



David G. Semrau

April 25, 1939 - November 29, 2022

David Gordon Semrau, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, and business owner, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. He was born April 25, 1939, in Detroit, MI to the late Gordon and Mildred Semrau and was brother to the late Paul Semrau. Dave and his loving wife, Patricia (Hunt) Semrau, were together for 39 years. Their marriage was one for the ages – a true example of love, respect, and happiness. He loved their life together.

Dave was an educator and Athletic Director for Utica Community Schools for 37 years. His love for athletics and seeing kids thrive in sports propelled him to be an outstanding Athletic Director at Utica High School. He coached football, basketball, and golf at the secondary level. Dave was named Conference Coach of the Year in 1968, 1981, 1983, 1985, and 1989. Dave began the Macomb County Golf Tournament in 1965. His goal was to develop and inspire junior golf. His varsity golf team won five league championships and many county championships. Dave was inducted into the Utica High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame. The largest honor and award for Dave was being inducted into the Michigan Coaches Hall of Fame in 1995.

Dave's impact extended far beyond the classroom as he had life-long relationships with colleagues, students, and business associates. Dave was

proud to see his passion for education live on in the careers of his two daughters and three of his grandchildren. In 1970, Dave started Courtesy Driving School, Michigan's largest driving school. Not only was Dave a successful businessman and educator, but he was loved and respected by all who worked with him. One of his greatest joys was partnering with his son to grow and evolve his business over the past twelve years. He was so proud that what he began over 52 years ago has strongly continued under his son's leadership and with the support of their dedicated employees.

In addition to his career successes, Dave was an avid and accomplished golfer, spending countless hours on the golf course with his family and friends. Dave was a true patriot of America and a long-time member of the Elks Club and other various organizations. He never met a stranger and always showed true warmth and generosity to everyone. Throughout his life, Dave was a determined leader with a strong work ethic who showed respect and compassion for all. He was not only a pillar in his community, but he left his imprint on the lives he touched.

Dave's greatest pride and joy was his family. His legacy lives on through his beloved wife Patty, their son Brandon (Elizabeth) Semrau, his daughters Shari (John) Ritz and Shelly Semrau, his six grandchildren, Gino Aquino, Jessie Aquino, Tori Ritz, Jackie Ritz, Sutton Semrau, and Carter Semrau, and his great-grandchild, Gino JD Aquino. Dave's life was enriched by his many friends and family.

Dave's family will receive visitors at Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Funeral Home, 54880 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Township, MI 48316, on December 9, 2022, from 3:00-8:00 pm. Dave's memorial service will take place on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 620 Romeo Rd., Rochester, MI 48307 at 11:00 am. His family will welcome visitors at St. Paul's from 10:00-11:00. A luncheon will follow at The Palazzo Grande, 54660 Van

Dyke Ave, Shelby Township, MI 48316. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to the American Cancer Society or Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan. Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook at WujekCalcaterra.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **9**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc, Shelby Township
54880 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Instate / Funeral Service

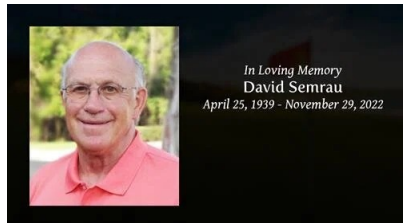
DEC **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul United Methodist Church
620 Romeo Rd
Rochester, MI 48307

Tribute Wall



“ *Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of David G. Semrau*



Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. - December 08, 2022 at 11:12 AM

ED

“ *My family just heard today of Dave's passing. We are so heartsick. He was a great guy. Eleanor damico*

Eleanor damico - June 06, 2024 at 07:50 PM

SK

“ *I am just now seeing Dave's obituary and your very moving video tribute! He never lost that grin! Happy memories of times with you at your wedding and Torch Lake. You have created a beautiful family! Wishing God's comfort to Patti and all the family!*

Susan Kohl - March 15, 2023 at 01:29 PM

CJ

“ *It was my pleasure to know Mr. Semrau. He was so kind and always took a personal interest in others. I will continue to be inspired by his record of hard work and the legacy he left behind! Chandra Jones*

chandra jones - December 12, 2022 at 03:43 PM

RJ

“ Dear Patty and Family :

All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. David was very special and his life was not measured by its length, but by the depths of love, joy and happiness he brought to the many lives he touched. His life was a blessing and he will be missed beyond measure.

*Love to all of you,
Ron and Sally Jakubowski*

RON and SALLY JAKUBOWSKI - December 09, 2022 at 05:11 PM

DM

I was in junior high at Eppler when Dave came to Eppler. Everyone liked and admired him. My prayers to your family.

diane McGeachy - December 12, 2022 at 08:53 AM



“ *Sending our sincere condolences & prayers to the entire Semerau Family. Patti O & Dave were both wonderful educators & former teachers of mine at Utica High School many years ago & thought of often.. May Dave rest in peace .*



Brenda Ward - December 09, 2022 at 03:45 PM



Brenda Maynor -Ward

Brenda Ward - December 09, 2022 at 03:47 PM

VZ

“ Dave and I go back to 1973. We had some great times at school, the golf courses and in general. He was a good friend to all. Rest in Peace David. My condolences to Patti and Brandon

Victor Zammit - December 09, 2022 at 10:00 AM

LM

“ My condolences to you Patty and Brandon ,and the Family. The memories will live on. Larry and Cheri Markesino

Lawrence Markesino - December 09, 2022 at 02:00 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 08, 2022 at 07:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 08, 2022 at 06:52 PM

BB

“ Dave was an active member of the Michigan Sports Sages and will be missed by the membership. Condolences to the Semrau family.

Bill Bupp - December 08, 2022 at 02:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 08, 2022 at 12:43 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 07, 2022 at 10:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 07, 2022 at 10:28 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 07, 2022 at 06:52 PM

SF

“ Shirley Newton & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David G. Semrau.



Shirley Newton & Family - December 07, 2022 at 11:26 AM

TW

“ Mr. Semrau was a nice guy always had a smile whenever you seen him in the hallway. My condolences to Mr. & Mrs. Semrau and family. Mrs. Semrau worked the school store.
Tammy (Dunaj) Wright

Tammy (Dunaj) Wright - December 06, 2022 at 09:04 PM

RA

“ He tried so hard to teach me about sports back in 7th grade, Shelby Jr. High...it didn't take at all. But he seemed like a great guy with a good heart. And in my memory, a lot more hair. Black hair. The smile and the eyes...those are the same. RIP Coach Semrau.

Rick Allen - December 06, 2022 at 07:09 PM

SK

We met Dave when he lived in Florida. He was a most kind human being. We will never forget the great times we had with him & Patti. His sense of humor & radiant smile will live in our hearts forever. We will miss him. R.I.P. our dear friend.

Stu & Linda Kaminsky - December 07, 2022 at 02:35 PM

JA

“ I'd just like to go on record for the Bob Ames & Jack Francis Families in saying "Dave Semrau" was synonymous with Utica High School Athletics & loved for the kind of person he was.
Jo Ames

Jo Ames - December 06, 2022 at 06:57 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 06, 2022 at 04:12 PM



“ Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 06, 2022 at 04:11 PM

DJ

“ Big part of UHS. Well loved. Great guy.

DAVID JACKSON - December 06, 2022 at 03:23 PM

CC

“ I had Dave both as a teacher & coach at Shelby Jr. High he was great at both !!! Later in life I became friends with him and admired his tenure as an athletics director & as a successful businessman . In the end we lost a GOOD MAN . God bless 🙏



Chris Corteg - December 06, 2022 at 01:25 PM

LP

“ Dear Patti, Brandon, Liz and family,

We are thinking about you and keeping you in our prayers during this difficult time.

We feel very blessed to have many beautiful memories of all the fun times together with Dave. May his beautiful soul rest in peace.

Our deepest sympathy.

*Love and hugs,
Brad and Lori Pinter*

Lori Pinter - December 06, 2022 at 10:28 AM

GM

*Our family has fond memories of Dave as a large Utica High bunch and he always had a smile and kind word as we would see him in Rochester at a local restaurant once in a while.
Love & good thoughts to his family from the Moeller's.*

Garre-Rae Moeller-Croswell - December 06, 2022 at 08:07 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.*



December 06, 2022 at 10:16 AM



“ *Dave was the Athletic Director when our children attended Utica High and we knew him well. In the past few years we had the pleasure of knowing him as a neighbor at Torch Lake. By that time, my husband, Bob Wells, was ill with severe COPD and Dave would come down to visit with him to rehash many sports games and golf scores. During one of those treasured visits, Dave gave Bob a \$2 bill for good luck with his illness. Dave told him to "play it forward" to others who needed this luck, which Bob did. But Bob always kept the one that Dave gave him. Bob recently passed away and in his billfold I found this \$2 bill which I will carry with me. I will always remember the kindness and caring Dave showed to Bob when he was ill. I know the sadness you and your family are feeling right now, Patty. I pray that the love Dave had for you and the family and the kindness he gave to others will help you through this very difficult time.*

Louise Wells - December 06, 2022 at 09:57 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.*



