

David Ivan Dickerson



David Ivan Dickerson passed away on January 25, 2025 in Green Valley, Arizona. He was born January 23, 1937 in Alton, Missouri. He is survived by his daughter Angela (Mark) Dickerson-Romick, his brothers Jerry (Bev), Jim (Ione) and Ken (Billie) Dickerson, his daughter-in-law Elisha Dickerson, his sister-in-law Martha (Jack) King, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Harley Sr. and Dorothy Dickerson, wife Barbara Dickerson, son Matthew Dickerson and brother Harley Dickerson, Jr.

David was a teacher, principal, superintendent, commercial fisherman, hunter, recreational boater, and avid outdoorsman during his 50+ years as an Alaskan resident. He later moved to Arizona where he enjoyed time playing pinochle with his brothers, his dog Cocoa, and the desert climate.

He and his four younger brothers moved from Missouri to Ashland Oregon in 1953. David graduated from Ashland High School in 1954. He joined the US Navy at age 17 attending the Annapolis Naval Academy with a later assignment at the Pentagon. After returning to Oregon, he was a member of the US Naval Reserve. While attending college in Ashland Oregon he worked summers as a Park Ranger at Crater Lake National Park. After graduating from what is now known as Southern Oregon University he taught one year of High School in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

In 1962, with an innate sense of adventure and love of the outdoors he drove to Alaska just ahead of a Columbus Day storm, joined the National Guard in Ketchikan and was on military training maneuvers when the Great Alaska earthquake struck Anchorage in 1964. He and Barbara married in Ketchikan, later that year.

Although David spent most of his working career in rural Alaska, he and his family left to work in Pennsylvania, Great Falls, Montana and Lake View Oregon before moving to Eugene Oregon where he attended the University of Oregon and obtained his doctorate degree in Education. He was a committed Oregon Ducks fan. He later moved the family back to Alaska where he taught in Utqiagvik (Pt. Barrow) and was Superintendent of Schools in Ft Yukon and Dillingham Alaska. The family moved to Kenai, Alaska in 1980. He worked in the Kenai Peninsula school district until his retirement. He was a commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet alongside his brother Ken and son Matt.

He and his wife Barbara traveled to many places including Europe, Australia, Russia and Mexico. He will be remembered fondly, as the genesis of many good memories for his family and friends. The family asks that friends and family donate to their local animal shelter so that other families can enjoy the love and friendship he got from his dog, Cocoa.

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