



## David Gardner

April 26, 1944 - March 15, 2013

David Michael Gardner, 68, of Livonia, Michigan passed away March 15, 2013.

He was born April 26, 1944 in Ames, Iowa, the son of Guy and F. Arlena (Miller) Gardner.

He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps., was a teacher in the Dearborn Schools, and a Union Rep. Retiring after 33 years, he continued to avidly enjoy sailing, golfing and wintering in Florida with his best friend and loving wife of 45 years, Joan Gardner.

His memory will forever be cherished by his wife and 2 children, Tracy (Joe) Beno, Julie (Athán) Velentzas, his mother, his sisters Kathleen Overton and Lorraine Shinn, and 4 grandchildren, Katy, Joey, Jacob, and Lilly.

He was predeceased by one sister, Karen Doyle.

Services will be held at St. Michael's Church in Livonia, with luncheon to follow; please click above Left on "Service Schedule" for detailed information.

\*\*Please RSVP for luncheon as specified.

Online condolences may be made at [www.gendronfuneralhome.com](http://www.gendronfuneralhome.com).



# Previous Events

## Remembrance Luncheon

APR 13. 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Elks Lodge #2246  
31117 Plymouth Road  
Livonia, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *David Gardner*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *David Gardner*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones over David's death. I was on the DFT Executive Board with David. I know he will be missed.*  
*Margaret*

**Margaret Schaefer** - April 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *I will attend the luncheon*

**Dale Brennan** - April 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *3 maybe 4 I  
Of us will be attending.*

**dave wright** - April 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Joni, may God bless you and watch over you now and forever.*

*Please keep in contact with all your friends at West Shore Sail Club*

**Frank and Roberta Pavia** - April 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ I loved David. He was a good and beautiful man and I will miss him every day. He was our friend and neighbor for over 30 years. He and Joni were the best friends anyone could have. We will be there for Joni.  
David was loving, kind, forgiving, playful, deep, responsible, and a lover of life.

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**Cynthia Pucci** - April 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ What sorrow we feel at the loss of our old neighbor and friend, David, and feel for his family. Many a good time our families had together, especially the Easters we spent together after we moved to North Carolina. May we always remember the good times. We love you all.

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**Bill & Pat Kehrer** - April 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ The Gardner's were our neighbors for over 30 years and my parents best friends. Our families were always together whether it was getting together for pizza on Friday's, sailing, going on vacations (The Snares) the list goes on. David was a very caring, kind, and loving man and will be so very missed by everyone that has crossed his path.

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**Emi Leon** - April 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ We have lost a friend and fellow sailor. I only wish I had met him earlier and knew him better. He is now happily sailing forever.  
Joanie - I'm so sorry for you loss. I will attend Saturday.

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**Carver Dumke** - April 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Dave was a good friend and neighbor to our family--we'll miss him dearly

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**Dan & Sue Podczervinski** - April 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Very sorry to hear that Dave has "crossed the bar". Although we only recently came to know Dave through the WSSC, we cruised together the past two summers and enjoyed his company as a consummate sailor, and his love of the Great Lakes. We will always remember him fondly whenever we set sail.

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**Don & Sandy Baumgartner** - April 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ I only was with David a few times at family events at Julie's house. He was the nicest person, friendly and outgoing always making me feel like I was so welcome to around his family. He seemed to just love life and was enjoying himself. He has left a great legacy in the two beautiful daughters he raised. Both Julie and Tracey are great people they always show such a love for people like their father did. He will truly be missed. My heart goes out to you and hurts for you all in your dealing with the loss Joannie, Julie and Tracey of a great man.

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**Martha Waroway** - April 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ We are so sorry and shocked to hear about Mr. Gardner's passing. We have been friends with Julie and Athan for many years and we feel very blessed to know them and Julie's parents. David and Joni always welcomed my family and I to their home. I know how close Julie was to her father and I pray that God gives her the peace and courage that she needs right now. Blessings~ Love Brenda and family

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**Brenda and James Dominick** - April 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ We will miss you, Dave. Every time we go to the boat we will think of you.

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**Barb and Lary Smith** - April 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Joan Please know that we all will miss Dave. We really had no idea at our reunion in Fl. that we would not see him again. Ken and Ann Shelly

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**Ken & Ann shelly** - March 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

B'

“ Joan, I'm sorry to hear of David's illness and death..I saw the notice in the paper. My thoughts are with you and your family.

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**Bev (Beall) Fulkerson --DHS '63** - March 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Joni, I am so sorry to hear of your husband's passing. May God give the peace of knowing that life goes on from death. You will be in my prayers.  
Patty Conn

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**Patty Conn** - March 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ I'll be attending the memorial mass and lunch

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**Peg Cotruvo** - March 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ I just want to thank each of you for all of the wonderful and kind things you have to say about my dad. I will be printing all of the entries here for my mother to save. I am so glad that he had such an amazing group of friends. Thank you.....

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**Tracy Beno** - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Dave was my best friend. we sailed together for 20 years. I will miss him every time I sail out of the harbor. He will be with me every time I trim a sheet.

