Heritage Funeral Home & Crematory

Oscar Allen "Dave" Davenport

(March 28, 1922 - March 18, 2013)

(Age 90)
Oscar Allen Davenport, more commonly known by his nickname of "Dave" (for the first four letters of his surname) was born in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 28, 1922 to his newly widowed mother. Dave's father preceded him in death (from pneumonia) two months before Dave was born. Those were the days prior to life-saving antibiotics. Dave's mother, Hattie Viola Hoover Davenport, courageously raised her four rowdy, young boys on her own, receiving much support and love from a large, close, extended family. Despite having no dad as a role model, Dave learned the values of courage, honesty, commitment, service, and hard work early in his life. He grew to become a strong, intelligent, and reliable adult with impeccably high standards and values of good character.
The Davenports moved to Spokane in 1984 after retiring from the USAF in 1966 in Titusville, Florida – the gateway to the Space Center. Dave passed away on March 18, 2013 in Spokane, Washington just ten days shy of his ninety-first birthday. He was the husband of Grace Barbara Nettles Davenport. They carried on a three-year romance through letters during WWII while Dave served overseas before they had an opportunity to get married. Their marriage lasted close to sixty-nine years. Everyone who knew Dave, spoke of the way he cherished his dear, lovely soul-mate. Grace always came first; she was the light of his life right up to the end.
Mr. Davenport is survived by his wife, Grace. Their eldest child - a daughter, Patricia and her husband, Tony Fechner, live in Spokane. Dave has two sons: Wayne Davenport of Las Vegas, Nevada, and his wife, Penny. Their youngest son is Kenneth (Randy) Davenport and his wife, Chong, of Lacey, Washington. Dave is also survived by nine grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren whom he loved dearly.
Dave also had a tremendous love for America, and he served in the USAF for twenty-four years. He attained the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. The span of years that Dave served his country included WWII, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Era. Both of his sons were also career soldiers that retired from the armed forces. Dave traveled extensively during his career and performed functions in many foreign countries as well as at many stateside bases. Some of his overseas assignments were Panama, Korea, two tours in North Africa (Tripoli, Libya), Germany, and a NATO tour to Izmir, Turkey.

His family accompanied him on his two tours of North Africa, Germany, and Turkey. Dave's duties consisted primarily of Intelligence work, Communications/Electronics, and inspections. He had a top security clearance and was entrusted with valuable information. During the sixties, Dave was on the Inspecting General's Team and inspected sites in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon. Dave's awards and decorations include the Good Conduct Medal with four bronze oak leaf clusters, American Campaign Medal, American Defense Service Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Longevity Service Award with four bronze oak leaf clusters, and he was a USAF Academy/Non-Commissioned Officer Graduate. Dave had a long, rewarding career serving his beloved country. After his military retirement, Dave worked for NASA at the Kennedy Space Center in Titusville, Florida for three years. Then he had a career as Deputy Sheriff and Court Bailiff for eleven years in Titusville, retiring in 1984 prior to his move to Spokane with Grace. In Spokane, Dave served as personal Bailiff to a Superior Court judge for seven years, finally retiring for the third time in 1992.

Dave was a loving, caring, gentle man who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was blessed with a youthful appearance, looking years younger than his true age. Dave's terrific sense of humor drew others to him like a magnet. He gave years of Christian service to his church and community. God bless you sweet Daddy. We love and cherish you so much.

The funeral service will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 401 W. Regina Ave, Spokane, on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 11 a.m. Viewing will take place before the service at 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The graveside service will take place at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2013 at Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery, 508 N. Government Way, directed by Heritage Funeral Home, with military honors provided by the Fairchild AFB Honor Guard. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Spokane Chapter of the American Cancer Association.