

# In Loving Memory David Dean Blomberg

*November 22, 1961 — March 1, 2016*

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.*

*St. Columbkille Catholic Church*

*Varina, Iowa*

## CLERGY

*Reverend Allan Reicks*

*Deacon Eldon Sullivan*

## ORGANIST

*Marie Eckerman*

## CANTOR

*Pat Archer*

## SCRIPTURE

*1st Reading — Ecclesiastes 3:1-11*

*2nd Reading — 1 Corinthians 15:51-58*

*Gospel — Matthew 5:1-12*

## INTERMENT

*Military Graveside Services by Offutt Air Force Base Honor Guard*

*Albert City American Legion*

*Fairfield Township Cemetery*

*Albert City, Iowa*

*Arrangements by*

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Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain,  
and when he sat down his disciples came to him.  
And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:  
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.  
“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.  
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
“Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you  
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,  
for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12

*We* wish to express our gratitude for the kindness evidenced in  
thought and deed, and for your attendance at this service. A  
luncheon and a time to share memories and celebrate David's life will take  
place at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Albert City following the burial.

— The Blomberg Family

# Remembering A Special Life



**David Dean Blomberg**

**1961 — 2016**



Dave turned two years old the day that President John F. Kennedy was shot. His birthday celebration probably got lost in the sadness and shock hovering over the country, but maybe that moment, somewhere deep inside a little two year old boy, is what made him decide to devote his life to serving the great United States of America.

David D. Blomberg was born to Betty (100% German) and Rich (100% Swedish) somewhere near Albert City, Iowa, which in itself is funny.

When you asked Dave's mom

and dad where you were born, growing up with such a big family, sometimes the place you were born got lost in the shuffle. Luckily, it was a hospital, and not a barn.

Many of his high school friends will remember him with long hair, then a giant afro, then the air force shave — so many hairdos for one man. He was an avid athlete throughout his K-12 years wrestling, running track and his favorite, playing football. Dave sent a story to his hero and mother, Betty Blomberg, a few weeks before she passed away entitled, "Moments in Time; Creations of a Lifetime". That story was about a football game that Dave played in his senior year of high school and because they were up against Manson, Albert City was expecting to get hugely defeated. To everyone's surprise, and mostly Dave's, it came down to the last play in overtime. Dave, and another guy on the team, piled on top of each other on defense to stop a touchdown from the 1 yard line and ended up winning in overtime — his favorite sports memory of high school. But what made it his favorite was what he wrote a few years ago:

"My teammate got knocked unconscious for a short time, and my bell was certainly "rung," but none of that mattered. I remember looking at the stands while still laying in the pile of high school flesh and seeing the entire town coming out of the stands. When I got up and cleaned the grass out of my face guard, I only saw one person— Mom. She waited for me to get up, and when I did, she put "Andre the Giant" to shame with the hug she gave me - she was actually holding ME up. I lost total awareness of everything else going on around me. To me, Mom led the entire town on the field, and now, everyone else had left."

After high school graduation, and I mean the day after, he joined the United States Air Force. Dave went to Basic Training at Lackland AFB, TX, followed immediately by Tech School at Sheppard AB, TX, where he trained to be an Engineering Assistant and worked on drafting and surveying. From there, Dave moved to his first permanent duty station at Hulbert Field, FL and married his high school sweetheart, Darlys Smith. After moving into contract management, he was encouraged to pursue commissioning and become an officer. To move into this new roll, Dave moved to Arizona to complete his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Dave graduated Summa Cum Laude, which for some people, would be more than enough reason to brag, but not Dave. This honor was one of many Dave would earn throughout his career, but when anyone asked about his success, he'd tell them he wasn't that smart. He just kept at things and worked hard. And of course it's true that he worked hard. But those who knew him saw that there was more to it; he was a natural leader and had a great mind.

After distinguishing himself again in Officer Training School, he was off to his first duty station as an officer, working as an Engineer with lasers and satellites at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. If this wasn't enough to occupy his time, he and Darlys learned they were expecting. Dave's daughter Kristin Lynn Blomberg, and now Ratajczak, was born on May 27, 1988 and from that instant, became his greatest joy. In fact, he said he'd take ten more of her. In that moment, he must have channeled his parents.

In his free time, Dave pursued his private pilot's license, which brought the possibility of achieving his dream of being a pilot to the forefront of his mind. In 1989, and just squeaking in under the age limit, Dave was accepted into Air Force Pilot Training, and moved to Lubbock, Texas. Once again, Dave graduated at the top of his class and moved to Travis AFB, CA to fly C-141s in 1990. At that time, Desert Storm was already in progress, and within a few weeks, Dave was flying combat support missions in the war.

Dave excelled as a pilot, co-pilot, executive officer, and was a flight commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron. In addition to flying in Desert Storm, and more missions that can be counted, he flew presidential-directed sorties to Antarctica. To non-military buffs, missions like these would be described by him in one word: "cool".

In 1994, he cross trained into flying KC-10s and moved across the country to McGuire AFB, NJ. From there, Dave was promoted and received orders to Maxwell AFB, AL. During that time, he was completing a program at the Air Command and Staff College, spending every spare moment watching video tapes of classes consisting of professors writing endless complex math problems on a white board. Excelling in classes like that would seem impossible to many, but Dave managed to do it.

In 1998, after graduating with honors, he received orders to the Pentagon. From there, he was off to cross train on C-17s before moving to McChord AFB, WA, where he took command of the Fighting 4<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. In 2004, he retired from the Air Force after 24 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his career, picking up and going somewhere new was no big deal. He moved to Minnesota, then Oklahoma to be a flight instructor, before finally settling down in New Baden, IL and working as a civil servant in the Commanders Action Group at Scott AFB.

Dave and Darlys also had two sons, Kyle and Kevin, who each passed away shortly after their births, and who Dave is now holding in his arms in heaven. Dave is also preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Betty (Goedert) Blomberg, who he is mostly likely teaching how to fish or they are beating him in cards.

Dave's memory will live on with Kristin and her husband Joey, as they

treasure the moments spent together. Additionally, by his brothers and sisters and their spouses, including Dick and Kim, Susan and Paul, Teresa and Dan, Mark and Carol, Dan and Linda, Michelle and Jody, Bruce and Kristi, Bryan and Kendra, Bob and Jennifer. He will also be missed by all of his nieces and nephews who loved hanging out with him each summer at the cabin and also at Bruce and Kristi's home in Des Moines at Christmas time. The Blomberg family has continued to grow and loves the times when they can all get together and Dave will be missed very much in their hearts. Dave will be remembered by Darlys, as she reflects on their time together. And Dave will be missed by Annalisa Melton from St. Louis, a very dear friend of Dave's.



Since the news of Dave's passing, his friends and comrades from the United States Air Force have shared memories that tell Dave's story. Dave loved serving his country, spending time with his family and friends in the great outdoors, and riding his Harley on country roads. More than that though, every story seems to share the themes of his character; he was an amazing leader, mentor and friend, who was truly selfless and personified compassion. His thoughtful nature was treasured by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Dave wrote these words to his mom and now are the words we'd all like to say to him — Thank you Dave, for the "Moments in Time" you gave us.