December 06, 2022 at 09:33 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.*



December 05, 2022 at 10:50 PM



“ *Dear Patty, It has been a long time since I have seen David and you I have fond memories of both of you. Please except my sincere condolences in the passing of David. Most sincerely, Dorothy Busch*

Dorothy Busch - December 05, 2022 at 08:19 PM

KD

“ *Dearest Family,
Our hearts are broken in the loss of Dave. We were so Blessed to have had him in our lives. Our Family has lost a "Precious Jewel". We are so thankful for the Great times we shared with him through the years. Especially talking politics! Some people leave beautiful memories in our heart, others leave lasting footprints on our soul. Thank You Dave for the wonderful memories and lasting footprints you left behind. You were an inspiration and mentor to so many people in your lifetime. Dave will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Dave was a man of honesty and integrity where he displayed this in his daily life. May God give your Precious Family strength, comfort, and peace in the midst of your sorrow. Heaven is a "Sweeter" place with Dave's presence. Give thanks for a life well lived and to always know how much he loved us!*



*Love to All,
Ronnie, Karis, Stacia, Faiz, Sophia & Stella*

Karis Dykes - December 05, 2022 at 04:49 PM

FS

“ *Dave was the AD at Utica when I coached basketball there. He also taught with my dad there for many years. I'll always remember him for his great sense of humor. Rest in peace, Dave.*

Fred Strauss

Fred Strauss - December 05, 2022 at 12:23 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.*



December 05, 2022 at 11:39 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.*



December 05, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ *To the Family of Mr Semrau,
He was such a gracious man and an excellent teacher.
Rest in peace Mr Semrau
Joanne Russo*

Joanne Russo - December 04, 2022 at 04:57 PM



“ *Jin & Kim Agemy and your eXp Family
purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family
of David G. Semrau.*



Jin & Kim Agemy and your eXp Family - December 04, 2022
at 01:10 PM

DE

“ Always charming, always smiling! A truly great guy who will be missed by so many people.

Donna Egerer

Donna Egerer - December 04, 2022 at 09:31 AM

WF

“ Dave was my PE teacher in high school. Later on we meet when he started bringing his cars in for service at the shop I worked. We did almost all his repairs on his fleet. We talked ever time he came in and I always enjoyed our conversation. You were and always will be 1 of the good ones Dave. Rest In Peace my teacher and friend

William Fox - December 04, 2022 at 04:54 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.



December 03, 2022 at 08:19 PM

CD

“ It was a gift to know someone who gave so much to remember. With deepest sympathy sending healing prayers and comforting hugs.

Carol & Don Dithmer

Carol Dithmer - December 03, 2022 at 08:15 PM

KK

“ So sad to see this genuine man go. As his neighbor, he always looked out for me. And i never got to tell him how much i appreciated that. Thanks Mr. semerau for always having my back and taking me on my first and only phesant hunt.

Ken Kapanka - December 03, 2022 at 05:50 PM

SN

“ Dave made the world a little brighter no matter where he went or met. I had the honor of his & Pattys friendship. He played golf with my husband Harold and when we belonged to Great Oakes, Harold invited him to play, I'm sure they won.. when my Husband passed away five years ago, Dave had a memorial plaque made for Harold and had it placed on Harold's favorite hole #16. I am so very grateful for Dave & Patty's kindness when Harold died. Forever grateful to you Dave.

Shirley Newton - December 03, 2022 at 05:49 PM

CF

“ Dave was a wonderful friend. We spent many years back and forth between Utica and Lively, Ontario, Canada with our children at Torch Lake and our fly in cottage in Northern Ontario. He was my roommate at Eastern Michigan U and we stayed friends throughout our lives. My wife, Sandy and I will miss him always. Our children Dean, Stacie, Kent, Shelli, my wife Sandy and I sent our deepest sympathies to all the Semrau family. RIP Dave. Carman Fielding



Carman Fielding - December 03, 2022 at 04:51 PM

RW

“ *Dave was a GREAT man. He was a wonderful mentor. We had so much in common in teaching, coaching and family. I count it a real privilege to have known him and worked with him(for him) for a lot of years. He will be missed very much. My condolences to the family. Sincerely, Randy L. Wilkins*

Randy Wilkins - December 02, 2022 at 06:09 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.*



December 02, 2022 at 02:11 PM



“ *A great man does not seek applause or place; he seeks for truth; he seeks the road to happiness, and what he ascertains, he gives to others. David was a GIVER!*

Karen Stecher - December 01, 2022 at 06:08 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of David G. Semrau.*



December 01, 2022 at 05:36 PM