



David Earl “Dave” Cook passed away on August 24, 2026, at UAB. After facing difficult battles with incredible strength and determination, Dave is finally at peace and free from pain.

Dave was born January 5th, 1961 in North Carolina and spent his youth in Granite Falls, NC. Dave was an engineer by profession, but his career was only one small part of the man he was. To those who knew and loved him, Dave was so much more. He was one of the biggest goofballs you could ever meet, adventure seeking and always finding a way to make people laugh and bringing joy wherever he went. His sense of humor was one of the many things that made him unforgettable.

Dave had a heart unlike any other. He was selfless, kind, generous, and always seemed to put the needs of others before his own. He was the person people could count on—the one who would be there when needed and who gave his love freely without ever expecting anything in return. He had a special way of making the people around him feel cared for and loved. Dave lived an extraordinary life with experiences many do not get a chance to see.

Dave also shared many wonderful years with his partner, Leslie. After years of building a life and making memories together, the two were married. Their relationship was filled with love, companionship, laughter, and countless special moments. Leslie stood faithfully by Dave’s side throughout the most difficult years of his life and remained by his side until the very end.

Dave was a father to Michele Mizen (Gunther), Ashley Cook, and Garrett Cook, and a devoted stepfather to Caleb Grill and Chloe O’Quinn (Madison). He was also a beloved Popa to his granddaughters, Laney Rose and Mazie Jo, who absolutely adored him.

Being a Popa was one of Dave’s greatest joys. He treasured the special bond he shared with his granddaughters, and they brought tremendous love and happiness into his life. The memories they made together and the love he gave them will remain in their hearts forever.

For the last several years, Dave faced battles that tested his strength and determination in ways no one should have to endure. Through the pain, uncertainty, and difficult days, he continued to fight with the same strength, humor, and courage that had always defined him. His family is heartbroken by his passing, but they find comfort in knowing that he is no longer suffering and is finally at peace.

Dave will be remembered for his enormous heart, his goofy sense of humor, his kindness, his strength, and the way he always cared deeply for the people he loved. He had a gift for making others laugh, making people feel loved, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. His absence will leave a space that can never truly be filled, but his love and memory will live on through all those fortunate enough to have known him.

Dave is survived by his beloved wife, Leslie; his children, Michele Mizen (Gunther), Ashley Cook, and Garrett Cook; his stepchildren, Caleb Grill and Chloe O’Quinn (Madison); his granddaughters, Laney Rose and Mazie Jo; Brother, Mike Cook; Aunt, Evelyn Phillips; Nephew David Fry and Niece, Kristi Davis (Mike); and many other extended family members, friends, and loved ones who will forever cherish his memory.

Dave was preceded in death by his father and mother Earl & Ada Cook along with many other beloved family members.

If you really knew him eat a cheeseburger and drink a scotch in honor of him!