



## David M Speer

September 24, 1949 - December 24, 2015

David M. Speer, 66, of Clarion, retired Clarion County Attorney and former Assistant District Attorney, passed away unexpectedly on December 24, 2015 in the Clarion Hospital Emergency Room.

He was born on September 24, 1949 in Oil City; the son of the late Albert Thompson and Maryann Clark Speer.

Dave graduated from Clarion Area High School in 1967, Clarion State College in 1976, and The University of Baltimore in 1981 with a law degree.

He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1975 after serving two tours in Vietnam and received multiple commendations, including The Army Commendation Medal and The Bronze Star.

He was married to Barbara Komoroski on August 8, 1981, who survives.

After graduation from law school, Dave joined the law firm of Alexander, Garbarino, Kooman & Kifer as an Associate. He later became a Partner with Alexander, Garbarino, Kifer, Speer & Neely where he practiced primarily in the area of criminal defense, representing hundreds of clients through the years. Though he was a prominent defense attorney in Clarion County, in 2001 he decided to change the pace to criminal prosecution and was appointed as a Full-Time Assistant District Attorney for Clarion County. He remained in that position until his retirement in June 2011.

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As an Assistant District Attorney, Dave had the respect of fellow attorneys, Judges, and Police Officers. He was the Juvenile Prosecutor as well and worked with both victims and juveniles. A man of his size and demeanor would melt at the hands of a child. They were never afraid of him. He always had a way of connecting with children, which seemed unbelievable to those who knew him outside the conference room. There were many times when not everyone would agree with him (and maybe once he was wrong), but no one could argue with his knowledge and experience in the area of criminal law. He was quick on his feet and while his comebacks and line of questioning in open court could be unorthodox at times, the results were usually in his favor. The details that he could remember without a single written note were unbelievable most of the time. He rarely was "stumped" and could easily fake it, even if he was. He

was witty and funny and even years after his retirement, members of the bar and court system still discuss his "shining courtroom moments."

After retirement he and his wife traveled a lot, seeing new places, visiting friends, and was Sole Proprietor of Cat's Ass Distillery.

Dave was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion. He was also a member of the Moose Lodge 101 in Clarion where he was a trustee and board member, and a member of the Eagles and American Legion, both of Clarion.

Dave was former Cochairman of the Autumn Leaf Festival.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Katelin Speer and fianc&#233; Curtis Miles of Clarion and Mackenzie Speer of Pittsburgh, his mother-in-law, Geraldine Komoroski of Pittsburgh, his siblings, E. Ann Speer of Clarion, Kevin Speer and wife Carole of Brookville, Dennis Speer and wife Karen of Clarion, and Kathy Heims and husband David of Bessemer.

Dave is also survived by his aunts, Jane Kincaid and husband Chuck of Apollo, Shirley McNamara and husband Jack of Florida, Rose Marie Clark of Clarion, and Agnes Maureen "Peach" Clark of Monroeville, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and the ladies of the County Seat.

Dave is preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law, Leonard W. Komoroski. Family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, December 28, 2015 at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion. A Christian Wake Service will be held at the end of the evening viewing.

Military honors will be accorded by the American Legion Post 66 of Clarion at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 29, 2015 in the Funeral Home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion with the Rev. Monty Sayers, as president.

Internment will be in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held at the Clarion Moose Lodge 101 immediately following funeral services.

Online condolences can be sent to the family by visiting

[www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com](http://www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com)&#160; Donations in his honor can be made to the Clarion Moose Building Fund, 401 Grand Avenue Ext, Clarion, PA 16214 and to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Erie, PA in memory of Dr. William Schrantz and David Speer. Checks can be mailed directly to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 1645 West 8th Street, Erie, PA 16505 or can be made online at <http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/donate>.

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# Comments

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“ Barb,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I will keep you in my prayers.

Carla

**Carla Dunkle Roberts** - February 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barb, katelin, and Mackenzie,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I only met Dave once but he seemed like such a kind and cordial man. Wrap yourselves in the love and support of God, family, and friends in the difficult days ahead. I will keep you in my prayers. Love, Barb Yurchey Nolfi

**Barbara Yurchey Nolfi** - January 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb, Katelin and Mackenzie, it was a sad night when I heard about Dave's passing. Great memories of Dave will always be in our hearts. God Bless!

