



David A. Britner

August 17, 1939 - July 21, 2022

David A. Britner of Kenneth City, Florida finished a life of exemplary living Thursday, July 21, 2022 at age 82. He was born in Lorain, Ohio and served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corp. Locally he was a 1958 graduate of Northeast High School. He is survived by two daughters: Dawn Britner, (married to Amber Britner), Katrina Britner and five grandchildren: Chase, Jesse, & Ben, Elli, & Andy. His closest friends and long-time neighbors, Bob & Jan Manning, passed on before him. Their children, Rob Manning with wife Beth, and Kevin Manning will always be family as will Rob & Beth's children Kristan Manning & Katie Evans (married to Cody Evans) and their 2 week old newest addition, Grant.

The family will receive friends at R. Lee Williams Funeral Home and will be honored by the St Petersburg Fire Dept. Friday, August 12, 2022 from 11 am until time of service at 12 Noon. Committal service will take place at 2 pm at Bay Pines National Cemetery with Military Honors. An Open House will be held August 13th at his residence, from 12pm - 5pm.

A middle born child of ten children by John and Edna Britner, David is survived by his two brothers, Larry & Jerry Britner and his sister Doris Rogers. In their youth, David and Larry, "Pee Wee," spent endless hours hunting and playing in the woods. From this grew his affinity for the wild. David would wrestle gators, hunt rattlesnakes & dig for gopher tortoises. He learned to cave dive and had an oyster harvesting business with his best friend from childhood, Rex Knowles. While raising his girls, he also raised king snakes, baby raccoons and a trio of squirrels that fell out of their nest. He often fished in the backyard lake off the hand-built dock and even spent a summer, with his girls, taming Large-mouth Bass to the point you could hand feed them. Wherever he lived, he would call down wild birds & wild squirrels to feed out of his hands. He once walked into an enclosure for rescued wolves and the pack leader came and licked him on the face - something the rescue owner had never seen that wolf ever offer to do with anyone else. The property, on which his current home sits, is a testament to his wild nature and his tree farm is a continuation of his love of pine trees and woods. A special thank you to his grandson, Jesse, who is taking beautiful care of that tree farm and to Rob and Kevin for taking many trips to this farm way up in North Florida and enjoying those moments with him. "Practically Perfect" Dave, even in his youth, was always a rescuer. So it is no surprise that he enjoyed his career as a St Petersburg Firefighter, working his way up to Fire Marshall before retiring

in 1984. During his career, he served as an arson investigator, and an expert witness in arson court cases and helped invent residential fire sprinklers. Retirement did not stop Dave, as he found this an opportunity to open his own business, Britner Fire Services, became Fire Chief for Kenneth City and Fire Commissioner for Pinellas County. He also went back to work for the city as a Code Enforcement Officer. David was involved in many volunteer projects including, Paint St Pete Proud, Toys for Tots, PTA President, Softball Coach, Arbitrator, Mediator, Public Notary, and was a leader in the local chapter of Toastmasters. Of a small band of fire fighting friends: The Richie's, The Seabo's, The Clark's and The Masters, he leaves their surviving members to carry on with as much mischief-making as they can get into.

While David believed in no particular religion, he was deeply spiritual. He received a BA in Metaphysics from the College of Metaphysical Studies in Clearwater. Then he became a teacher at that college and won "Best Teacher of the Year" in 2002. He went on to get his Masters as well as becoming their College President. As a mentalist, many people benefitted from his healing skills including, but not limited to; past life regression, aura cleaning, distance healing, and in general being a great spiritual leader.

As if all these accolades weren't enough... He was also a prolific pen and ink

artist, a philanthropist,
and a published author of two non fiction books, “Imagine” and “The Book of David” and co-author of a science fiction novel “Urth”. David was light on his feet as well. He not only could Jitterbug with the best, swinging mom around like a pro, he was a pro. He was an instructor for Miracle Dance Studios.

Dave was a giver, the likes of which we could all model ourselves after. He made friends everywhere he went, from eating at small local restaurants to working in large organizations. If you are reading this, know he counted you as a friend. As a dad, there was never a better champion for his children.

