



David L. Helms

August 10, 1952 - January 25, 2023

David L. Helms, age 70, of Grove, OK, passed quietly from this life to the next on Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

Dave was born on August 10, 1952, to Charles and Ruby (Johnson) Helms in Afton, OK. He attended Miami High School and in 1970 he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He was an Alaskan Tactical Air Command Airframe Structural Repair(E-7) Specialist Skin man SSGT.

In 1982, Dave married the love of his life, Beverly Hoelscher in Kauai.

While in the Air Force, Dave realized his passion for helping amputees. And decided to go to school to work with prosthetics. He attended the University of Alaska, Tulane University, Delgado Junior College, Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, UCLA, and New York University Medical School. He was determined to become the best at his craft and worked unwaveringly to achieve it. In 1996, Dave and family opened Grand Prosthetics and Orthotics Lightweight Artificial Limbs and Braces in Grove, Oklahoma and he was currently practicing until his passing.

Dave was generous with his time and efforts and was involved in many civic organizations and programs to improve the City of Grove, Partners for Progress in 1997, Leadership Grove, Rotary International and Paul Harris Fellow, Grand Lake Association, Veteran's Memorial Moving Wall, Grove City Council, Municipal Service, Industrial Development and Airport Board. He worked with the first Robotics League FLL Jr High and FRC High School and in 2007 received a lifetime achievement award from the Grand Lake

Association. Out of all of his accomplishments, Dave's crowning achievement was procuring an F4 Fighter Jet with Pete Norwood and relocating it to Grove where it is proudly displayed as a tribute to our freedom and all service men and women.

Some would describe Dave as quietly extraordinary. He was generous and caring with a servant's heart but at the same time was fearless, focused and determined; and worked tirelessly to achieve the causes that he set his heart to.

Building prosthetics was his calling. To be able to restore a person's ability to walk or function independently was a gift that he never tired of sharing. It's difficult to estimate how many lives that he touched in his near 50 years of practicing.

CARS; that's what comes to many people's mind when they hear the name "Dave Helms". Dave loved cars. He loved building and restoring them. He loved driving and racing them, and most of all he loved sharing that common interest with his boys.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents. Left to carry on his legacy, wife of 40 years, Beverly Helms; sons: Andy Helms and Troy Helms and wife, Amber and Andy's son, Brady Helms, all of Grove.

Donations may be made to the maintenance and improvement of the F4 Phantom Jet in care of American Legion Post #178; 3rd & O'Daniel Pkwy; P.O. Box 450203, Grove, OK 74345.

A Celebration of Dave's life will be at 2pm Friday, January 27, 2023 at Nichols-Stephens Funeral Chapel

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

Nichols-Stephens Funeral and Cremation Service
10201 U.S. Highway 59
Grove, OK 74344
(918) 786-6761
nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall



“ *David L. Helms*

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *Karl & I have known Dave & Beverly for many years. Whenever we saw them, they were both very encouraging. We so very much wanted to be closer to them to share our life stories, & hear theirs, but the opportunity did not happen here. We know that it will in heaven !!*

Karl & Mary Kriesch - February 22, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ *David Helms was a fine man and a friend. Our sympathies go out to his Family. Larry and Mary Koch*

Larry Koch - February 16, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. May God comfort you at this difficult time. Ed and Gaynell Bowman*

Gaynell Bowman - February 06, 2023 at 10:36 AM



“ *I always enjoyed my visits with Dave.He was my friend.*

Bobby Adair - February 05, 2023 at 11:34 AM

LS

“ Many good memories with Dave from city government to cars. Certainly appreciated his life’s work to make life better for amputees. Having had a brother who was a double leg amputee, I am sure there are many grateful for Dave’s work to improve prosthetics.

Larry Stout - January 27, 2023 at 12:40 PM

PN

“ Dave was many things to many people and always there if you need him. . Any project he took on he always made them a success. I had the pleasure of working with him on several projects in our community. The one that is most prominent is the F-4 Phantom (Freedom Park) his talents were pivotal in bringing the aircraft to Grove. He will be greatly missed by his family, community & all those who knew him.

Pete Norwood - January 27, 2023 at 12:16 PM

MP

Beverly, my brother Ken Collins and I just saw this obituary for Davey!
So sorry to have learned this!
So sorry for u and ur family?
Want to ask is Gail still living as well as Max!

marjorie panter - May 04, 2023 at 10:59 PM

DA

“ Dave was a wonderful man I’m happy to call friend. Funny, selfless, and a staunch patriot. I will miss him. ~ Doug Anderson

Doug Anderson - January 27, 2023 at 08:06 AM

SC

“ Dave and his family are relatively new friends to me compared to their closest, long-term, friends here in Grove but Dave made me feel like an 'important friend' from the day we met. His quite, calm ways with a big sense of mild humor, was always a welcome site when he visited my store or we shared a table at Rotary. In our mutual friendship with Pete Norwood, I saw his since of love and concern for a close friend, fellow veteran and confidant that I so admired. I consider myself enriched from the opportunity to know Dave Helms and regret our acquaintance wasn't longer. I will consider it a privilege to be here as a support to his family as they share their loved one with our Father in Heaven. We all love and will greatly miss walking on this earth with you Dave.

Sharie Cox - January 27, 2023 at 05:21 AM

MF

“ MCPO Ken Spragins(Ret) and Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of David L. Helms.



MCPO Ken Spragins(Ret) and Family - January 26, 2023 at 07:51 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of David L. Helms.



January 26, 2023 at 03:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David L. Helms.*



January 26, 2023 at 01:39 PM



“ *Dave was a special guy. He always made my son Derek feel special in the car shows. I will miss him. - Coach G.*

Coach Jim Garvie - January 26, 2023 at 07:22 AM



“ *David was such a sweet & kind man that will be sorely missed. He was a Wardog member of MHS with many friends grieving his loss. Rest well David. Prayers for comfort to David's family & dear ones, condolences Debbie Stone Paul.*



Debbie Stone Paul - January 25, 2023 at 11:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David L. Helms.*



January 25, 2023 at 07:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of David L. Helms.



January 25, 2023 at 07:31 PM