgotten. My love to all of you and do know that I think of and pray for you constantly. God's Grace to you, Walt Morgan

**Walt Morgan** - March 06 at 04:51 PM

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“ My friend,

It was an honor working with you at Markham Woods Middle. Your sense of humor and wit made our afternoon chats so lively. Your passion for the content, love of teaching, and desire to continue to learn has left a lasting impression. I frequently think about your proud papa stories as I'm raising my own. I have valued our conversations over the many years. You hold a special place in my heart and I will miss you dearly.



**Kat Mills Petty** - March 06 at 08:11 AM

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“ I had the privilege to work with David for 15 years at Markham Woods. David always had a story to share and I loved his sense of humor. He was a dedicated teacher that had a passion for history and wanted his students to experience it also. The lives you have touched will continue to multiply. Gone way too soon, your Markham Woods family already feels the void. RIP my friend, till we meet again.

**Kimmie Lynn** - March 05 at 11:07 PM

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“ Kimmie Lynn lit a candle in memory of David Russi



**Kimmie Lynn** - March 05 at 11:00 PM

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“ I have known Rick since my family moved to Sanford in 1969. We went to school together, played basketball together and after a stint in the Army I ran into Rick one night and on a whim we decided to move to Georgia where we lived for a time with Uncle Joe while working in carpet mills. After returning to Sanford we again lived together and worked in security together at Zayre. We once even went on a repo run when Rick was with Rich Plan where we had to repossess a freezer from a nudist colony! Never a dull moment with Rick.  
I loved Rick and will miss him tremendously.  
My heart goes out to the entire Russi family.

**Bill Lykens** - March 05 at 07:29 PM

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“ David, you created a welcoming space to yet another new teacher to the field a few years ago. Your weekly phone calls turned into a daily routine and did more than just check in. I've already missed talking sports. Your passion for History Fair will be a forever reminder to me in all moments of research. I am so grateful for your friendship and this week has been difficult for all teachers that have had the privilege to work with you. Thank you for sharing your experiences and wisdom.

**Joseph Ball** - March 05 at 06:55 PM

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“ I will remember Mr. Russi's story telling, kind heart and big smile. Praying for his family's comfort.

**Elizabeth Darcy** - March 05 at 05:59 PM

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“ A true gentleman and a hardworking President of our SHS Class of 74. He was a wonderful friend and neighbor. We will miss him. Sending all our love to the family.

**Kit Whigham** - March 05 at 04:19 PM

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“ In high school Rick was one of the guys that I looked up to and appreciated his great personality. He was just a super nice guy. My prayers go out to his family and loved ones during this difficult time.

**Rick Austin** - March 05 at 11:37 AM

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“ My daughter was a student of his and spoke highly of him. This is one of her favorite teachers. What an amazing legacy to leave on a society as an amazing teacher to our youth. He will be greatly missed in our community. Prayers and love to his family.

**Carole Fennell** - March 05 at 11:23 AM

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“ This world has lost a wonderful man. He was and will always remain an inspiration to others. I believe that this life is temporary and that God's love is everlasting and he is in God's loving care. Much love to the family today and always, Suzy



**Suzanne Porter** - March 05 at 11:07 AM

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“ Rick was my life long Best Friend, from growing up together in the same neighborhood where we would all gather at the open field to play football and baseball to adults hitting the links on a golf course. Everyday my phone would ring at noon with Rick asking “ what’s happening in the news today and what is Rush saying” then I would reply...I don’t know, you interrupted me” and we would laugh and joke together during his lunch break. I will miss those calls knowing he was always there. A true conservative and great American Patriot that loved his family and country. I raise my glass of Turkey 101 to “ Mr. Deplorable “ in Honor of my Best Friend. May God comfort his family and friends. Rest In Peace my friend.

**Doug Wagner** - March 05 at 10:30 AM

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“ May the light continue to burn in the hearts of Rick’s Family and Friends. May God’s constant love and peace give comfort to the Russi family.  
Doug and Julie Wagner



**Doug Wagner** - March 05 at 09:36 AM

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“ Kim and Sandy Picard purchased the Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate for the family of David Russi.



**Kim and Sandy Picard** - March 04 at 10:57 PM

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“ Mr. Russi was an amazing civics teacher at Markham Woods Middle school. He inspired my daughter to take more advanced classes and made learning fun. One day she came home and told me that we must wash the outside peels of our bananas per Mr. Russi. I guess he found out he had an allergy to roaches from touching the outside of bananas and shared this story with the class. We will miss him and send our condolences to his family.

**Urshan Family** - March 04 at 08:49 PM

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“ I went to high school with Rick. He was our class president. Many memories. Blessings to his family.