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**Ron Harmon** - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Dad, I can't stop crying. I miss you so much, I keep waiting to wake from this horrible dream. I miss so much about you! I miss your smile, your laugh, your confidence, your patience. I miss you calling me "kiddo", I miss you saying things were "fine" when they were better than fine. I miss you telling me "stop worrying about it, what good will it do." I miss your awful peanut butter and butter sandwiches you would make me, when I was a kid and home sick from school. I miss you telling me that I only have 30 more years till I could retire, and then you would laugh about it. I miss you joking about how you have 2 part time jobs, "sailing and golfing" you would say. There's soooo much I miss about you dad, but most of all I miss YOU! I LOVE YOU DAD and have to believe that God is taking care of you. I love you dad, Julie

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**julie velentzas** - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *March 23:*

*45 years ago today my parents got married and began their journey as husband and wife, and later as Mom and Dad. The example they set for me and my sister on how to have a loving marriage is something I'll forever be grateful for. I know my dad is with me today on my birthday, and I have no doubt he is with my mom on their anniversary. He hasn't left our thoughts for a moment and I know I have to be thankful that he lived his life exactly the way he wanted to, right up until the end.*

*Happy Anniversary, Dad and Mom.*

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**Tracy Beno** - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ *My Dad - March 16, 2013*

*Posted: March 18, 2013 | Last Revised: March 19, 2013*

*I have extremely sad news to share. My dad, my hero, my role model, my rock, passed away to acute leukemia last night at 10:55 pm. He was not only an incredible dad, he was an awesome grandpa, husband, son, brother, uncle, friend, and teacher. He was a sailor, and an avid golfer who loved life and lived it to the fullest. Every time I hear a few of his favorite songs "Sailing" by Christopher Cross and "Beautiful" by James Blunt, I will be reminded of the wonderful father and role model he was to me and my sister. I will miss him every single day for the rest of my life. Even though my kids are young, they will remember their "bampa" as my 3 year old daughter Lilly called him. I will share pictures and endless stories of him to my children. His memory will go on forever. He fought Myelodysplastic Syndrome for the past year and it suddenly converted to Acute Myeloid Leukemia and was extremely fast and aggressive. If you knew my dad, you would know that he was a fighter, the strongest man you would ever meet and fought this battle until the very end. I feel extremely lucky and honored to be able to say he was my dad. I love you dad, and I know you are with God in a much better place than here. My love for you will go on forever, until I see you again someday.*

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**julie velentzas** - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ *Dear Dad, I miss you so much. My heart is broken. I will always love you, love, Julie*

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**julie velentzas** - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Karen Doyle was my aunt and she always spoke so fondly of David. This is very sad news but it does seem that he had a very good life and wonderful family. My sympathies are with his wife and children.

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**Rosemary** - March 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Hello Joan... I send you strength and love. Dave is a very important person for my Dad, and I have wonderful memories of you and your family Up North and sailing. Your positive energy was always present, and I hope this quality that so distinguishes you helps you through this difficult time. Love, Becky

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**Rebecca Webb** - March 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Dave, Joni,  
Over the 50 years of friendship from Dearborn High, family camping, sails on the Great Lakes and visits to Florida always the best. Good wind in your sail and safe harbor my friend. My deepest sympathy to the Gardner family.

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**PHILIP MORICONI** - March 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I'm David's daughters (Tracy) neighbor. My name is sandy. I first meet David just after Tracy moved into the house next door. The day he meet me he asked Tracy after I left "who's the teenager. Haha!! At the time I was about 34. Next time I saw him I laughed at him and said Thanx buddy!! What a great family he and Joanie created. The two of them together were so cute, I hope my marriage lasts as long as theirs did. I think about how much my kids cared about David and it breaks my heart that he's no longer with us. He will be missed by so many people. I'm so glad I had the wonderful opportunity to know him and his family even if it was for a short time. I will treasure that!!!  
In sadness, Sandy Simonson.  
David, great heart, strong willed, kindness man. That's how I describe him.

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**Sandy Simonson** - March 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Longtime friend of Kathleen.  
May your brother now soar on the wings of angels, and the light of his spirit shine bright, not only here on earth but the universe as well.

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**Richard&Diana Hermans** - March 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Julie (Mr. Gardner's daughter) is a good friend of mine. We grew up together on Melrose and I spent a lot of time hanging out at the Gardner's house when I was a kid. Mr. Gardner was a loving father and grandfather. The Gardner family all shared a fondness for literature and writing. I found this shared interest to be quite touching. I remember spending summer nights sailing with the Gardner family. Mr. Gardner was always comfortable, calm, and content when out on his boat. He loved to share his passion for sailing with others and I'm grateful that he introduced me to the complexities and patience of sailing. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Joni, Julie, Tracy, and the rest of Mr. Gardner's family during this incredibly difficult time.

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**Sara Podczervinski** - March 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ We send our sympathy to the Gardner family with the knowledge that his life is the source of wonderful memories that offer comfort to family and friends.

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**Neil & Mary Hodges** - March 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ David and Joni have been friends since High School. He was Best Man at our wedding in 1969. We had the pleasure of visiting with him and Joni after our 50th Highs School Reunion last May. We will miss David and we will keep Joni and his family in our prayers.

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**Earl and Barbara LaMothe** - March 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ We were friends and neighbors of Dave & Jonnie while we lived on Melrose. We had gatherings every Friday for Pizza and Movir nite. We went sailing with Dave and had many fond meemories of of him. We weill really miss him. He was too young to be taken away.

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**Dan & Sue Podczervinski** - March 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ My thought and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

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**Angie, Tony and Denise LaCroix** - March 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM