



## David A. Popke

November 26, 1955 - April 1, 2019

We are devastated at the loss of David Popke. He was one of the most incredible people anyone has ever known. Best father in the world, husband (never said no to Lita's jewelry addiction), son, brother (there were no in-laws or just friends – everyone was a close family member). His mother was his favorite companion. They argued, they laughed, and half the time couldn't hear each other. "What?" was a common phrase they exchanged. He loved his mother in a way that Jesus loved his mother. A fantastic chef, Rotarian, conservative (Sean Hannity addict – 9pm no matter what), wine enthusiast, passionate (about everything and everybody he loved, and a few that he didn't), generous to a fault, funny, sometimes childish and oftentimes goofy (check out the photo in the red long johns). Favorite places were Puerto Vallarta (can you say mas cerveza) and Beaver Island. He was one of the founders of the "Outlaws" and the "Jucy Dado" (funniest moment ever). 4th of July was the best. His impact on all our children was indelible. They loved Uncle Dave and he interrogated them on everything from their career ambitions to their love lives. And they better give the correct answer! Loved his friends, hunting, a good cigar and a fine bottle of wine. (So, we have a top shelf in our wine cellar that Lita was denied access, until now – the wake was fun). Couldn't hear well and was always on "Popke time." Made everyone feel welcome and important. Big heart and willing to help anyone at any time (even when he didn't have time -- which was always). Career coach and biggest cheerleader for his children. Dream Big he always said. Claimed "his allergies

were acting up” when tears streamed down his face as Kiersten announced she was going to the University of Michigan. Enthusiastically led the parent tour when Donald decided on Michigan. So, did we mention his athleticism -- QB at Benton Harbor High School, hockey recruit for the GROWLS (Lita couldn't figure this out) and quintessential athlete who won the Beaver Island 5K, and skied, rowed, played tennis and panicked at St. Andrews in Scotland. Overworked, overzealous, “the busiest man in the world” (just ask him), and P&G is the best company on the planet. Well read, he would highlight the important parts of books for Lita, so she didn't have to read them. His faith was admirable along with his daily bible readings and devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel. God was the center of his life. He's irreplaceable and he's loved more than the words in this memorial can ever describe.

#ForeverTeamPopke

With Love, Lita, Kiersten & Donald

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Beaver Island Wildlife Club, P.O. Box 103, Beaver Island, MI 49782, Rotary Club of Plymouth, P.O. Box 6464, Plymouth, MI 48170 or U of M Rowing Club, P.O. Box 7164, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. To share a memory with the family, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 5. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## Rosary

APR 5. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## In state

APR 6. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church  
133 Orchard Dr.  
Northville, MI 48167

## Funeral Mass

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APR 6. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church  
133 Orchard Dr.  
Northville, MI 48167

# Tribute Wall



“ *David A. Popke*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Dear Lita,  
Debbie Brown let me know about David's passing. My sympathy to you and your family. I have some really great memories of David from Beaver Island days many decades ago. I can hear him calling you by a sweet nickname! Take care. My thoughts are with you,  
Mary Cross*

**Mary Cross** - May 13, 2019 at 08:49 PM



“ *I just heard of Dave's passing. I'm literally numb. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. We will miss his laugh on Chesterfield Dr. Sending a group hug to all of you. Love, Robin, Tom, Lauren and Todd*

**Robin Maslyk** - May 05, 2019 at 05:11 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



**Bill Kelly** - April 15, 2019 at 10:50 AM

JG

“ David was my boss at Bunny Formal Wear. He always was very energetic and a positive person. So sorry for your families loss. RIP  
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Joyce (Stelter) Gray-Lewis - April 08, 2019 at 10:30 PM

LE

“ Lita, just heard of David's passing. I am so sorry. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Linda (Mahaffey) Eddlemon

Linda Eddlemon - April 08, 2019 at 08:29 AM

AM

“ Abe and Darlene Munfakh purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of David A. Popke.



Abe and Darlene Munfakh - April 05, 2019 at 05:33 PM



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



April 05, 2019 at 05:06 PM

AM

“ *OMG. Just heard about Dave. I am so sorry Lita. We loved Dave and you. You are like our family and we shocked to hear about Dave not being with us. However, Lita, he is in a better place I am sure.*

*Darlene and I will say a special prayer for Dave , you and the beautiful children .*

*Abe and Darlene Munfakh*

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**Abe Munfakh** - April 05, 2019 at 05:05 PM

KM

“ *I am very saddened to hear the news, I had the privilege of spending long, crazy hours with Dave volunteering on the Plymouth Figure Skating Club board. He was a very gracious man! He just wanted our kids to have fun in their sport.*

*My thoughts and prayers go out to his Family.*

*Karen Merchant*

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**Karen Merchant** - April 05, 2019 at 02:19 PM

GD

“ *Gregory McDuffee & the DWJBA purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of David A. Popke.*



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**Gregory McDuffee & the DWJBA** - April 05, 2019 at 01:33 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



April 05, 2019 at 12:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



April 05, 2019 at 10:55 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



April 05, 2019 at 09:50 AM



“ *Jerry Thurswell and Ardiana Culaj purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of David A. Popke.*



**Jerry Thurswell and Ardiana Culaj** - April 05, 2019 at 09:47 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



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April 05, 2019 at 08:50 AM



“ *Dear Lita,*

*My Heart is broken at the loss of David, truly a wonderful person. I can not imagine your grief. He will be deeply missed by us all. Please accept my sincerest thoughts and prayers for your entire family.*

