



David G. Anderson

August 11, 1956 - August 26, 2025

David G. Anderson, 69, of Wausau, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2025, at Marshfield Clinic–Weston, surrounded by the family he so dearly loved. Born on August 11, 1956, to Carroll Ahlborn and Robert Anderson, Dave was a proud son of Hazelhurst in Northern Wisconsin. From his earliest days, he carried with him an unwavering love for his community, a zest for life, and a gift for connecting with people that only grew stronger with time. His life was one of service, friendship, laughter, and adventure—a life rich with stories, accomplishments, and memories that will be cherished by all who knew him.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Superior in 1978, Dave earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Studies and German. His career began as a German teacher at Lakeland Union High School, his alma mater in Minocqua. Even then, his leadership and sense of duty shine brightly—he was elected to the Oneida County Board of Supervisors while still teaching, later serving as Chairman for the Town of Hazelhurst. This early blending of education, leadership, and public service became the foundation of a career devoted to improving the lives of others.

Dave had a true passion for travel and a heart for adventure. One of his lifelong dreams was to visit all seven continents—he joyfully made it to six, with Antarctica already on the calendar for an upcoming trip. Over the years,

he explored countless countries and cultures, always eager to learn, experience, and share. He delighted in bringing others along on his journeys, whether traveling side by side or sharing stories and photos on Facebook. More than anything, he wanted the people to share in “Seeing the World with Dave.”

Among his greatest joys was his lifelong involvement with Rotary. Joining in the 1990s, Dave became deeply devoted to the organization’s mission of “service above self.” He was a past District Governor for Rotary District 6220 and, at the time of his passing, was a charter member and current president of the new Wausau After Hours Rotary Club—the first new Rotary Club in District 6220 in over a decade. Wherever his career took him, Rotary was at the center of his life. He held leadership roles in multiple clubs, chaired important committees, and poured his heart into projects both local and international. His commitment to service extended beyond titles; it was part of who he was. He was also a proud member of the Paul Harris Society and attended Rotary International Conventions across the globe, forming friendships that transcended borders.

Professionally, Dave enjoyed a long and impactful career in public service and government. He retired in 2018 as the Assistant Deputy Secretary at the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, but not before leaving his mark in countless roles. Over the years, he served as Director of the Governor’s Northern Office in Hayward, Director of Appointments for Governor Tommy G. Thompson, Policy Advisor and Assistant Deputy Secretary at the Department of Financial Institutions, and Policy Director for Governor Scott McCallum. He also served as Regional Representative and Deputy State Director for U.S. Senator Robert W. Kasten, Jr., and as District Director for Congressmen Tom Petri (WI-6) and Sean Duffy (WI-7). After his time in state government, Dave continued his work as Government Relations Director for Ruder Ware Law Firm in Wausau, later lending his expertise as

Chairman of the Board of Advisors for the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS), where he also served as a Senior Policy Fellow.

Through every position, Dave was admired for his knowledge, integrity, and ability to bring people together.

In addition to his roles in state and federal government, Dave served for many years as Secretary for the Republican Party of Wisconsin. A highlight of his time with the party was representing the great state of Wisconsin as a delegate to multiple national conventions. He took great pride in his involvement in politics, embracing the many roles he held over the years and always focusing on bringing people together, building connections, and fostering collaboration.

Dave's dedication to community service reached far beyond his professional and Rotary life. He gave generously of his time and leadership to many organizations, including the UW–Superior Alumni Association, UW–Superior Foundation, Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators, Circus World Museum Foundation, Lakeland High School District Foundation, Camp Five Museum Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of the Wausau Area, KidsVoting Marathon County/Wisconsin, Lakeland Care District, Wausau Area Taxpayers League, and most recently the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin. His service was never about recognition—it was about making a difference.