**Evelyn Green** - March 04 at 08:09 PM

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“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of David Russi.



March 04 at 07:55 PM

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“ Floyd R. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of David Russi.



**Floyd R.** - March 04 at 04:14 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to the entire Russi Family and Friends. Please know that you're in my thoughts and prayers. My sincerest condolences.

Mr. Russi was my teacher at Markham Woods Middle School. When he spoke his words echo across the room. He took the time to care, inspired your dreams, or changed your life. Mr. Russi gave us hope, direction, and new ideas. He challenge us and shape the way we see the world forever.

Thank you Mr. Russi. Rest in Peace.

May all these memories of Mr. Russi bring you solace during this time.

Isabella Miskiv

**Isabella Miskiv** - March 04 at 02:48 PM

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“ I had the honor and pleasure of working with David for 11 years at Markham Woods Middle. He was a kind-hearted and dedicated educator that truly cared about the students. He was always great to have a conversation with and had such a positive outlook. He is one of the inaugural faculty members of Markham Woods Middle and a beloved Markham family member. Whenever I returned to Markham Woods to work in the lab, I looked forward to lunch time to visit with my Markham family and it was always a treat to get to share time with David. Condolences to the Russi family and my Markham Woods family.

John White  
Band Director Emeritus, Markham Woods MS

**John White** - March 04 at 02:28 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss..... thoughts and prayers for your family....Sharlee Hollingsworth

**Sharlee Hollingsworth** - March 04 at 01:06 PM

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“ To the Russi Family and Friends, Please know that you're in my family's thoughts and prayers. My family was so saddened to hear about his passing. My sincerest condolences.

I was student of Mr. Russi's at Markham Woods Middle School. He had a love for history, knowledge and education. I believe that when Mr. Russi spoke, his words echo across the room. I believe a teacher affects eternity. No one can tell where his influence stops. Mr. Russi was an amazing influence on me and all the students that he taught.

I did learn about Mr. Russi's love of baseball. But what I loved about Mr. Russi as a teacher ... he took the time to care, inspired your dreams, or changed your life, we all know that great teachers can make a big difference. They give us hope, direction, and new ideas. They challenge us and shape the way we see the world forever.

Thank you Mr. Russi. Rest in Peace

May all the sweet memories of Mr. Russi bring you solace during this time.

Isabella Miskiv ( The Miskiv Family )

Isabella Miskiv - March 04 at 11:46 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Russi.



March 04 at 10:38 AM

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“ David was my department leader and he was a great man. He had a wicked sense of humor and meeting were always interesting. I can't believe that he is gone. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Jennifer Pelham - March 04 at 10:19 AM

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“ My deepest sympathy to the bereaved family. I really enjoyed working with Mr. Russi. He always supported me with my students. I will truly miss him. Ms. Kee, Markham Woods Middle, Career Specialist.

**Charlene Kee** - March 04 at 08:40 AM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David Russi.



March 04 at 08:29 AM

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“ We will all miss him so much. He was the best teacher ive had in all of my years in school. He was my teacher last year in 8th grade and it seems like just yesterday we were all in class listening to his amazing stories. He always knew just how to make us giggle and smile, even if we were having a bad day. Hearing this broke my heart. He was a great human being and may he rest in peace.

~Madalyn LaRoche, former MKMS student

**Maddy LaRoche** - March 04 at 07:44 AM

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“ Maddy LaRoche lit a candle in memory of David Russi



**Maddy LaRoche** - March 04 at 07:38 AM

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“ My dear sweet, funny, witty, friend, and coworker. I will miss our chats, Curriculum Leaders Meetings, chats in the hallway, "can you watch my class for a minute?", planning meetings, our weeklong Kagan training out by Disney... you picked me up and dropped me off every day... umm... your driving scared me just a bit , uncomfortable political discussions, stories about your daughters, dating, student stories that grew larger every year, having each other's backs, Happy Hours, Margarita's... my heart is broken. I know that so many other hearts are broken. I love you. You touched my heart dear friend.

Kimberly Picard - March 04 at 01:06 AM

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“ My dear sweet, funny, witty, friend, and coworker. I will miss our chats, Curriculum Leaders Meetings, chats in the hallway, "can you watch my class for a minute?", planning meetings, our weeklong Kagan training out by Disney... you picked me up and dropped me off every day... umm... your driving scared me just a bit , uncomfortable political discussions, stories about your daughters, dating, student stories that grew larger every year, having each other's backs, Happy Hours, Margarita's... my heart is broken. I know that so many other hearts are broken. I love you. You touched my heart dear friend.

To your daughters and family, I am so sorry for your grief. In the 15+ years that I knew David (Rick) he always talked about his family... especially his daughters. I hope that your pain may be comforted by knowing how much other's knew and loved him.