*Gary Warr*

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**Gary Warr** - April 05, 2019 at 08:27 AM

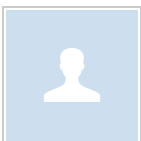


“ *Detroit Bar Association purchased the Serene Re treat for the family of David A. Popke.*



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**Detroit Bar Association** - April 05, 2019 at 08:04 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



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April 05, 2019 at 07:49 AM

LM

“ We are so very sad to hear of the passing of your wonderful Father and Husband David. He was always so gracious, easy to talk with and always so very nice to our son Griffin. Griffin loved his visits to Beaver Island and most notably talked about David’s fabulous cooking! He always sent us photos from whatever CC event our boys attended and was so very generous! Please take care and know I will be praying for you all during this devastating time.

Laura Modjeski - April 04, 2019 at 08:40 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.



April 04, 2019 at 08:15 PM

SF

“ Schadler Family and Skalla Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of David A. Popke.



Schadler Family and Skalla Family - April 04, 2019 at 07:00 PM

KF

“ Dear Lita—

*Words cannot describe our sorrow for you, your kids and your entire family. The loss is so enormous that it defies comprehension. We pray that the grace and peace of our Lord, which surpasses all understanding, will guide and comfort you, and that His grace plus the passage of time will help to heal the sharp edges of your grief. Much love from our family to yours—  
Kathleen Feeney*

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**Kathleen Feeney** - April 04, 2019 at 06:51 PM

GM

“ *I would often remind David of an act that was showcased on the Ed Sullivan show. For those too young to know this was a Sunday night TV watching staple of those of us who grew up in front of a television in the early 1960s. Ed often had acrobats and jugglers on his show along with the popular singers and musicians of the day. When ever David related to me his latest business venture I would recall the guy who would spin dinner plates on long skinny sticks. He eventually had a dozen plates spinning as he ran back and forth to give each plate, in it's turn, a flick to keep it spinning. That was David, everyday of his life, with too many plates spinning on long skinny sticks, and running back and forth, always smiling and keeping those plates from crashing to the floor. I will miss him and our nearly daily e-mails back and forth about his next adventure or his next visit to Benton Harbor or his next trip to Beaver Island. I expect he already has a dozen or more plates spinning on those long skinny sticks in heaven.*

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**George McCroskey** - April 04, 2019 at 03:32 PM

ST

“ Our hearts are broken! Sending love to the Lita, their children, his mother and all that loved this wonderful man! Thoughts and prayers to all

*Joe and Sheri Timsak  
Beaver Island*

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**Sheri Timsak** - April 04, 2019 at 03:07 PM

MA

“ *Michael Angelo & Greater Lakes ASC purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of David A. Popke.*



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**Michael Angelo & Greater Lakes ASC** - April 04, 2019 at 02:32 PM

LB

“ *Love Dan, Judy, Kaley & Erin Burwell purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of David A. Popke.*



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**Love Dan, Judy, Kaley & Erin Burwell** - April 04, 2019 at 02:16 PM

BK

“ *Bill & Kirsten Kelly purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David A. Popke.*



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**Bill & Kirsten Kelly** - April 04, 2019 at 01:48 PM

TT

“ *The Sisters Tobin purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of David A. Popke.*



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**The Sisters Tobin** - April 04, 2019 at 01:08 PM

TG

“ *Lita, Kiersten, and Donald,  
Our deepest sympathy to you on the loss of David. You are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Love, Tim, Kathie and family*

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**Tim and Kathie Gonyeau** - April 04, 2019 at 12:44 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



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April 04, 2019 at 11:45 AM

JA

“ *Joan A. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of David A. Popke.*



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**Joan A.** - April 04, 2019 at 11:41 AM

TS

“ *Lita, our hearts and prayers go out to you on the passing of your husband Dave. May God bless and comfort you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Tom & Liz Solka  
Marquette*

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**Tom Solka** - April 04, 2019 at 11:33 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



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April 04, 2019 at 11:22 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



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April 04, 2019 at 10:46 AM

BT

“ *Brooks Wilkins Sharkey & Turco purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of David A. Popke.*



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**Brooks Wilkins Sharkey & Turco** - April 04, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of David A. Popke.*



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April 04, 2019 at 10:17 AM



“ *Lita, Don, Kay and the entire family,*

*We were all saddened to hear of Dave's passing. Thoughts and prayers to you all.*

*Marie Connaghan LaFreniere  
Beaver Island*

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**Marie LaFreniere** - April 04, 2019 at 09:35 AM



*There just aren't enough words to ease your sorrow.  
Keeping you all close in thoughts and prayers...  
Paul, Shirley & girls*

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**Shirley Cole** - April 04, 2019 at 10:49 AM



*Lita and family. We are so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Mike and Mary Jo Sullivan.*

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**Mike and Mary Jo Sullivan** - April 04, 2019 at 11:06 AM



*Your all in our hearts...❤️*

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**Mary Palmer** - April 04, 2019 at 12:10 PM

JF

“ Please accept my sincere condolences on your loss. Dave was a great friend and Rotarian. We shared many laughs and great times at the annual Rotary BBQ and other events. I will always remember his gregarious character, his unwavering integrity, and his willingness to help.....he will be missed.....rest in peace.

*John and Marta Folino*

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**John Folino** - April 04, 2019 at 08:53 AM