



David J Whalen

Birth: June 27th, 1944 Death: April 28th, 2024

David Joseph Whalen, 79, of Ojai, California, passed away unexpectedly on April 28, 2024. The eldest son of the late David F. Whalen and M. Patricia Conway Whalen, he was predeceased by his wife, Mary Anne Pfeiffer Whalen, and his brother, Paul F. Whalen. David was born in Providence, Rhode Island, grew up in Puerto Rico, and attended university in Massachusetts. He was a decorated officer in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, and following his service, he had a career as an aerospace engineer.

In his later years he enjoyed teaching, first as a professor of Space Studies at the University of North Dakota, and then teaching physics and astronomy at Bakersfield Community College and Ventura Community College. He was a passionate scholar and life-long learner who received several degrees from Boston University, Amherst College, College of William and Mary, George Washington University, and University of North Dakota in astronomy, business, history, space policy, and the classics.

He was a lover of languages and cultures, who enjoyed traveling and exploring. An avid reader of both fiction and nonfiction, David was also fond of logic puzzles, word puzzles, trivia, McDonald's cheeseburgers and sweets. He spent his final years at the Gables in Ojai where he made many friends.

David is survived by his sister Kathleen Bowes (Joseph), son Jerry Whalen (Jennifer), daughter Kate Gill (Louis), nieces Jacqueline Koch and Jennifer Bowes, grandchildren Anthony Campbell, Nolan Gill, Kiera Gill, Bridget Reyes, Micah Whalen, and Liam Whalen, sisters-in-law Nancy Whalen and Katherine Pfeiffer, as well as companion Joann Yabrof. The wake will be held at Bassinger & Dowd Funeral Home, 37 Garner St, East Windsor CT on Friday the 17th 4-7pm. The funeral mass will be held at St. Catherine's church in Broad Brook, CT on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 10 am.