We, Dawn and Katrina, grew up in a home full of love and support, nurtured by both our dad and our mom, June (Britner) Salvato. The both of us had many different interests, from softball and horses, to community theater and entrepreneurship. No matter what the new endeavor, our parents were the rock on which we found security, even if that endeavor required a heck of a leap. His adventurous nature, and bravery in the face of fear, was ingrained in both his children and grandchildren. He used to tell us, “Lean forward, put your hands in the air, and enjoy the ride!” Living on in his lineage, is his legacy of love, courage, artistry, and generosity.

Cemetery Details

Bay Pines National Cemetery

10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bay Pines, FL

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home
3530 49th Street N
Petersburg, FL 33710
(727) 527-1177
rlwilliamsfh@yahoo.com

Service

AUG 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home
3530 49th Street N
Petersburg, FL 33710
(727) 527-1177
rlwilliamsfh@yahoo.com

Committal

AUG **12**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Bay Pines National Cemetery
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bay Pines, FL

Tribute Wall

BP

“ *This is one of David's pen & ink drawings. It's Gillispie Chapel, a historic church down the road from us in Franklin, NC. We will miss you so much, David!*

*Love,
Alan & Brenda Porter*



Brenda and Alan Porter - August 12, 2022 at 01:22 PM

EL

“ *I couldn't attend the services so I painted something for him instead.*

Elli - August 12, 2022 at 12:02 PM

EL

“ *1 file added to the album David Britner*



Elli - August 12, 2022 at 12:02 PM

MO

Elli! So beautiful and so true! The wolfs will miss him

Mom - August 23, 2022 at 11:03 AM

KW

“ *Kathy Williams lit a candle in memory of David A. Britner*



Kathy Williams - August 10, 2022 at 10:31 PM

KW

“ *I can't even begin to put into words how much of an impact Uncle David had on my life, and the way I view so many things in this world today. There are so many memories I have but there is one in particular that will always stand out in my mind. I was about 12 and had ZERO rhythm what so ever and two left feet but Uncle David was bound and determined to teach me how to dance. We spent hours on his carport together that day him trying to teach me how to do the Watermelon crawl line dance. He had the patience of a saint, the persistence of a professional and he had jokes for every wrong move I made. He taught me so much that day how to be kind no matter what the situation, always make people smile you never know how much it means to that individual at that moment and he taught me to never give up on myself or on any goals I set for myself. Over the years Uncle David would check in and offer some amazing, eye opening advice about life and how to face the obstacles in front of me. He was an amazing human being and I am so thankful for all the wonderful memories I have with him!! Rest easy my practically perfect Uncle David until we meet again. I love you* 💕👉

Kathy Williams - August 10, 2022 at 10:29 PM

EL

“ *Elli lit a candle in memory of David A. Britner*



Elli - August 08, 2022 at 07:55 AM

EL

“ *Grandpa Dave has been a positive force in my life for as long as I can remember. A lot of the strongest memories are the earliest ones. Seeing his art on his wall and hearing him talk about it when I was barely out of toddlerhood was my introduction to art as a thing that people like us can just sit down and make, rather than some unknowable thing that appears or that only Great Art Scholars(tm) can make. He was down-to-earth in that way, a man of a thousand talents and a thousand prologues that joined like branching paths all leading to one man. So many of his stories are larger-than-life but when he tells them, they're real in that dirt-on-your-hands tangible way. This was someone who had a picture of himself on his fridge being licked by wolves and, when I asked, went "Oh yeah" and spoke of them by name like friends, with the same tone of gentle familiarity he spoke of his favorite waitresses. I have more specific stories, vivid memories - talking to a plant about a spider, introducing me to Calvin & Hobbes, trying so hard to teach me chess - but no individual story paints the full picture. Grandpa Dave was a window into a realm of possibility. He was a great and storied man, but he made you feel like you were, too.*

Elli - August 08, 2022 at 07:54 AM

AB

“ Grandpa Dave taught me a lot of things, from how to open pecans shells to how to look at the world, despite its problems, with love. My fondest skill he gave me, and strongest memories I have of him, is skipping rocks and shells on the gulf over sunset. To this day, every time I toss a rock down a river I feel close to him. Thank you grandpa, the world feels different now that you're not in it, and you will be missed. I know it's not goodbye forever, it's only a goodbye for now.



