

David "Dave" P. Merchant

September 10, 1952 - January 19, 2022

David P. Merchant, 69 of Markle, passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at Lutheran Hospital of Fort Wayne.

He was born on September 10, 1952 in Landstuhl, Germany to Ronald & Beverly (McClenny) Merchant. Dave graduated from Elmhurst High School in 1970, then received his Associate Degree in Applied Science from Purdue University in 1973. He later received his Bachelor of Science from Purdue in 1996. He worked for Franklin Electric for 40 years in a vast array of electrical, mechanical and production engineering positions. He started in Bluffton and finished his career in Gas City.

On September 20, 1975, Dave and Marquita Lacoax were married at Zanesville United Methodist Church. They shared 46 years of marriage together. Dave and Marquita have been members of Hope Missionary Church for over 38 years. Dave volunteered in many roles at the church, including sound technician, welcome center, doing finish work and was involved in the expansion process, along with being a regular participant in the Go Days Community Outreach service projects. He participated in a mission trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. Dave was also a supporter of and regular participant in the Right to Life Movement.

Dave is survived by his wife, Marquita of Markle, his three children; Benjamin (Amber) Merchant of Fort Wayne, Sarah (Paul) Ziegler of Waynedale, and Randy (Konny) Merchant of Fort Wayne, six grandchildren; Avery, Atticus & Atlas Merchant, Chloe Ziegler and Paige & Mason Merchant. He is also survived by a sister Sharon (David) Scheiber of Churubusco.

Dave is preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral service will be held at 3 P.M. on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at Hope Missionary Church in Bluffton with Pastor Mark Wilson officiating. Burial will follow at Hoverstock Cemetery in Zanesville.

Calling hours will be held from 2 to 8 P.M. on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton and for one hour prior to the service at the church.

Memorials may be made in Dave's memory to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana or to Helping Hands in Bluffton.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Merchant family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Hoverstock Cemetery

11698 N 300 W
Zanesville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **22**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Visitation

JAN **23**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Hope Missionary Church
429 E. Dustman Rd.
Bluffton, IN

Funeral Service

JAN **23**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Hope Missionary Church
429 E. Dustman Rd.
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of David "Dave" P. Merchant*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - January 22, 2022 at 12:50 PM



“ *David "Dave" P. Merchant*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Dear Marquita,
I was saddened to hear of Dave's passing. You and Dave were always pleasant when you came in to get mail, etc. at Markle Post Office. God bless your family as you go through this difficult time.
Christine Hunt*



Christine Hunt - January 25, 2022 at 01:51 PM



“ *I'm so sorry Marquita and family to hear of Dave's passing. I so much appreciated the years of working with him at Franklin Electric and the time we spent traveling and working on various projects. I recall an occasion where he and I were having dinner with a couple of coworkers. It was the first time he'd met them. In the initial introduction conversation he seized the opportunity to testify that he was a born again believer and follower of Jesus Christ and that he loved Him and family. It illustrates the depth of his love for the Lord and his family and encouraging example for all of us. Keith Murray*

Keith Murray - January 23, 2022 at 12:19 PM

BM

“ I was very fortunate to have Dave as an older cousin to look up to. He was always an amazing role model and I am not aware of any kind of trouble he got into or conflicts he had with his parents or at school. He was always respectful and conducted his life with great wisdom.

With that foundation, he found a wife who had the same goals of following God and over time, raised a great family together in a way that honored God. He and Marquita were always so supportive of Cindy and me as well as our children and we both appreciated them so much. They, together, were a great blessing to us.

I am very happy for Dave. His pain is gone and now is in a wonderful place that we cannot even imagine. I am saddened for his grandchildren who will not have this sweet man with them to be loved and doted on.

I pray Marquita, Ben, Sarah, Randy and their spouses will be comforted by the Lord and allow each other to grieve in their own unique ways as they adjust to the new normal. May we all do our part to support them during this time.

Byron Mossburg - January 22, 2022 at 11:53 PM

LF

“ I've been mourning the death of a life long friend. Dave Merchant and I became friends when we were about 12 yo.

