



David F. Hitzeman

July 6, 1947 - December 14, 2022

David F. Hitzeman, DO, MACOI

Dr. David F. Hitzeman, 75, passed away peacefully on December 14th surrounded by his wife and family. David leaves behind his loving wife of 56 years, Rita. They have three amazing sons, Troy (Tammy) Hitzeman of Oklahoma City, OK, Tate Hitzeman of Frisco, TX and Travis (Courtnei) Hitzeman of Carrollton, TX. They are also blessed with seven beautiful grandchildren who were the light of his life.

David is preceded in death by his parents, the Reverend Harold Hitzeman and Lucy Marie (Baumgartel) Hitzeman. He is survived by one brother Roger (Lee) Hitzeman and two sisters, Eunice of Wichita, KS, Linda of Jefferson City as well as two sisters-in-law, Judy Dullea from Colorado and Cris Wesbrooks of Augusta, KS. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

David and Rita knew right away they were meant for each other and married young. They have lived a true love story. They spent almost every day together, loved travel, friends and most of all, their family. David went to medical school at the Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating in 1974. After graduating they traveled to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and he completed his internship. He then moved his family to Wellington, Kansas to practice general medicine for one year. It didn't take long for David to realize that he wanted more than general medicine. The family moved to Tulsa in 1976 for his residency at OOH where he continued to practice internal medicine for over 40 years until he retired.

David was always a champion of promoting osteopathic medicine and treating the underserved, by serving on numerous committees, and advocating for the profession. In the late 1990's, he was appointed by the Governor of Oklahoma as Commissioner for the Physician Manpower Training Commission for the State of Oklahoma where he headed up an initiative to combat the physician shortage in rural Oklahoma by addressing medical school debt to encourage doctors to practice in rural parts of the state. The broad influence he had on the osteopathic profession was evident by the multitude of awards he won over his lifetime, the national and local advocacy he led, and the changes he helped to make to ensure DOs were represented where policy was being made.

David served on the Board of Directors for the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI), and on numerous committees. He was recognized as a Master Fellow of the ACOI, was named ACOI's Internist of the Year in 2012 and received ACOI's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. in recognition of a lifetime of service and exemplary dedication to the profession in 2022. He also admirably served on the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) House of Delegates as an Oklahoma representative for over 30 years and as the AOA's representative to the AOA Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC), a select volunteer group of physicians that represents the entire osteopathic profession in helping shape Medicare relative values. Over the years, he also received many state and national awards including the Physician of the Year Award from the Osteopathic Founders Foundation, the Outstanding and Distinguished Service and Physician of the Year Award given by the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association as well as the Clinician of the Year Award, which he won three times from 2002-2012. These accolades earned him the nickname the "Warrior" by his colleagues.

We've lost our husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend today, however, heaven gained an angel. David was a loving family man and a true legend in the osteopathic world and will be remembered and missed by all.

A viewing wake will be held on December 19th from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at Nichols-Stephens Funeral home in Grove, OK. A Celebration of Life will be on January 7th at 1:00 pm at their home church, Our Savior Lutheran Church at 146 S. Sheridan Road in Tulsa, OK. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to the OFMQ (Oklahoma Foundation Medical Quality) 515 Central Park, Suite 101 in Oklahoma City or the Good Shepherd Hospice 1120 Neo Loop in Grove, OK, 74344 in David's honor. Guestbook for David Hitzeman is located here:

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 19. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

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

Celebration of Life

JAN 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

Our Savior Lutheran Church
146 S. Sheridan Road
Tulsa, OK

Tribute Wall

SF

*“ I WAS THINKING OF MY TULSA DAYS AND DAVID WAS A GREAT MENTOR. I WAS A NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT AND LEARNED MUCH ABOUT PATIENT MANAGEMENT FROM HIM. HIS SMILE IN THIS PICTURE IS HOW HE WAS ALL THE TIME. ALWAYS UPBEAT. A GREAT MAN.
STEVE FLETCHER, PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY, HOUSTON TEXAS*

Stephen Alan Fletcher - October 27, 2023 at 09:12 PM



“ David F. Hitzeman

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM

PS

“ Belatedly learned of David's passing, and I will sorely miss him. I served with him on the RUC since 2000, and was RUC chair for the past 6 years. He was a valued colleague, a scholar of the physician payment system, and indisputably fair and objective even in the most contentious circumstances. I made a donation to the hospice listed today with pleasure and hope that his final days were as he deserved.

*Peter K Smith, MD
Duke University*

Peter K Smith - February 09, 2023 at 09:30 PM

LF

“ Dear Rita and family, I was unable to stay to give my condolences, on Saturday. I am thinking and praying for you all, I was Ranch Acres Internal Meds' xray tech. We all worked hard and played harder!!! I have such wonderful memories of you and Dr H.... Lots of love , Lisa Funk

Lisa E Funk - January 10, 2023 at 01:26 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



January 07, 2023 at 09:59 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



January 05, 2023 at 08:44 PM

JT

“ Julia Hardiman & Tyco purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



Julia Hardiman & Tyco - January 05, 2023 at 01:42 PM

RA

“ *A quiet giant within the profession whose thoughtful insight, medical expertise, and kind heart will be truly missed.* ”

Rita Forden, AOF - January 05, 2023 at 01:20 PM

JD

“ *What a prince of a man and what a loss to all who knew him as well as the osteopathic profession. It was always a pleasure to see him at national meetings; he was always a kind and thoughtful voice of reason.* ”

Jan Willcox DO - January 05, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.* ”



January 04, 2023 at 04:55 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.* ”



January 04, 2023 at 02:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



January 04, 2023 at 11:44 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



January 04, 2023 at 11:32 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



January 04, 2023 at 11:28 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



January 03, 2023 at 10:29 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



January 03, 2023 at 04:22 PM



“ *Uncle Chuck Dullea purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



Uncle Chuck Dullea - January 03, 2023 at 01:57 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



January 03, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



January 03, 2023 at 01:15 AM

LN

“ love from all Travis and Cortni's neighbors purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



love from all Travis and Cortni's neighbors - January 02, 2023
at 11:04 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



January 02, 2023 at 06:15 PM

FD

“ From Anne Burton, DO purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



From Anne Burton, DO - January 02, 2023 at 11:58 AM

SM

“ The world has lost a truly wonderful man and I have lost a beautiful friend. David, we will all miss you.

Susan May - January 02, 2023 at 10:29 AM

LM

“ I first met Dr. Hitzman and his wife Rita, in 1989, while working at Oklahoma Osteopathic Hospital. Dr. Hitzeman was always very polite and a joy to work with. I'll always remember my days at OOH and for sure, I'll always remember Dr. Hitzeman

Larry Miller - December 23, 2022 at 07:47 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



December 23, 2022 at 10:54 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



December 20, 2022 at 05:53 PM

DC

“ I am in tears of learning about losing David. He was truly an outstanding human being. Husband to you Rita, father to his boys, grandfather, doctor, mentor, osteopathic delegate and so much more. The osteopathic family has lost yet another great one. I'm so sorry, Rita. Whew ...

I remember at a Christmas Party how he took me aside and asked me to take back the reins of the state advocates. I may do just that, but, at the moment I just don't have the energy like I used to.

David was the real deal. Gary and I will so miss him. Many prayers for you Rita and your family.

Love always, Donna and Gary Cannon, D.O.

Donna Cannon - December 19, 2022 at 08:31 PM

MF

“ Much love, The Moss Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



Much love, The Moss Family - December 19, 2022 at 03:46 PM

CM

“ While a resident, David was a kind, patient teacher of this intimidated but eager learner. He would not remember me for he treated all with respect but I will forever be grateful to him. Charles Mettry, pediatrician

Charles Mettry - December 19, 2022 at 12:32 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 19, 2022 at 12:00 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 19, 2022 at 07:27 AM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 18, 2022 at 08:06 PM



“ *Bill and Dal purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



Bill and Dal - December 18, 2022 at 07:04 PM

GD

“ George & Mary DiMatteo purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



George & Mary DiMatteo - December 18, 2022 at 08:36 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



December 17, 2022 at 08:54 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



December 17, 2022 at 06:10 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.



December 17, 2022 at 03:09 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 17, 2022 at 02:39 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 17, 2022 at 02:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 17, 2022 at 01:04 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 17, 2022 at 12:59 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 17, 2022 at 12:52 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David F. Hitzeman.*



December 17, 2022 at 10:26 AM