



## David Lee Herriford

January 17, 1942 - July 29, 2025

David Lee Herriford, 83, of Lexington, Kentucky, passed away from complications of cancer on Tuesday, July 29, 2025. He was in hospice care at his home with loved ones by his side. But that is just the final act in the life of a truly amazing man.

Born June 17, 1942, in Glasgow, Kentucky to the late Lester Herriford and Elizabeth Lester Herriford, he lived all over the country as a child due to his father's career in the Navy. After returning to Kentucky, he was a great athlete who enjoyed playing any sport, especially baseball at Russell County High School. He moved to Nashville after high school with his brother Jim to attend drafting school. Afterwards he enlisted in the Air Force, where he served from 1962-1966, and was fortunate to stay stateside where he worked in Titan missile silos in Washington and Arkansas.

He came home to Jamestown, Kentucky on leave and rekindled his relationship with the "one that got away", Linda Jean Ballenger, and they were married one month after his discharge. They celebrated 59 years of marriage this past March.

Dave began his career at IBM and finished at Lexmark, retiring from both. His illustrious career as a designer and self-taught engineer included work on a braille typewriter, the Selectrix electric typewriter, the PS1 personal computer

and many different printers.

He never met a stranger, and had a true zest for life and conversation. To know him was to be given a pocket knife, asked to solve a mechanical puzzle, or watch a magic trick. Nothing made him happier than to laugh at friends and family struggling to figure out his puzzles and tricks while he assured them it was easy. He insisted that he gave the Hooey stick that particular name, because it was his idea 50 years ago to yell "hooey" every time the propeller changed direction (look it up).

He loved fishing and golf with his friends, playing cards, building things, telling stories of his childhood and workplace shenanigans, and collecting stuff. He never met a garage sale, flea market or pawn shop he didn't like, and he loved giving his treasures away to friends as much as finding them.

But his greatest accomplishment was his family. He was the best dad ever, who made plenty of time to play with his children, whether sports and games when they were young or card games when they were older. His true calling was being a granddaddy, whether to his own granddaughters Katie and Jessie, or to any of their friends or cousins. From building massive cardboard forts, hiding treasure in the yard and drawing maps to find it, impromptu magic shows, and playing doll house (where the kids always managed to find hidden M&M's), he was as big a kid as they were.

Whether he was David, Dave, Dad or Granddaddy, he was liked by everyone he met and his family loved him completely. He will be missed beyond our own comprehension, but we take comfort that he is reunited with his beloved mother and father.

David is survived by his wife, Linda Jean; his daughter Beth (Peter) Brown and his son John Herriford (Joan Sheffer); his grandchildren Katie (Dayton)

Walker and Jessica Brown; his brothers Jim (predeceased by his wife Reba) and Ron (Pam) Herriford; and many other family members and friends whose lives he touched.

A service and interment will be held on Friday, August 1, at 12:30 pm at Camp Nelson National Cemetery, 6980 Danville Rd., Nicholasville, KY 40356.

Arrangements are being provided by H.E. Pruitt Memory Chapel in Jamestown.

# Cemetery Details

## Camp Nelson National Cemetery

Nicholasville, KY

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

AUG 1. 12:30 PM (ET)

Camp Nelson National Cemetery  
6980 Danville Rd  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
(859) 885-5727

# Tribute Wall

LN

“ *Lisa Nielsen purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of David Lee Herriford.*



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**Lisa Nielsen** - July 31, 2025 at 07:46 PM

JL

“ *I am so sorry to hear this !*

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**Jack Brent Lawless** - July 31, 2025 at 05:57 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of David Lee Herriford.*



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July 31, 2025 at 03:35 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David Lee Herriford.*

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July 31, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David Lee Herriford.*



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July 31, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David Lee Herriford.*



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July 31, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David Lee Herriford.*

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July 31, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ *My condolences to the Herriford family. I was fortunate to have worked with Dave during his time at Lexmark. He was a wonderful engineer and human being. His name always made me smile.*

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**Allen Kirkwood** - July 31, 2025 at 12:12 PM

PF

“ We have wonderful memories of playing Bridge with David and Linda, going to soccer games for our girls and bowling. The Herrifords were always great friends. So sorry we've lost touch through the years. Our hearts go out to Linda, Beth and John. We send love to them all.  
~ Peg and Joe Fox

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**Peg and Joe Fox** - July 31, 2025 at 09:43 AM