



David Michael Brister, PhD

January 11, 1938 - February 26, 2022

On February 26, 2022 David (Dave) Brister passed away in Petersburg, Illinois. At the age of 84. He succumbed after a twenty-year battle with Parkinson's Disease which he fought with great strength and dignity. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Brister, PhD, their daughter Kathriel Brister, MD (Salwan Almashat, MD), and grandsons Laith and Zane.

David was born on January 11, 1938, in Cleveland, Ohio. That David had an adult life is nothing short of a miracle, at the age of eight, he was only the fifth patient in the United States to successfully undergo surgery to correct coarctation of the aorta (congenital narrowing of the aorta). He recovered fully and went on to earn his doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa in 1971, where he met his wife, Phyllis.

As a psychologist, David co-authored (with his wife Phyllis) *The Vicious Circle Phenomenon: Our Battle for Self-Control*, published in 1987. David also worked in private practice in both Pascagoula and Jackson, Mississippi. He was a professor at Jackson State University and the Universities Center in Jackson. His adventurous spirit later led him to Barrow, Alaska where he directed mental health services and was a public safety deputy at the North Slope Borough. He was also director of the Montclair Counseling Center in Birmingham, Alabama. For many years until his retirement, he was a psychological consultant for the Social Security Disability Determination Services in Birmingham, Alabama, and Springfield, Illinois.

David was an inveterate optimist. He loved sports cars (his GTO Pontiac,

Karmann-Ghia and Porsche), target shooting, his dogs (Daphne, Max and Dixie Rose), and most of all his family.

No memorial service or funeral is planned. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent in his memory to the American Parkinson Disease Association or the American Heart Association.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.hurleyfh.com

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, IL is assisting the family with arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *David Michael Brister, PhD*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *WORKED WITH DAVID IN BARROW AND WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIS INSIGHTS AND OCCASIONAL HUMOR. NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN BUT I HAVE ALWAYS VALUED OUR RELATIONSHIP.AND REGRET THAT I DID NOT CONTACT HIM BEFORE HIS PASSING. HE WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A FINE MAN. I WILL SORELY MISS HIM. LEROY KETTLER MA*

LEROY KETTLER - June 04, 2022 at 03:26 PM



“ *So sorry to read about David. I always enjoyed talking to him. Let me know if I can help with anything. Dick Poynter*

richard poynter - March 13, 2022 at 10:16 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about David's passing. David was an outgoing and engaging personality, to be sure. I so enjoyed his way with words that I would entice him into conversation just to enjoy the creative ways he expressed himself. He once thanked me for sharing a bag of pretzels with him in a way that I can only envy but certainly not repeat. Those pretzels always tasted better after David praised their perfection! Thank you for that memory, David.*

Richard Dimond, PhD - March 08, 2022 at 04:47 PM

HT

“ *Phyllis, I was sorry to hear about David's passing onto his next journey. He was very personable, kind and an admirable gentleman. In the time that I knew him, he always had a curiosity about him with his books and opinions. He will be missed. If there is anything that I can do, please do not hesitate to ask. Thinking of you and your family.*

Dr. Howard A. Tin

Howard A. Tin - March 07, 2022 at 10:38 AM

DM

“ *My deepest sympathy Phyllis. May he rest in peace knowing all the good works he accomplished while in this life.*

Dr. Bev Matthews - March 06, 2022 at 12:13 PM

HT

“ *My deepest condolences to Dr. Blister, family and friends.*

Hector Torregrosa - March 05, 2022 at 09:24 PM

BS

“ *So sorry for the loss of your Husband, Father, and Grandfather. I really enjoyed working with Dave at BDDS, CAU. He was always so friendly and helpful with his great knowledge of Psychology. He spoke fondly of his Family, and he loved you very much.*

Barbara A Smith - March 05, 2022 at 01:57 PM

TS

“ *So very sorry for this loss of Mr. Brister. The family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

tim schaffer - March 04, 2022 at 02:57 PM