



David M. Terhark

March 3, 1944 - January 10, 2021

David M. Terhark, age 76 of Highland, IL, passed peacefully in his home on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

David was born on March 3, 1944 in Pipestone, MN, the son of Chris R. and Meta T. (nee Brink) Terhark. The family later moved to Elmore, MN where David graduated in 1962 from Elmore High School. After graduation, David enlisted in the US Navy where he was stationed in Adak, Alaska for two years before touring the South Pacific, China, Mediterranean, and Vietnam. During his time in the service, he played lead guitar and sang in a band, allowing him to perform in other countries such as France while porting. He was honorably discharged in 1967 and returned home to Minnesota where he formed a band with his brother Steve. The 'Terhark Brothers' played at many venues across the Upper Midwest.

On March 3, 1968 he married Emma "Jean" Harris in Graettinger, IA. In 1970, while David was working as a draftsman in Minneapolis, MN, they were blessed with their first child, Kari Ann. The family later moved to Mankato where David and Jean had two more daughters, Kimberly Jean (1973) and Karla Susanne (1980). In 1982 he and his family moved to Highland, IL, where he worked at Basler Electric as a mechanical designer until he retired in 2010.

Throughout his life, David had a passion for playing guitar and singing. After moving to Illinois, he continued his singing and guitar playing in church, often accompanied by his daughter Kim. Every family gathering included live music and Dave's witty commentary, which he was known and loved for. David cherished time with his grandchildren Allyssa, Kolten, and Jace and was thrilled to watch all three of them continue his love of music and guitar.

In his retirement, he enjoyed socializing with other veterans who served in Vietnam, and he was a proud member of VFW Post #5694, Highland, IL. He also had a huge heart for animals and rescued many pets over the years.

David was a member of Faith Baptist Church, Highland, IL.

Survivors include:

Wife - Emma "Jean" Terhark, nee Harris, Highland, IL

Daughter - Kari A. Terhark, Durham, NC

Daughter - Kimberly J. (Michael) Ackerman, Edwardsville, IL

Daughter - Karla S. (Andrew) Harrington, Edwardsville, IL

Grandchild - Alyssa J. Mettler, New York, NY

Grandchild - Kolten T. M. Ackerman, Edwardsville, IL

Grandchild - Jace D. Ackerman, Edwardsville, IL

Sister - JoAnn Mileham, Elmore, MN

Brother - Michael Terhark, Elmore, MN

Brother - Gary (DeeDee) Terhark, Sioux City, IA

Sister In-Law - Vicki Terhark, Fairmont, MN

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Christian R. Terhark

Mother - Meta T. Terhark, nee Brink

Brother - Steven R. Terhark

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

David's request is to be cremated and the family will hold a private service at his residence on Tuesday Jan. 12, 2021. There will also be a graveside service with full military honors at Elmore, MN in the Spring with a celebration of life.

Memorial contributions may be made to Metro East Humane Society.

Tribute Wall

BD

“ *My condolences to the family. I have many great memories of Dave (Snuffy) and the Terhark Bros band. They are very dear friends. The memories will last forever!!! RIP Snuffy!*



Bobby Drake - January 14, 2021 at 01:06 PM

AR

“ *So sorry to hear of Dave's passing I have so many wonderful memories of Dave, Steve and my brother Barre as teenagers. Love and prayers to the family*
Audreen Vereide Ruona

Audreen Ruona - January 13, 2021 at 11:49 AM

CG

“ *Jean, Your family has our deepest sympathy. I was shocked to see the notice in my emails. I had no idea Dave was ill. I worked with him at Basler for many years in the Engineering Department and other departments which I then had engineering connections. I appreciated all I learned from him.*
Connie & Marvin Grapperhaus

Connie Grapperhaus - January 12, 2021 at 04:06 PM

TT

“ *We all have far too much personal experience with loss, more so in this year than most, and our hearts go out to the Terhark family over David's passing... May the void that he leaves behind fill quickly with the fond memories he created during life and may you be comforted by the knowledge that he now rests in peace, love and serenity. - Love Jenine, Bill and Joscelyn Thom*

The Thom's - January 12, 2021 at 12:05 PM

SM

“ *Sending our deepest condolences on the passing of Mr. Terhark. It was our honor to care for him. - Unity Hospice*

Shannon McGinn-Corona - January 12, 2021 at 10:33 AM

JT

“ Jean, Kari, Kim, Karla and families. so sorry to hear cousin David pasting away. We can take comfort in knowing he is no longer in pain. His many memories will be cherished. keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. Love ya Jane and Steve Tiedeman.



Jane and Steve Tiedeman - January 12, 2021 at 08:38 AM

AG

“ Jean and family, my deepest condolences to you all! I always loved it when Dave sang and played guitar in church, even though it was many years ago, I still remembered how much he loved doing that! Know that you're all in my thoughts and prayers! Rest In Peace, Dave.

Alisa Gunter - January 11, 2021 at 10:21 PM

CS

“ Jean and Family,
We will miss Dave. He was always giving hugs and telling jokes. The family reunion band performances were the best. No one else had live music at their family reunions, like we did. We will remember the good times. Love, Cindy and Jerry



Cynthia Steiner - January 11, 2021 at 07:00 PM

CS

“ Cynthia Steiner lit a candle in memory of David M. Terhark



Cynthia Steiner - January 11, 2021 at 06:49 PM

RP

“ Jean, Kari, Kim, Karla and Families. You all have our deepest sympathy. We have so many fun memories of Dave at family reunions and visiting our family at the farm. We will miss his music and his sense of humor. Take Care.



Rick and Tammy Powell - January 11, 2021 at 11:34 AM

OG

“ Dave was a good man and we really enjoyed his music. He is going to be missed by a lot of people. Uncle Oscar & Aunt Lois



Oscar & Lois Graham - January 11, 2021 at 11:05 AM

JF

“ So sorry to hear of your loss of Dave. My heartfelt sorry goes out to you at this time.
As a neighbor, will talk to you soon.

Judith Ann Frey-Kahrhoff - January 11, 2021 at 10:29 AM

BK

“ Jean, Kim, Keri and Karla, I am so sorry to hear of your husband/fathers passing. I enjoyed his singing in church with Kim and how much he enjoyed doing it. I haven't seen him for a long time but do remember his little crooked, shy smile and his kindness. Please except my sincere sympathy.

Bonnie Kloss - January 11, 2021 at 09:20 AM

PB

Jean and family we are so sorry to hear about Dave. We had many fun times with both of you when we were neighbors. I remember our "new best friend Dave". Great memories of Dave.

pj bolk - January 11, 2021 at 11:31 AM

MM

Jean, Kim, Kari and Karla, You all have my deepest sympathy and I'm so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. I worked with Dave for many, many, years and absolutely enjoyed it. "Snuffy" was a straight shooter and an all around great guy. He will be missed by many.

Mike Meyer - January 12, 2021 at 08:50 AM

KS

Jean and family we are very sorry for your loss. Dave was a great neighbor and fellow animal lover. Nice memories of him walking the dogs.

Karla Smith - January 12, 2021 at 09:09 AM