



David Robert Dreitzler

August 28, 1939 - May 11, 2026

Mr. David Robert Dreitzler, age 86, of Arab, Alabama, passed away at his residence on Monday, May 11, 2026. Born in Chicago, Illinois, on August 28, 1939, David was the son of Seldon Dreitzler and Irma Poser Dreitzler. He was a graduate of Illinois Institute of Technology. The family relocated from Huntsville, Alabama, to the Arab community in 1994. David was of the Baptist faith and a member of Gilliam Springs Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Lucille Wilburn Dreitzler (June 2020).

Mr. Dreitzler was a U.S. Navy veteran, proudly serving his country. After serving his military commitment, he worked at the US Army Missile Command as an electrical engineer. He maintained a lifelong interest in electronics and computers and enjoyed traveling throughout the United States.

Mr. Dreitzler is survived by his grandson, Ryan Beaverson (Sara); his great-grandchildren, Andrew Beaverson, Jackson Beaverson, and Sarah Kate Beaverson; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife, those preceding David in death include his parents, Seldon and Irma Dreitzler; his son, Randall Eugene Hooper; and his sister, Faye Dreitzler.

Services for Mr. Dreitzler will be held Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Arab

Heritage Memorial Chapel. Visitation, a time to reminisce, share, acknowledge, and honor him, will be from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., with the funeral service immediately following at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be in Gilliam Springs Cemetery. The family would like to acknowledge and thank those who took special care of David. His caregivers, Terri, Savilla, Elaine and Samantha, were faithful, kind and compassionate and their commitment to David was greatly appreciated. Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel is assisting with arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Gilliam Springs Cemetery

1351 North Brindlee Mountain Parkway
Arab, AL 35016

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Funeral Service

MAY 16. 11:00 AM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Tribute Wall

MC

“ He fiercely loved his family and he and Meme were really close. When I was deployed to Iraq in 2003- 2004, he came to Tuscaloosa to visit meet my husband and daughter (his great- great niece) with Meme and Aunt Heidi. He always had time for others. Everyone will miss you, UB!!

margaret christie - May 17 at 03:23 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



margaret christie - May 17 at 03:16 PM



“ 28 files added to the album LifeTributes



Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel - May 15 at 02:56 PM

CS

“ Cynthia Speck Stephens. I have some sweet memories of our Uncle Buddy. Many Saturday mornings, he invited me to come with him to the electronic store where he purchased resistors and capacitors to help build his stereo system while living with the family.. He took many of us boating and taught us how to water ski on Lake Guntersville. He also had quite an accomplished career. He was head of the jet propulsion lab at Redstone Arsenal. I remember him working on his thesis for his masters degree. He was a career civil service executive, GS 15. This was. Before he married Shirley and then retired moving to Arab Alabama. So many fond memories. He was a mentor for many of us growing up. ❤️

Cynthia Speck Stephens - May 14 at 04:32 PM

CM

Candace Speck Minges here***
Uncles Buddy was a doting uncle to me. Often times he'd buy me sheet music to encourage me to play different genres of music from Dave Brubeck to Joan Baez. He gave me my first big cookbook that taught me basic cooking and baking techniques. The several years he lived with us was delightful in so many ways. He helped to inspire and shape our lives. 💕

Candace Speck Minges - May 14 at 05:48 PM

HT

“ Before Uncle Buddy married Shirley, he was a regular dinner guest at our house...dinner on the weekdays after work or breakfast, lunch, ad/or dinner on the weekends. Our mother was 10 years older than him and looked after him quite a bit when he was growing up. There were 7 kids in Fayes' family and Uncle Buddy really tried to give each one of us special attention. He could be found most of my early years watching cartoons with the younger ones ...we fought over who got to sit by him. He also expressed an interest in our education by asking us how we were doing in our classes. I remember him bringing his HP calculator over and showing us how it worked...it replaced his slide rule! I thought that was so cool! He was on top of technology and shared various things he was exposed to...computers, etc... He worked on small electrical projects to show us how things worked. I am the youngest of the 7 and one memory I have is when I was around 4 years old...I filled out an order form for some Disney Storybooks and mailed it in. Well they sent them with a bill and my parents were so mad..they didn't have extra \$\$ to spend on things like that. He was there when the books came in and...he paid for them. He told me I could keep the books as long as I read them every day. He also bought me a really cool bike with a banana seat on it, a tape recorder, and many other special things that made life as a kid fun. It was the 60s and into the early 70s when all this was going on. Fond memories with UB (as we called him as we got older) 😊. Thank you for the memories.

Heidi Speck Taylor - May 14 at 12:10 PM

NB

Nancy Speck Berndl

UB was only 9 years older than me. my earliest memory of him is when he told me that my mom was the bestest spaghetti maker in the whole world and he had to come to our house to get spaghetti for dinner. We had a big party at our house when he graduated from liT. Everyone in the Chicago came to celebrate UB found a giant zucchini growing in mom's garden. He was pretending it was a baseball bat. We gave him a suitcase for gift and wished him well when he left for his firstnavy assignment A Mediterranean cruise on a destroyer. We all miss him

Nancy Berndl - May 15 at 06:44 PM