



David Ritchie

April 4, 1962 - March 1, 2026

David “Dave” L. Ritchie, 63, of Wapakoneta, passed away at 11:18 p.m. on March 1, 2026.

David was born on April 4, 1962, to Adam and Joyce Ritchie, who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his brothers, Adam and Gary Ritchie, and his sister, Eva McGuire.

David died a hero. In the face of danger, he selflessly attempted to save his brother-in-law without hesitation. He did not pass alone; he tragically lost his beloved brother-in-law, Fenton Lucas, in the same fire. His bravery and the bond they shared will never be forgotten.

David was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He married the love of his life, Pandora Ritchie, who survives. His children and grandchildren were his entire world, and he took great pride in the family he helped build.

He worked for many years in machine maintenance/ electrician trade, and was known for his strong work ethic and willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. In his free time, David enjoyed fishing and working on cars.

He is survived by his loving wife, Pandora; his children, Mindy (Joshua) Freistuhler and Crystal (Nathan) Bradford; his treasured grandchildren, Trenton Freistuhler, Elora (Brendon) Webb, Jeremiah Freistuhler, Alexis (Cody) McDonald, Devin Davis, Taylor Bradford, Gage Bradford, Joscelyn (Colt) Place, and Joshua (Shay) Bradford; and his great-grandchildren, Kai, Cayden, Atreus, and Mylo.

David's legacy is one of love, sacrifice, and unwavering devotion to family. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered as a hero whose final act reflected the way he lived — always putting others before himself.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Sat. March 7, 2026, at the Eley Funeral Home & Crematory, St. Rt. 501. Burial will follow in the Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta. The family will receive friends from 12:00 -2:00 p.m., Sat. at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to the family. Condolences may be expressed at www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Cemetery

Presar Road
Wapakoneta, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Hwy
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-7676
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/>

Service

MAR 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
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Wapakoneta, OH 45895
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Tribute Wall



“ Thinking of you Pandora and your family. Gary Burden and family

Angie Jackson - March 08 at 01:24 PM

EI

“ Mindy and Crystal!! Thinking about you at this time- sending you peace, love, and prayers. Emily

Emily Ivey - March 05 at 06:57 PM

BW

“ So sorry for your loss Pandora. Hugs an prayers to u an ur family. Bev Whitaker

Beverly Whitaker - March 05 at 02:35 PM

CA

“ We met a lot of people at J.B.Tool back in the day. Dave and Pandora are two of the good ones. Rest in peace Dave. Pandora, sending sympathy and prayers your way. So sorry for your losses. Wade and Cindy Arn

Cindy Arn - March 05 at 01:23 PM

TN

“ The Green's (Tony, Jerriann, CJ & Noah) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of David Ritchie.



The Green's (Tony, Jerriann, CJ & Noah) - March 05 at 06:52 AM

TN

“ *The Green's (Tony, Jerriann, CJ & Noah) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Ritchie.*

The Green's (Tony, Jerriann, CJ & Noah) - March 05 at 06:52 AM

CS

“ *CRADY,TIM,ZENDIL DARRELL AND MAXINE SMIT purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of David Ritchie.*



CRADY,TIM,ZENDIL DARRELL AND MAXINE SMIT - March 04 at 07:42 PM

BE

“ *Dave was a very good maintenance and an even better person. It is no surprise that he lost his life trying to save another. He always enjoyed working on cars and he was always willing to help you out. With your car or anything else. He will be missed. I will hold the family in my thoughts and prayers.*

Bob Eberhart and family

Bob Eberhart - March 04 at 06:20 PM

MO

“ I will forever remember you Dave working with us at the Orick Stamping Plant (you and Pandora) He was a Good Guy ,, He was a quiet man that kept to himself mostly and was just a good hard working man ; My heartfelt prayers go out to you Pandora and your Family; God Rest His Soul



Monica Orick - March 04 at 02:46 PM

DH

“ RIP!

Denny & Tonia Hughes

Denny & Tonia Hughes - March 02 at 04:44 PM