While his achievements were many, it was Dave's spirit that touched people most deeply. He had a remarkable gift for conversation and connection. He could meet a stranger and, within minutes, leave as a friend. With his warmth, humor, and genuine interest in others, Dave made people feel valued and remembered. He thrived in social settings and loved nothing more than gatherings filled with laughter, friendship, and storytelling. One of his favorite

traditions was the annual Beef-A-Rama weekend at Silver Lake Lodge, a celebration of camaraderie that he looked forward to every year.

Beyond his public life, Dave was a man of many passions. He loved Wisconsin history, movies, model trains, and genealogy—spending countless hours researching family history and sharing stories of generations past. His greatest joy, however, was his family. Married for 44 years to his beloved wife June, Dave was immensely proud of their two daughters, Jennifer and Stephanie, and the five grandchildren who were the light of his life. He loved making memories with them—whether through a circus outing, a train ride, or a family trip to a historical site. He passed down his love of learning, adventure, and fun, leaving behind a legacy of curiosity and love that will live on through them.

Dave is survived by his daughters, Jennifer Carlson (Tim) and Stephanie Jenson (Adam); and his five cherished grandchildren, Talon (13), Eleanor (10), Parker (8), Cam (5), and Presley (2). Spouse of 44 years, June Anderson; His dear sister, Norma Kuchler (Warren). He is also survived by his many nieces, nephews and cousins. Beyond family, Dave is remembered and deeply missed by the many he mentored, his colleagues, the volunteer organizations he poured his heart into, and countless friends whose lives were brighter because of him. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Anderson and Carroll Ahlborn (Eddie); his sister, Dorothy Klemptner; and brothers, Harold (Bud), Norman, and Jerry Anderson.

A visitation will be held from 4:00–7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at Bolger Funeral Home, 1212 First Avenue, Woodruff. A second visitation will take place from 9:00–11:00 AM on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Calvary Lutheran Church, 8632 Highway 51, Minocqua, followed by a funeral service at 11:00 AM. Graveside burial at Lakeside Garden of Sleep will take place immediately after the service. To conclude our celebration of

Dave's life, family and friends are invited to a luncheon at Hazelhurst Town Hall, 7020 US-51, Hazelhurst, WI 54531.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family for a scholarship fund being established for Dave's grandchildren—ensuring that his love of learning, service, and community continues for generations to come.

<https://everloved.com/life-of/david-g-anderson/>

Cemetery Details

Lakeside Garden of Sleep

Hazelhurst, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Woodruff Chapel
1212 First Avenue
(mailing address P.O. Box 40, Woodruff WI 54568)
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 356-6006
bolgerfuneral@gmail.com
<https://www.bolgerfuneral.com>

Visitation

SEP 4. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvary Lutheran Church
8632 Hwy 51
Minocqua, WI 54548

Funeral Service

SEP 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvary Lutheran Church
8632 Hwy 51
Minocqua, WI 54548

Tribute Wall

LR

“*Dave was an incredible person who will be missed by so many. I only knew him for five short years, but the impact he left on me will last a lifetime. His positivity, passion for service, and kindness were both inspirational and aspirational. He was a great mentor and influence. I have such fond memories of working with him on Two Bald Guys, a COVID-era weekly livestream he co-hosted on public policy and civic engagement, with a few dad jokes mixed in.*

My condolences to his family. Thank you for sharing this extraordinary man with all of us.

Luke Rudolph - September 05, 2025 at 03:20 PM

DT

“*I first met Dave when I was running for the State Senate and he was Chair of the UW-Superior student council. We immediately became friends which lasted for years. Dave was always a kind, friendly and compassionate person who gave his all to help others. My condolences to his family.*

Dan Theno - September 04, 2025 at 04:39 AM

DZ

“*Dave was a real gentleman. He was an invaluable member, leader and advisor within the Wisconsin Republican Party. We members within the county Republican organizations could always count on Dave for advice and guidance whenever we sought his assistance. He was selfless. His passing leaves a void that will be difficult to fill. Dave was a true patriot and a great American. On behalf of the Manitowoc County Republican Party, our hearts go out to his family.*

Don Zimmer - September 03, 2025 at 03:26 PM

RN

“ Dave was a good man. Friendly, personable, honest, caring and kind. Dave and I served together in the Walker Administration at the Dept. of Workforce Development. One of my fondest memories is when he invited me and my family to Beef-O-Rama. We stayed with his family and had an amazing time at the parade and the fair. Dave and I would talk about movies and life in general. He was a patriot. He will be remembered for being one of the kindest people I have ever met and a servant leader.

Reggie Newson - September 02, 2025 at 04:54 PM

BW

“ Dave was a smart and pleasant gentleman. I'll greatly miss him. We didn't always agree on politics but I always knew, more importantly, he was my friend. Kathy and I very recently visited his cottage and his apartment. It would be nice to share another visit. RIP my friend!
Bill Drengler, Wausau

Bill Drengler, Wausau - August 30, 2025 at 09:28 PM

DH

“ Dave was an amazing gentleman and his humanitarian spirit was infectious...he was a remarkable leader and his legacy defines his integrity and generosity....it was never about him but about the mission to improve outcomes or uplift others both in his community as well as abroad.... Dave was a Governor classmate and his passion for Rotary exceeded any expectation. I was honored to know him and grateful to see his incredible love for his family.....his love for his daughters, grands and June was in words spoken and actions observed... I extend my deepest condolences and sincere love for a man who will leave a powerful legacy that improved the world around him!
Dave will be forever remembered by all who knew him indeed!
Demetress

Demetress Harrell - August 30, 2025 at 12:32 AM

SO

“ I am very to sorry to learn of the passing of Dave Anderson. Dave was more than just a valued member of our Circus World team leading as Chairman of the Circus World Museum Foundation Board; he was a source of inspiration, kindness, and integrity to all who had the privilege of working alongside him. Dave's passion for community, governance, politics, Rotary, civic engagement and traveling the world sampling the best bites and wine along the way was evident in everything he did. His contributions have left an indelible mark on every organization he was part of and in our hearts. Dave was a driving force behind our circus travel program - taking us to amazing locations such as Paris, Budapest, Monte Carlo and beyond. We had good, cherished times together.

Dave approached every project with dedication, creativity, and grace. As a friend, he brought warmth, laughter to our days. Dave had a unique gift for making others feel seen and supported, and his legacy will live on through the lives he touched.

My thoughts and heartfelt condolences go out to Dave's family and loved ones. We never say goodbye in circus culture, we always say see you down the road.

Scott O'Donnell - August 29, 2025 at 12:57 PM

GC

“ Dave gave me my first professional opportunity. I interned for him when he was the Director of the Governor's Northern Office in Hayward. He was a great mentor. Rest in Peace, dear Friend.

Ginny Gunderson Cross - August 29, 2025 at 11:42 AM

PM

“ *Herr Anderson was a wonderful German language teacher in high school - positive, creative, cheerful, and dedicated to the students. That was many years ago but the friends I made in that class and I have remembered him fondly over the years. RIP to a very kind man.*

Pamela Melcher - August 28, 2025 at 12:30 AM



Christina
Mogavero
Schmidt

“ *Dave was a great person and will be missed, always a pleasure to see out and about and just a great friend. RIP Dave.*
Christina Schmidt

Christina Mogavero Schmidt - August 28, 2025 at 12:27 AM

PH

“ *We first met Dave when he worked for the Governor's office many years ago, and have been friends ever since. Dave and my husband (Reggie Hennessey) started The Movie Club and took a group of club "members" to the movies whenever Dave was in Madison. Such fun memories of our times with Dave, a true class act who will be missed*

Pam Hennessey - August 27, 2025 at 08:44 PM

MR

“ *I will always remember Dave as a very kind, genuine and joyful person. Our condolences to his family.*

Mark Rahmlow - August 27, 2025 at 04:25 PM



SEMPER FI MY FRIEND

Kenneth Ondrus - August 27, 2025 at 07:01 PM

KH

I had the great fortune of traveling across Wisconsin with Dave when we served in the McCallum administration. David never met a person he didn't like and treated everyone with respect and true admiration for their unique gifts. He enjoyed every minute of every day, He knew where to find a great hamburger or steak in the middle of nowhere, and Dave was always a true friend. He will be missed by so many because he knew everyone.

