



David Bancroft

AUG 21, 1951 - MAR 18, 2023



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High School Educator, “Voice of the Spartans”

David John Bancroft, 71, died on March 18, 2023, from sudden and unexpected cardiac arrest while snorkeling on vacation in French Polynesia.

Dave was born on August 21, 1951, in Davenport, Iowa to John and Elaine Bancroft. When he was ten, his family moved from Iowa to California as part of the great teacher migration of the 1960s, where they settled in San Bernardino.

Dave attended Arrowview Junior High and graduated from San Bernardino High School in 1969. From an early age he followed sports and played baseball and varsity basketball. He was also involved in the youth groups at Del Rosa United Methodist Church and played an active leadership role. It was at church where the Bancrofts became life-long friends with the Ulmer family. It was Dave’s enthusiasm and influence that made the Ulmer kids big sports fans.

Due to a high draft number, as this was during the Viet Nam war, he was able to complete his college studies uninterrupted and graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Uncertain about his career path, Dave spent several years working in retail at Montgomery Wards paint department and managing The Warehouse records stores. During this time, he took telecommunication courses at San Bernardino Valley College, where he displayed a talent for public address announcing. Dave eventually decided to return to education and obtained his teaching credential in mathematics. He was hired by San Bernardino Unified School District and spent his entire 26-year career at San Geronio High School. Early on he was recruited to serve as the public address announcer for football, basketball and track. Dave became known as “The Voice of the Spartans” for his professional, upbeat and unbiased commentary. When Dave retired in 2014, he was inducted into the San Geronio High School Athletic Hall of Fame. With renewed



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energy in retirement, Dave increased his hours with San G sports adding announcing at baseball, wrestling, soccer matches and scorekeeping with volleyball.

In 2005 one of Dave's math students suggested he call their mutual family friend, Beth Ulmer, for a date. That was the beginning of a second chance at love for Beth and Dave. Both their families and friends were delighted to witness this 38 years-in-the-making union at The Wayfarer's Chapel in Palos Verdes in 2007. Together they shared their passion for sports, dogs and music. This resulted in many trips to Disney Concert Hall, national parks, USC football games, dog parks, The Mission Inn, University of Oregon women's volleyball games, and Club Med.

Throughout his life, Dave had an abiding love of nature and the beauty of the earth. He spent weekends camping and hiking. Dave loved dogs and they (Lucy 1, Molly, Amy, Lucy 2 and the many pups he dog-sat) loved him back. He was an accomplished sailor from outings on his family Hobie Catamaran. Dave also volunteered countless hours reading newspapers for Audio Vision Radio for the Blind. We mourn the loss of his great brain, housing endless sports statistics, world history and Jeopardy! answers.

Dave is survived by his wife of 15 years, Bethany Ulmer of San Bernardino, his father, John F. Bancroft of Redlands, brother Gary Bancroft (Sue) of Crestline, and brother Robert Bancroft (Celeste Langstaff) of Vallejo CA. He will be sorely missed by his brother-in-law, Mark Ulmer (Emily) of Yorba Linda, sister-in-law, Lisa Ulmer of Long Beach, niece Devin Parrish (David) of Rochester, MI, nephew, Matthew Ulmer (Kara) of Eugene, OR, niece Devin Collins-Cepeda (Camren) of Orange, nephew, Drake Ulmer of Jersey City, NJ and six great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Elaine, in 2018. He also leaves behind a functioning turntable and over 1,000 vinyl albums.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at San Gorgonio High School Performing Arts Center, 2299 E. Pacific St. in San Bernardino on Saturday, May 13 at 11AM.

If you would like to honor Dave, please make a donation in his memory to San Gorgonio High School Athletics or the charity of your choice. To leave a condolence on Dave's Memorial Page, please visit www.bobbittchapel.com





Events

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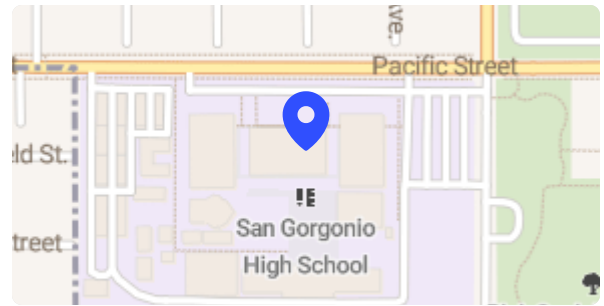
Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, May 13, 2023

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

 **San Geronio High School Performing Arts Center**

2299 E. Pacific St, San Bernardino CA 92404





Tribute Wall

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RP

Richard Patterson posted:

Beth, It has been many years since we last contacted one another. I miss your parents and admire all they accomplished. Our Del Rosa UMC years together were most memorable. I am sure if Carmen were still alive she would join me in our prayers for Dave and all he did for all of us as retired teachers. Be blessed.

May 4 at 9:03 AM

BU

Bethany Ulmer May 5 at 10:56 AM

Thanks, Richard! Lovely to hear from you. Yes, there were wonderful people at Del Rosa. Sending my love.

KP

Karen Proctor posted:

Beth, my love to you. Please reach out to me if you need anything at all. Karen Proctor

May 2 at 1:48 PM

EF

Evelyn Faye Flinn posted:

So sorry to hear of your loss. Evelyn Flinn

April 28 at 12:54 PM



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Brian Reider shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

55 years ago, I met Dave at the Del Rosa United Methodist Church. I was immediately impressed by his quirky sense of humor, and we immediately bonded over a mutual love of Lakers basketball. We became friends, and Dave shared with me his family, including his brilliant father John, his loving and patient mother Elaine, and his brothers Gary and Rob. Aside from their misguided love for the Angels instead of my beloved Dodgers, they were all wonderful! When I asked Alane to marry me, Dave honored me by being my best man. I still love this photo of Dave opening the door of his family's Mercedes to drive us to our reception! Although our lives took different paths, Dave and I remained in touch and we even finally made it to a Laker game. We were delighted and honored when Dave and Beth invited us to their wedding. I will never forget how full of joy they were that day! Thank you, Dave, for being a great friend when I really needed one. God bless you. Rest in peace. Brian Reider



April 5 at 8:00 PM



Sue Sutton June 2 at 11:36 AM

Beth, I just came across Dave's obituary and I am so very sorry for your loss.



Beth Ulmer April 24 at 12:09 PM

Thanks, Brian! What a great picture! How young we were!



Brian Reider April 28 at 6:24 PM

Beth, I am sorry that Alane and I will miss Dave's memorial service on May 13 as we will be out of the country. We will be with you in love and prayers. Brian and Alane



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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring David by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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