Andrew J Britner-Osborne - August 05, 2022 at 01:31 PM

MO

“ Melissa Ogg lit a candle in memory of David A. Britner



Melissa Ogg - August 02, 2022 at 12:01 AM

MO

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers to the whole family. David was such an inspiration. He was always there to lend an ear, and always gave some words of wisdom. He was ALWAYS positive about everything, and "practically perfect," no matter what. I learned a lot from him. Thank you, David... You will be missed. ❤️🙏

Melissa Ogg - August 01, 2022 at 11:59 PM

KA

“ A memory I have of a story told from both Dad and Mom.

Dad: I once bet that I could kill, skin and have a snake ready to eat before the snake even knew he was dead. So, I did that and told Junie that there was a snake ready to fry up in the sink.

June: Newly married and not wanting to be shown up in front of his friends, I went to fry up a rattle snake your dad said was in the sink. I went to grab it and it jumped up and hit me dead center on my chest! (headless). I ran out of the house screaming and there was your dad and his friends laughing so hard they were almost rolling on the ground. (said a little perturbed all these years later)

Dad: Junie screamed so loud and came flying out of the house.. We were laughing so hard we could barely breath! (said still laughing all these years later)

Katrina - July 31, 2022 at 03:31 PM

KC

Oh no. Poor June. She was sooo innocent.

Kat Cole - August 01, 2022 at 08:57 PM

CG

So sad to hear of David's passing. Prayers to family. I remember when david,peewee,and a few others would come down to my house and we all would play volleyball with the gang. Mom included. Of course kathy,sis,and i would have to do supper dishes First. 😊 Those were the good ole days David, and you were a great friend to all concerned. Will miss you greatly, Thanks for the memories DAVID. 🙏🌹😭

Cherie Holden Gillette - August 01, 2022 at 09:05 PM

JR

We remember that story and have re-told it to many people...can just see David laughing..still!!

Don't believe there is anyone who ever knew David that could possibly not miss this "practically perfect" dude.

*Love to all the family,
John and Lu Ritchie*

John and Lu Ritchie - August 11, 2022 at 04:01 PM

JT

“ *Jennifer Taylor lit a candle in memory of David A. Britner*



Jennifer Taylor - July 30, 2022 at 01:52 PM

JB

“ *Uncle David was always like one of the kids in anying event we had He was always a joker he love to tell jokes and play pranks on you.I rember a time when we had a family reunion at Seminole Park he had this squirrel coming running up to him and look at him it was like they understood each other and he took off after it and follow it and it show him where her baby had fallen from a tree and he pick it up from the ground and mommy squirrel went back up the tree and turn to look at him like follow me please.He was the real life Dr.Dolittle.
I had two uncles I always look up to as a dad my uncle David and my uncle Jerry but now heaven gain the one uncle I look up to as a dad and I have one uncle left to look up to as a dad.Until we meet again on that beautiful shore save a place for me.*



John Britner - July 29, 2022 at 04:09 PM

ND

David was everything I have been reading from other people and more. There was a time in my life where I didn't have a place to live and he took me in just like one of his kids. He always gave me sound advice. He would come and watch me work out at the Bilmar on Friday or Saturday night for karaoke. He always had uplifting comments and praised me on my work. He would bring Dawn with him and she would sing much to his delight. As you all probably know he made you feel like you were the most important person in the room. I will miss you dad. Save me a place in heaven. Thank you for all you were to all who knew you.

Normie Dunn - July 29, 2022 at 05:21 PM

JB

“ *Jerry M Britner lit a candle in memory of David A. Britner*



Jerry M Britner - July 26, 2022 at 07:24 PM

JB

“ *1 file added to the album David Britner*



Jerry M Britner - July 26, 2022 at 03:56 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dawn Britner - July 24, 2022 at 04:34 PM