Ken Harwood - August 28, 2025 at 12:50 PM

TA

I was saddened to hear of Dave's passing. We served together for several years on the board of the Wausau Area Taxpayers League and his knowledge of government operations and how to get things done inside of government were always thoughtful and contributed to the success of our organization. What a nice guy besides!

Tom Allen - August 29, 2025 at 01:01 AM

ST

I'll always be remembering Dave for the doors he opened for me and the opportunities that came as a result. He was always supportive, kind and encouraging.

S.MARK TYLER - August 29, 2025 at 05:33 AM



Loved chatting with Dave over a beer at Bull Falls. Even though we were on opposite sides of the fence. We respected each other. Loved following his journeys.

Lou Larson - August 29, 2025 at 10:47 AM

TK

Beside knowing Dave as a Teacher when I Went to high school I can always remember him making fudge with my mom at Dan's My thoughts and prayers to the family

Traci (Neff) Kennedy - August 29, 2025 at 11:47 AM

PG

I was saddened to hear of Dave's passing. I was fortunate enough to have his advice when I ran for state senate. He was a pleasure to work with. My thoughts and prayers for the family.

Pam Galloway - August 31, 2025 at 11:15 AM

BR

My husband and I were so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. We got to know him as we served on the Executive committee of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. He always had a smile on his face and was a helpful gentleman. He will be missed.

Bill & Darlene Ross - September 02, 2025 at 06:49 PM

JL

Please accept my heartfelt expression of sympathy & condolence on the passing of David. May he REST IN PEACE and forever be bathed in the Eternal Light and Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ. My family rented the "NORMA" cabin for many years from the Ahlborn family. I have a number of treasured memories from the times I spent at Silver Lake and Hazelhurst. My favorite place in the entire world is Hazelhurst WI in the summertime. I dearly remember George & Norma Faulkner. My prayers and thoughts are with the family and friends at this time. If anyone is visiting the Charleston SC area please call me. (843)367-4215. I would love to show you this area of our wonderful world. TAKE CARE AND GOD BLESS!!! SINCERELY JOEL R. LARKIN

Joel R. Larkin - September 04, 2025 at 11:14 AM

RM

*It was a true honor and pleasure serving with Dave on the RPW Exec Committee. Having him in the room, whether it was a meeting, caucus or convention was always comforting. I always knew that whatever my come, with him there it was all going to be okay. God Bless.
Robin Moore*

Robin Moore - September 04, 2025 at 11:14 AM

CP

I am heart broken to read about Dave's passing. Although we lost contact over the years we shared many, many memories from working at Dan's Minocqua Fudge (then called Dan's Gay 90's) as teenagers along with my sister Becky and Jon Frey. We shared many, many memories away from work, including some we cannot tell, LOL. It was such a wonderful friendship amongst us all. Dave was located just down the hall at the high school from my mom, Mary Kilgore. They shared a valuable friendship. I would have given anything to speak to Dave one more time. I will miss you. June and family, please accept my condolences. Dave was a wonderful person.

Cindy (Kilgore) Ptach

Cindy Ptach - September 15, 2025 at 02:52 PM

BG

I am so sad and shocked actually to learn of Dave's passing. Ditto to what my sister Cindy just wrote. We had a lot of fun when we all worked at Dan's. We were fortunate enough to see Dave and June when they came to La Crosse in 2023. So very sorry for your loss Anderson family. My sympathies to you all.

Becky Kilgore Guinn

Becky Guinn - September 15, 2025 at 05:08 PM