Peace and comfort to all who shared love for him.

Kimberly Picard - March 03 at 11:23 PM

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“ My condolences to his entire family. Mr Russi was a great co-worker and seeing him teach History was always a delight! May be Rest In Peace



Yindia Cruz - March 03 at 10:31 PM

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“ An amazing teacher and positive influence to countless students

**Mackenzie Smith** - March 03 at 10:04 PM

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“ As you go through this difficult time, I hope you can find some comfort in knowing how many lives Mr. Russi touched and helped, including mine. As a rookie teacher, Mr. Russi worked in my hall and I will always be grateful for the wisdom he shared and how kind he always was with me. We always had passionate heartfelt conversations and always agreed. I lost my father a year ago as an old man and it's been beyond difficult. I can't begin to imagine how his daughters feel and hope they are surrounded by comforting love. Eternally grateful for Mr. Russi and still standing on his shoulders. - Mr. Cintron

**Javier Cintron** - March 03 at 08:30 PM

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“ Remembering David fondly - I had the fortune of teaching with him at Markham Woods. Although we did not teach the same subject or even in the same building, his presence & impact reached across campus. He will be sorely missed.  
Wendy (Cole) Cora



**Wendy (Cole) Cora** - March 03 at 07:53 PM

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“ Prayers for the family. Rick was a wonderful and kind man.  
Leigh Boothe - former MKMS teacher

**Leigh Boothe** - March 03 at 07:24 PM

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“ David is most remembered for his jovial demeanor and witty jokes. He was always patient and would do anything he could to help the students or staff. David will be missed on campus, but your heart and humor will continue to resound throughout our hallways. Rest in Peace David. You made a difference in many peoples lives.

Prayers of peace and comfort for the Russi family during this difficult time.



**Linda Mumey** - March 03 at 05:47 PM

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“ With deepest sympathy to the entire Russi family. RIP Mr. Russi, thank you for your tremendous service to SCPS and your students. Tina Calderone

**tc** - March 03 at 02:41 PM

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“ Sending love and prayers to all of you. We are so sorry for your loss.

Ken and Pat Breeding (Rebekkah, Chase and Connor)

**Pat Breeding** - March 03 at 11:22 AM

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“ My sincere condolences to you all.  
-Anita Neal Okoro  
Markham Woods Middle School teacher

**Anita Neal Okoro** - March 03 at 10:26 AM

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“ Paula Roseborough lit a candle in memory of David Russi



**Paula Roseborough** - March 03 at 08:51 AM

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“ The Red Apple Dining Team all loved Mr.Russi ! We saw him everyday and looked forward to his encouragement and friendly smile. He had a great sense of humor and we enjoyed his laughter and jokes. He was so down to earth and made all of the "cafeteria ladies " feel like we were part of the Markham team. We will all miss him and are sending prayers for his family and all staff and students who are so sad as well.

Sherry Schleper and the Red Apple lunch bunch

**Sherry Schleper** - March 03 at 08:39 AM



“ David was a true teacher in every sense of the word. I worked with him at Chiles until he moved to Markham Woods. I'm sorry for his family and his students. He will be so missed.

**Betsy Carpenter** - March 03 at 09:48 PM

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“ My deepest and most sincere sympathies go out to Mr. Russi’s daughters and family. Mr. Russi was the best type of teacher, he saw you for who you truly were and treated you as if you were family rather than just a student. He strove to give us the best learning experience possible, and excelled in doing so each day whether it be by telling us stories, allowing us to play with some of the knick knacks he kept handy in his classroom, or with witty lectures he kept incredibly interactive and entertaining. Although I graduated from Markham Woods Middle School nearly 5 years ago I saw Mr. Russi frequently as he was one of my regular customers at Jersey Mike’s Subs. I’m grateful to have been able to keep in touch over the years as it’s often hard to do so with past educators even though they make the biggest impacts in our lives. It was truly a blessing to have been his student and apart of his life! My thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. Russi’s family and friends.



**Gia McCombs** - March 02 at 11:06 PM

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“ To David “Rick” Russi’s family please accept our sincere condolences in his passing, he was a wonderful person! My heart is broken. I have many good memories of Rick! I worked for him in the 90’s and I loved it - he was a great boss! Then he honored Sam and I by performing our wedding ceremony in 1995 and our wedding vow renewal in 2015! We did our best to keep in touch through the years and I wish I had reached out more. I feel blessed to have been his friend! We are sending love and prayers to all of you. May sweet and precious memories help you get through this most difficult time. Sam and Susan Zizzo

**Susan Zizzo** - March 02 at 08:48 PM