



In Memoriam

Michael Read Davis

The family and friends of Michael Read Davis mourn the passing of this wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, who died peacefully on August 23, 2021.

A man of love, humor, goodwill, and strong opinions, Michael leaves behind an indelible mark on his family and the people and places that he touched during his 79 years.

Born April 21, 1942 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania to Mary Schonder and Conyers Davis, Michael grew up for most of the year in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. Summers were spent at Beach Haven, and this small New Jersey island town was ever-present in Michael's life.

Academia came naturally to this third of four children. Graduating from Norristown High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in History from Mount Saint Mary College. Masters in both History from Villanova University and Business Administration from Monmouth University followed, before he took up a teaching position at Villanova. A move into the pharmaceutical sector saw him start out at Searle before embarking on a 30-year career with GlaxoSmithKline. During his tenure as a product manager with the company, Michael helped bring some of the world's most important medicines to market, including Amoxicillin, which has helped save countless lives globally ever since.

Running parallel to his career was a keen devotion to public service, a road begun during his early years as a decorated Boy Scout and Eagle Scout. Michael always said that serving in the Peace Corps in St Lucia (1967-1969) was a defining experience of his life, but his duty to others was also an everyday expression that showed itself in smaller acts, like mowing a neighbor's lawn or helping to rig their boat. And he was tireless with it, making time in a busy family life and career to join the Moorestown Rotary, serve as a President of the Mordecai Land Trust, and actively volunteer with ReClam the Bay.

Although a longtime resident of Moorestown, Beach Haven was Michael's true home, and when he retired in 2009 there was nowhere else he could imagine living. He was as much a part of it as it was of him, as many who live there will tell you. During college, he had a job in the town's Public Works Department, sweeping streets and hanging off the backs of garbage trucks, and then in later life, he devoted himself to the Beach Haven Public Library, serving on and chairing its Board of Trustees.

Hand-in-hand with his summers in Beach Haven came a life-long passion for the open water. As members of the Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club, Michael and beloved wife Nancy won the Club Catboat Championship in 1979 and went on to claim the title a further six times, most recently in 1990. The Club was a cornerstone of Michael's life, and he served it as both Commodore in 1998 and as a Trustee. Dry land suited him just as well, however – he ran the Philadelphia Half-Marathon 40 years in a row and passed on a great love of running to his devoted sons.

Michael is survived by Nancy, his wife of 50 years, his sons Conyers and Taggart, daughters-in-law Elizabeth and Gráinne, nephews John Yeigh, Joel Baily Davis III, and Benjamin Eskett Davis, and grandchildren Virginia Read Ashford-Davis, Erin Julie Davis and newborn Nola Nancy Davis. Awaiting Michael are his parents, sister Joan Yeigh, and brothers Conyers Davis Jr. and Joel Bailey Davis Jr.

A service for Michael will be held at Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club in Beach Haven, NJ at 3:00 pm on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Michael's name to the Beach Haven Public Library, 247 Beach Avenue, Beach Haven, NJ 08008 or the Mordecai Land Trust, P.O. Box 1414, Beach Haven, NJ 08008.