Sorry I could not come to his service!

**Carla Ragley Smith** - January 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ Hey Barb, I am so sorry and I feel helpless to do anything. You are so selfless to send sweet comments about the baby.. I wish the distance didn't keep us apart so much. You know you can always visit us in CO.

**Deborah Warthen** - January 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barb, as much as you are hurting you still took time to congratulate me on the birth of Walker. You are so completely selfless. I regret the distance that keeps us apart but you know you are welcome anytime to come out and spend time with us in CO. You might need a little break. I'm sure you must be missing him like crazy, even the annoying stuff.

I miss you and keep you in my prayers. I'll try to call later. God bless.

**Deborah Warthen** - January 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barb and Girls, being home for a family memorial and staying with my daughter Renee, I share her sadness for you Barb and the girls. She loved Dave dearly not only as her boss for many years who stood by her and believed in her and help make her into the person she is today. They became such good friends and good for each other. She missed him so much after his retirement but look forward to there lunches they still shared. Sympathy to you and the girls. The planter you gave her was beautiful. Sending prayers and God Bless. Donna Miller Falconet

**Donna Falconer Millet** - January 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ Thoughts and prayers to the family. Dave was a great guy and knew him when I lived in Clarion and worked at Clarion Hospital. So sorry for your loss.

**Dedi Stewart** - December 31, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Mackenzie, my deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of your father. My thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

**Brian Strohmeier** - December 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sending the Speer family my deepest sympathy and condolences. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Cara Cherico** - December 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was shocked and saddened by the news of Dave's sudden passing. He will always be remembered as an outstanding contributor to this community of Clarion. His obituary said it all.  
I am keeping you all in my prayers!  
Marian

**Marian Lahr-Muryn** - December 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ I have so many Dave stories I could share. There is not enough room on here. My prayers go out to Barb, the girls, his brothers and sister. He truly will be missed by all whose life he touched and that was many.

**Terry Long** - December 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barbara and family. I was so shocked to read about Dave's passing. I am so glad to have talked with you two at the Pizza Pub last week as I was so excited to see if Dave was related to the ancestors I found from the Revolutionary War. I hope that he found it interesting. He was a standout person from his youth and a man with a wonderful understanding of others. He gave back and stood up for his fellow persons on this planet. Sincerely, Carol

**Carol Harris** - December 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Mackenzie & family, you have my heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your dear father he certainly seems to have been quite the admirable man. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers  
with sympathy

**Maggie Hall** - December 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ From All of the Docs and PA's at CEMA  
We are all thinking of you at this difficult time. We pray that you and your family find solace and peace knowing how many people are here for you.  
Ted

**Ted Ziff** - December 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Family in my prayers...Dave was a wonderful man

**karen mcnauton** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb:  
Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to you and the family of David.  
Corbin respected David as a fellow American Legion Honor Guard and  
Veteran. And I share my condolences with his.  
Corb and Jean

**Corbin and Jean Fowkes** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb and family,  
Sending our heartfelt sympathy to you all. We are so saddened to hear of Dave's  
passing.  
The years have given all of us such fond memories to cherish and hold dear. Our  
thoughts and prayers are with you all.  
Sorry we will not be able to attend services due to Bob's health.

**Bob and Kathy Bell** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ DAVE HELPED ME OUT WILL NEVER FORGET IT HE WILL BE MISSED JEFF  
ATKINSON

**JEFF ATKINSON** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb and family so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family  
at this sad time.

**Lawrence Komoroski Family** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb,

You and your family have my deepest sympathies, terribly sorry for you loss!

**Cherli Elliott** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ In deepest sympathy for your loss of Dave. You are in my prayers and thoughts. With each new day, may peace find a place in your heart.

**Patricia Emberg** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our deepest sympathy is extended to you, Barb, and to your family. Tom and I enjoyed traveling with you and Dave and are very saddened by this loss. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you.

**Mary Ann Maloney** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb,

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I was blessed with the opportunity to see Dave at his craft. I would never pass up the opportunity to watch him in action as I believed and still believe he had one of the most brilliant minds out there. However, most of all I remember the laughs we shared at the office. When I needed answers during work, I went to Dave.....when I needed guidance with my career in law....I called Dave at home. For that I am ever grateful. He was a great man and will be missed.

**Christopher Merwin** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb, our sympathy goes out to you and your daughters. Dave was a good friend and will always be remember by us...especially out Trout Camp Adventures

**James & Linda Selker and Family** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ My sincere sympathy to you Barb and your girls. I worked for Judge Arner until just recently and loved it when Dave was ADA and came in for hearings. He was always smiling and making us all laugh. He will be missed. Cherish the memories and hold them near. God bless.

**Barbara Lerch** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ We are sending our deepest sympathies to family on the loss of DAvid. We were so sorry to hear this. Sincerely. Karen Kent Burkett and Joe Kenny.

**Karen Kent burkett** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our most sincere sympathies for your family's great loss! Thoughts and prayers go out to you at this difficult time! May wonderful memories sustain you!

**Ann and David Farley** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ We are sending our deepest sympathies to family on the loss of DAvid. We were so sorry to hear this. Sincerely. Karen Kent Burkett and Joe Kenny.

**Karen Kent burkett** - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb, Katelin and Mackenzie,  
We are so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. We have many memories of him golfing at Mayfield. Those were fun times. We are away right now, but our thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless.

**Tom and Lorraine Finlan** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dave was a classmate, friend and fellow Vietnam veteran. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family during this difficult time.

**Ben and Debbie Call** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ I am very sorry for this unexpected loss. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you.E6

**Tracy Shaffer** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ My heart is heavy with the tragic loss of your husband and father. I know that you will miss his presence dearly. Being in Philly I am unable to see you, hug you and share your grief. Kind thoughts and prayers are with your entire family.

**Sue Zamzow** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ So sorry to hear about Dave. It was such a gift to spend time with you both in Italy. You are in my prayers.

**Ginny Beichner** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb and girls. I am so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. He had such a sense of humour which I loved as much as he loved his car.

**Denise Rhoades** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Katelin,  
Heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Our prayers are with you.

**Kevin finnerty** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ You, Katelin and Mackenzie are in our thoughts and prayers. So sorry for your loss.

**Karen, Kristen and Kayla Custer** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barb and girls - I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Although I did not know David, I worked with Barb for many years and loved her dearly. Please know that you and your family are in my prayers for strength and comfort.

**Betty Walter** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Dave's passing. Prayers for the family. Mcaje

**LouAnn Steiner** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barb, Katelin and Mackenzie,  
So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and praying for you. Hugs to you.

**Kay Miller** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ We are very saddened to learn of Dave's passing. He was such a wonderful friend to my parents Norm & Donna Scott. I know he was a big part of the community and an all around super guy. He will be dearly missed. Our love and prayers go out to his wife Barb and his daughters.

**LeAnn and Chris Isaly** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb, there are no words that can express how I feel, know that my heart aches for you. Your daughters and you are in my thoughts and prayers.S

**Mary Lou Przywara** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barb, Katelin and MacKenzie, I am shocked and saddened to learn of Dave's passing. I pray for your strength and comfort during this difficult time.

**Becky Edwards** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. You and your girls are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Natalie White** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb and family - We were so shocked to get the message of Dave's untimely passing. Our prayers go out for you all for strength and comfort during this time. We will always fondly remember Dave's brief greeting of "Hello!" always followed by a hugh broad smile! We will miss seeing him and hope that beautiful memories comfort you.

**Tim and Jeannette Musser** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ I wanted to say...that Mr. Speer was such a kind, gracious man. He always offered me such wonderful advice and he was such a polite man. He would always hold the doors open for others at church, even at the courthouse, and he was just...and I repeat, a very couteous, kind, generous man. I am so sorry for your loss Mrs. Speer (And family)....and I hope that God continues to shine his light of peace, love, and guidance upon all of you.

**Jamie Beichner** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb, to you and your daughters: please accept our heartfelt condolences in Dave's passing....

**Tim & Bobbi Smith** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sorry about your loss. He was a really nice guy..

**Rhonda Berst** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Deepest sympathy to you and your girls. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

**Suzette Burns** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest condolences, Barb to you and your girls for such a sudden, heartbreaking loss. When I read it on Lou's FB post, my heart hurt for you all. Please know my prayers go out for a peaceful heart and God's blessings of strength to help you through this difficult time.

**Lynne Tharan** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Oh Barb and family, So sorry to hear of Dave's unexpected passing. You, your daughters, and all of the Speer family are all in my prayers.

**Brenda Lenhart** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our heartfelt sadness at the loss of such a wonderful man. We are fortunate to have known him and his spirit will be with all of us forever. Our prayers are with all of the family.  
Brent and Sherry

**Brent and Sherry Craig** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ What a loss!!! I am going to miss his sweet smile and quick wit. I always teased him about not sitting on my side of the dining room. He always said, I should, so a real waitress could serve me. Ha!Ha! We'd talk about the neighborhood issues. You are going to be greatly missed!!! I know you are smiling down on us in heaven. I pray for strength for your family. May God wrap you in his loving arms, and keep you at peace.

**Neva Beichner** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb and family,

I'm so sorry for your loss.

He will be missed as he was a constant "site" when I'd be up town.

Please give my love to Mark, too, as I'm laid up and can't come to the funeral home.

God bless!

**Pamela Burford** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ My sincere condolences and sympathy to the Speer family. You'll be in my thoughts and prayers....God Bless...

**Bill Scheckler** - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb, Katelin, MacKenzie

We are so sorry for your loss. Dave was such a gem, he will greatly missed. A visit from Dave always brightened my day. Our prayers are with you all. Tammy, Vance, Cameron & Bailee

**Tammy Slike** - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barb, Katelin and MacKenzie, We are so very sorry for the loss of your dear husband and father. We are praying that God will give you strength and you will feel the love of your family and friends during this difficult time.

Love,

Pam, Adib and Stephanie

**Pam Goble** - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Barb, Katelyn and McKenzie,  
When I read the post on FB that Father Monty had announced in church yesterday that David had died, I just couldn't believe it. David was such a GREAT guy and was such a super guy to work with. I didnt work with David on a daily basis but, you would have never known that. David always stopped in Chambers when he was in courts with a "good morning", a friendly smile, a joke, or a sweet roll from the County Seat! LOL. It was always a great visit, especially if Judge Alexander was there! Those two could keep you laughing for hours, if you let them! David had a wit that he shared so easily to make the day of whoever he was talking to a little lighter! Barb, please know I have your family in my thought and prayers. It is so hard to have a sudden loss like this, and it is such a different loss for the spouse than what it is for the children, hard for all, but different! But Barb, I know how strong you are, and it takes family and friends to all pull together to help each of you through this. I am in VA Barb and not sure I can make it back for David's services but please know my heart is with all of you. I thought the world of David! He will be greatly missed by all who knew him!  
A friend, Gayle Ganoe

**Gayle Ganoe** - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Dave's passing. What a kind man he always was to all of us, who work at Clarion Psych. He always had a story to tell & it was usually one that would bring laughter! I will miss his smile. My prayers are with his family & all who were blessed to call him "friend". God Bless...

**Cheri Warnsing** - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am so terribly shocked and sorry. We lost a wonderful man way too soon. My prayers are with the entire Speer family.

**Joe Piccola** - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb, my deepest sympathy to you and your daughters. May God give you the strength to move forward always treasuring your memories. You will have a special angel watching over you.

**Barbara Grant Morgan** - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb we are so sorry for your loss. You and your daughters are in our prayers.

**Tim and Cindy Smith** - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dave was a great mentor and friend to me from the time I became an Assistant DA. I have many great memories of working with him and think often of his quick wit and the lessons he taught me.

Our family is traveling for the holidays and unfortunately can not attend the service. Dave and his family will be in our thoughts even while we're away.

The Welsh Family (Drew, Annie, Lex, and Sammy)

**Drew Welsh** - December 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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“ Barb, my deepest sympathy to you and your daughters. You are in my prayers.

**Kathy Myers Crooks** - December 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM