



## David V. Evans

December 9, 1941 - February 25, 2022

David V. Evans died on Friday, February 25, 2022, in Arlington, VA. A native of Arapahoe, NE, David was born on December 9, 1941 to Vernon and Mildred Evans.

David was a well-known education policy leader in the DC community. He was best known for his work as Staff Director for the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, under Senator Claiborne Pell. For nearly two decades, David vigorously established Senator Pell's leadership in advancing educational opportunities, evidenced in 1980 when the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant was renamed the Pell Grant. David's work in the name of Senator Pell was widespread – in ensuring access to educational programs for the US Territories and Freely Associated States, to expanding civics education and work in the vocational areas. When Senator Pell retired in 1996, David became Legislative Associate for Higher Education of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training and Lifelong Learning. In that capacity he worked directly for Congressman Dale E. Kildee, the subcommittee's ranking minority member. David brought his knowledge, expertise, commitment, and passion to legislative and conference work until he retired from government service in 2000. Prior to his Federal work, David worked in state government in both his home state of Nebraska and in Rhode Island.

In addition to his House responsibilities, David was a co-founder and member of the board of directors of Votivo Ltd., a candle manufacturing company with corporate headquarters in Seattle, Washington. He ended his professional career at the Center for Civic Education, where he was able to bring his love of travel and his commitment to good government to inform the quality programming created by the Center.

David earned a bachelor's degree from his beloved Grinnell College, where he was still active in both campus activities and with local DC area graduates. He also earned an MA in political science from The Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. He received an honorary doctorate from Hastings College in 1998 when he was the commencement speaker.

David divided his time between his homes in Arlington and near Mt. Jackson, VA. He had devoted friends across the area who loved getting into lively discussions at his Red Gap country home or at every Arlington Democratic function. He brought intelligence, interesting commentary, and humor to every encounter. His was indeed a life well-lived.

David is survived by Georgie Evans of Hastings, sister-in-law; niece Michelle (Greg) Evans Howard of Rapid City SD; nephew Mike (Paula) Evans of Nokomis FL; nephew Jamey (Susan) Evans of Lakewood CO, seven great nieces and nephews, many cousins, many friends, and his dog Gaelic. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Mildred, and his brother, Dr. Charles Evans.

A gathering of friends will be held on Thursday, April 7th, from noon to 2:00 at The Monocle Restaurant, 107 D Street NE, Washington, DC 20002.. Please view the obituary and sign the family guest book, sharing your memories of David at [www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com](http://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com). Contributions in his name may be given to Shenandoah Animal Shelter, Salve Regina University (The Pell

Center) or the Hastings College Evans Family Scholarship.

# Tribute Wall



“ *David V. Evans*

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October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *For Georgie and David's family: we just learned today of Davids death, a big loss for us as well as for many others. We first met David in 1972 while working for George McGovern. Since then our friendship endured and grew, with many fun times and great hilarity from Rhode Island to Virginia and on to Florida. David was a man of firm principles, impeccable taste, and great love for his dogs, Chipper being his first. David still had real estate plans, and hoped to come to Florida in the winter months. We have many great memories of our times together, and had hoped for more. His friendship was formative in our lives, we owe a lot to him, and boy will we miss him. Lise and Len OBrien*

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**Lise OBrien** - March 22, 2022 at 10:54 AM

JH

“ David, your impact on this world will be felt forever in every aspect of everyone’s life. From your service and passion for education to spreading joy. I will forever remember your colorful socks, love of fragrances, books, movies, food, art, plants and travel. You inspired me, encouraged me, supported me, guided me and someone I could continue to count on no matter what. I was lucky to have you in my life. Our shared Sunday fried chicken dinners, bacon wrapped meatloaf and of course your moms thanksgiving oyster dressing. Laughs and lessons shared and learned of bottles of Boodles Gin will forever be some of my favorite memories. Every time I light a candle I will think of the light and joy you brought to this Earth. Much like you I left home in my car to search for a life of purpose and passion and I will look up to you for guidance and strength along my journey. Thank you can’t begin to repay you for all you did for me. I will tell your story and not let your name be forgotten. Speaking of stories, you by far could entertain an entire room with your lively and animated stories. You have no idea how special you are to everyone.



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**Joseph Hollar** - March 13, 2022 at 11:56 PM

EB

“ When David came to Washington to begin working for Senator Pell, his first stop was to rent our basement apartment. His dog Rufus became best friends with our Charlie and we became friends for the next 40+ years. We have so many memories of shared adventures and hanging out. We and everyone who knew David will miss him and be grateful to have known him.

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**Elizabeth Burke** - March 13, 2022 at 01:44 PM

JO

“ David was such a great friend! We shared so many great times-- dinners, shopping trips, political events and just gabbing. I was spoiled during COVID getting to see him nearly every day and feel such a void with his passing. He loved his family in Nebraska and his ‘family’ in DC and Red Gap, his work on the Hill, at Votivo and at the Center for Civic Education, good Democrats and his dogs. We all loved him and miss him every day.

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**Jane Oates** - March 12, 2022 at 07:24 PM

BM

“ David’s death is a shock and a huge loss. He was smart, funny, kind, and passionate about education and equity. I knew him best as the leader of the “lunch bunch”--a core group of Grinnell College alumni in the Washington, DC, area--and as a fellow volunteer for the college. I never tired of his company and conversations. The world is poorer for his passing. -- Barbara Hunt Moore

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**Barbara Hunt Moore** - March 09, 2022 at 11:28 AM

AD

“ David was a wonderful neighbor and friend for over 20 years. His sense of humor and empathy for all was a wonderful quality. He would always stop and chat about gardening, the merits of dog ownership, and the political landscape. We were lucky to to have him as such a warm and welcoming neighbor for so many years. He will be missed.

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**Amanda Deringer** - March 07, 2022 at 03:43 PM

SB

“ David bought one of our homes in Annapolis when we moved across the street. We became great friends and enjoyed many good times with him. He was a remarkable man with a wonderful mind and a beautiful heart. My deepest sympathy to his family for the loss of this beautiful being. Scarlett and John

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**Scarlett Breeding** - March 07, 2022 at 02:31 PM

RJ

“ To Georgie and David's family, I am so sorry to hear the sad news about David. I knew David for close to 54 years. I still remember the day he walked into the Rhode Island Governor's Office fresh from Gene McCarthy's presidential campaign. The Governor's nephew and I were the only people in the office that day, and David blew us away. He was smart, funny, full of life, and passionate about the things that mattered to him. As soon as the Governor got in the office the following day, we knew Rhode Island needed David and so did the Governor. I became David's colleague, but more importantly his friend. And we shared so many things together, Trinity Square, almost owning a book store, and finally work with Senator Pell. David's work there helped so many and made a difference. Everything David did made a difference. He was a larger than life personality, full of fun, strong convictions, and a passion to do the right thing. Over 54 years I have so many stories about David that they could fill a book. Needless to say there are not many people like David, and the world is a lesser place with him gone.

*Rick Jerue*

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**Richard Jerue** - March 06, 2022 at 08:01 PM

PG

“*Jamey and the rest of the Evans family. I am very sorry to hear about David's passing. It is hard to believe. David had a wonderful life beginning with his loving parents, Vernon and Mildred Evans, his brother Chuck and the bonus of such a great sister-in-law, Georgie. All the mostly hilarious times we had in the US Senate, Rhode Island, Fairlington where he bought his great house on Utah Street right down the street from mine, and his country place in Mt. Jackson. His professional life was very rewarding and he had such a good relationship with Senator Pell and all the other members of the Education Subcommittee. My boss Senator Stafford really loved David. So many people will miss him but no one will look back on his life as less than terrific. Let all of us know if there is anything we can do to help you. He was so proud of you.*

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**Polly Gault** - March 06, 2022 at 02:36 PM



“ A salute to my dear friend and colleague David Evans. For over twenty years, David was Senator Pell's top education person as the Staff Director for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities. During my time with Senator Pell, I watched and admired David's ferocity, intelligence, and deep loyalty to Senator Pell while supporting the mission to bolster education, arts, and humanities. David pushed new initiatives while always protecting and preserving Senator Pell's past legislative successes. During his tenure, David played a leadership role in the reauthorization of Higher Ed, Elementary, and Vocational Acts over and over again while the bad guys, especially when they were in charge, tried to diminish or eliminate them. His formidable presence and protection of Pell were always present. Because college costs kept going up, the Pell Grants intended to help students instead of institutions and that theme was the underpinning for all Pell efforts led by David to ensure equal educational opportunity for all. As one of the first Pell Grant recipients who worked for Senator Pell, I salute and thank David for his impact on national policy to help people and his friendship with me.

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**Lee Umphrey** - March 05, 2022 at 07:34 PM