



David L. LaFave

November 8, 1956 - March 9, 2026

David “Dave” LaFave, 69, of Arbor Vitae, WI, passed away at home unexpectedly on March 9, 2026. Born on November 8, 1956, in Wausau, to the late Lucille (Prince) and Raymond LaFave. Dave lived a life filled with love, laughter, and deep connection to the outdoors.

Dave was the beloved father of Nicole (Matthew) Rice of Merrill. He was also a proud grandfather to Alyssa and Austyn LaFave and Kyla LaFave-Mason, all of Merrill and a loving great-grandfather to Hayden and Hadley Hinz. Dave is further survived by his two sisters LaVonne (John) Bennett of Madison and Claire (Garry) Foltz of Eau Claire. He was preceded in death by his parents.

After spending most of his life living in Hamburg, he made the move to Arbor Vitae to embrace the natural beauty of northern Wisconsin- a place that held a special place in his heart. An avid fisherman and hunter, he found joy and peace in the great outdoors. Known for his fun-loving nature and quick wit as a jokester, Dave brought smiles in those around him and created countless cherished memories with family and friends.

Despite facing challenges with lung cancer in recent years, Dave’s strength and resilience were evident as he continued to enjoy life surrounded by loved ones.

May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him. Per Dave's wishes, no funeral service will be held, rather a Celebration of Life at a later date yet to be determined.

Tribute Wall



“ *A lot of good memories with Dave shooting pool and fishing. He always had some joke or prank going on. Was fun to be around. Will be missed.* ”

Clark Westfall - March 16 at 01:42 PM