



David Ketchen

November 10, 1951 - September 29, 2020

KETCHEN, David G. passed over to our Lord and Savior on September 29, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Joan Ketchen of Memphis, TN, brother Robert Ketchen of Toronto, Ontario Canada and brother-in-law, Robert Escue of Bartlett, TN. He was predeceased by his parents, Douglas and Barbara Ketchen of Cambridge, Ontario and his stepdaughter, Stephanie Lynn Calvert of Memphis, TN.

David was born in Toronto where he graduated from the University of Toronto as a mechanical engineer. He took a company transfer to the States to start his career as an engineer with Colgate Palmolive in Jersey City, New Jersey. His father having dual citizenship enabled David to become an American citizen in the late 1980's. David met Joan while both were employed at separate locations of Block Drug Company. David moved to Memphis upon their marriage in 1987. He fulfilled a desire to transition to the field of electrical engineering with the help of David Temple, his manager and friend at Buckman Labs where he was employed at the time of his death. He was a Christian man who lived his life in worship and serving to the glory of God with various congregations of the Church of Christ. If you wish to send a memorial please consider Children's Home, Inc. 5515 Walcott Road, Paragould, AR 72450. <https://www.childrenshomes.org/> or a charity of your choosing.

Tribute Wall



“ *David Ketchen*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *It is so sad that Dave will not be with us on this earth, and hope to see him again when it is my time to pass over. Wally and I visited Dave and Joan a couple years ago on the Tennessee River. I was so impressed with his kindness, thoughtfulness and his spiritual leadership. A great man, a wonderful soul, who will be greatly missed by those that knew him. Bye for now, Nephew, but not forever.*

Jane Kennedy Scea - October 02, 2020 at 06:00 PM

JE

“ I’m shocked that Ketchen is so suddenly gone. Everywhere I move at work and most things I touch are missing Ketchen. What I am most afraid of is that he is truly missing from my life. In the spiritual sense. That the tendrils of his time with me, his personality and teachings are loosening their grip on me. I am missing my greatest asset and my deepest resource. I will never again see him pull out his swiss army knife to open a cabinet or carefully apply labels to my wiring. I will never hear his deep genuine laugh when I tell him about something funny my children have done. Dave brought such a richness to my work experience at Buckman. He was always in lockstep with my on the many plant projects we worked on together. His precision, planning and component organization has permeated my past seven years at Buckman. He was a great pleasure to work with. Dave and I are both second generation in our field. I felt a real bond with Dave. He understood and valued my ability to dig and push to get to an installation we were both happy with. And encouraged me to have compassion for my co-workers when my perfectionism was threatening my interactions with them. Even though Dave was a phenomenal troubleshooter and an engineer with many layers. It was Dave’s mastery of language that most impressed me. (Something our current society is in such a desperate loss of) He could communicate with such exacting detail the parts and processes that made up the whole of a project you were working on; so that you truly felt you were learning about what you were installing. Sometimes I would ask him about a component just to hear the elegance in which he would describe the internal parts. But he was also a great listener and would often step in to clarify the input of others when they were not understood in a group meeting. Ask anyone in Buckman Memphis Manufacturing and they will tell you he was our most beloved co-worker. So “Go Ahead, Oh Great One!” as used to answer on the radio. Go Ahead my friend. But Man do I miss you Dude!!!!

Jesse - October 01, 2020 at 04:41 PM

HJ

“ David was an excellent engineer and a great human being. I shall miss him. The world is a lesser place without him.

Herman Johnson - October 01, 2020 at 09:14 AM

JS

“ I am heartbroken to learn that David has passed. I worked with him for 15 years at Buckman. He would stop by my office to chat on his way out and we would end up talking about cottage life in Canada. He was an intelligent, kind, and generous man. His dry humor and love of donuts were so entertaining! My prayers are with Joan and his family. 🙏

Jody Stobbe - September 30, 2020 at 09:21 PM

RD

“ Red Denley lit a candle in memory of David Ketchen



red denley - September 30, 2020 at 08:42 PM

LW

“ Lana White lit a candle in memory of David Ketchen



Lana White - September 30, 2020 at 07:52 PM

JA

“ *Joann Alexander lit a candle in memory of David Ketchen*



Joann Alexander - September 30, 2020 at 07:35 PM

RH

“ *Mack and Rose Harmon lit a candle in memory of Dave . So very sorry for your loss. Prayers for all of you.*



Rose Harmon - September 30, 2020 at 06:57 PM