We met riding our bikes around Zanesville, IN., me on my old 50s Schwinn and Dave on his new 3 speed Huffy with a stick shift. We build ramps to jump over and would see how far we could ride a "wheelie". At some point Dave thought it would be fun to see how fast we could his dad's Wheel Horse garden tractor to go. We could get some pretty good speed out of it but we always had to put it back together so his dad, Ron could mow the lawn.

We later graduated to slot cars. Doing special windings on the small electric motors, again to get as much speed as we could out our little cars. We remained friends through HS and started playing with real cars, Dave with his 71 Maverick Grabber and me with my 70 Nova. Dave and I were groomsmen in each others weddings over 46 years ago and we've stayed in touch all these years. Dave was a devout Christian brother and friend and was always a positive influence in my life even though he could exhaust you with absolutely terrible puns and jokes. Dave has been dealing with cancer for the last couple of years but he always had a positive word. We last share well wishes on January 2. Dave Merchant, I will miss you, my brother.

I am praying for strength Marquita and the entire family for the coming days.

LeWayne Fisher - January 22, 2022 at 04:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David "Dave" P. Merchant.*



January 21, 2022 at 11:57 PM

DH

“ *So sorry Marquita for your loss. We are in Florida visiting our daughter so will not be able to attend any service. We remember Dave as a kind gentleman.*

Don Hoopingarner - January 21, 2022 at 07:44 PM

TF

“ *The Huddlestone Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of David "Dave" P. Merchant.*



The Huddlestone Family - January 21, 2022 at 04:24 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of David "Dave" P. Merchant.*



January 21, 2022 at 03:39 PM

JR

“ *Marquita and Family,*

We are so sorry that Dave was called home at this time. We are so thankful all of you have the assurance of Dave's presence with the Lord. What a wonderful Christian husband, father and grandfather. Truly the fruits of the Spirit were manifest in his life to all that met him. He was gracious, kind, and compassionate. He was a very dedicated employee of Franklin Electric who was the beneficiary of his many skill sets.

We love all of you and are praying that you all can feel God's Perfect Peace and Presence at this time of great loss.

Jerome and Gale Reinhard

Jerome Reinhard - January 21, 2022 at 03:27 PM



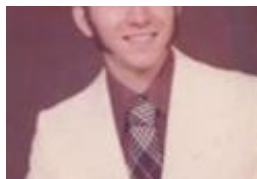
“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David "Dave" P. Merchant.*



January 21, 2022 at 02:32 PM



“ *83 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - January 21, 2022 at 01:12 PM

MB

“ *Merchant Family, We are so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. We both had the pleasure of working with Dave at FE, always enjoying his quick wit and dry sense of humor. We will miss running into him at church and catching up. Prayers for your entire family. I am sure he will be missed.*

Matt and Lindsay Brubaker

Matt and Lindsay Brubaker - January 21, 2022 at 11:51 AM

YF

“ Your Life Community Church Family purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of David "Dave" P. Merchant.



Your Life Community Church Family - January 21, 2022 at 10:48 AM

JL

“ Dave was so quick-witted; with his droll sense of humor, he could make any comment or observation into a punny joke. He always made me smile! I will miss his calm and smiling presence. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Marquita and their entire family.

Jennifer Lorenzen - January 21, 2022 at 10:11 AM

KC

“ I extend my deepest sympathy to the Merchant family. I grew up in Zanesville and knew your grandparents, Helen and Ed, along with your parents. May the Lord comfort you greatly. Karan Clark

Karan Clark - January 21, 2022 at 08:50 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of David "Dave" P. Merchant.



January 20, 2022 at 08:45 PM

AP

“ So sorry to hear of Dave's passing He had been on my mind this last week, but I did not know this was coming. Thoughts and prayers to Marquita and all of Dave's family. He was truly one of a kind and will deeply missed. Ann Parker

Ann Parker - January 20, 2022 at 08:10 PM

AD

“ *I'm so sad to hear this news. He was such an amazing person, always so kind and remembered everyone. My heart just breaks for you all. Prayers to each of you for comfort.*

Amy Dunsmore



Amy Dunsmore - January 20, 2022 at 12:12 PM