



David W. Fessel

March 30, 1945 - February 25, 2025

David Weaver Fessel, age 81, of Mattoon, IL died peacefully on February 25, 2025, at Willow Breeze Hospice House.

A private graveside service in his honor will be held at 10:00 AM, Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Dodge Grove Cemetery in Mattoon, IL. Reverend Ron Dickinson will officiate. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 is assisting the family.

David was born on March 30, 1945, to the late John Ed and Dorothy Fessel. He married Marilyn on November 15, 1972, in Charleston, IL; she survives and resides in Mattoon, IL. He is also survived by his two sons, Craig Fessel of Belleville, IL, Aaron Fessel and wife Renee of Grosse Pointe Farms, MI; four grandchildren: Dr. Cody Gass and wife Megan, Will, Lyla and Hayes Fessel; and five great-grandchildren: Kai, Vivianne, Veda, Miah and Callahan Gass. He was preceded in death by his brother, Richard "Dick" Fessel.

After graduating from Richland County High School in Olney, IL., David attended the University of Texas and North Texas State University studying music. He was very involved in the jazz scene, playing saxophone in clubs there and in Albuquerque, NM. While in college he taught himself to play piano and that instrument was his favorite throughout his life. A talented singer, he directed community and church choir in his hometown of Olney, Illinois as well as performing with a professional vocal quartet that gave concerts in the area.

While playing music in the Mattoon area, he met his wife of fifty-two years,

Marilyn. They forged an instant bond over their mutual love of music. They were members of "The Travelers", a local pop cover band in the 1970's and early 80's. Later he was a stay-at-home dad, a house flipper, landlord, and an accompanist and set builder in support of Marilyn in her teaching career. Always self-taught he rebuilt, restrung, and tuned a grand piano. But above all, he was devoted to his family.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery Details

Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Service

MAR 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Dodge Grove Cemetery
917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Aaron, and of course Marilyn and Craig, I'm saddened to hear of your dad's passing. We are fortunate to have grown up with wonderfully loving parents on both sides of the street. I have fond memories of your dad, ever jolly and kind. I don't remember him getting angry with us kids, and I am sure the subsequent forty years have softened those memories.

I remember him turning forty and all of the over the hill jokes, and now we're pushing fifty. He will forever be forty something in my memory. Thankfully you all were blessed with another forty years with him, especially him being able to watch grandkids and great grandkids grow!! Amazing!! He certainly has a foundational spot in my childhood memories and heart.

I remember him playing Jethro Tull Auqualung for us, and then hopping on the piano and playing along with another song on the album. I can remember at the request of three little boys a science experiment ensued to make gunpowder. We went to the library and found the recipe, collected the ingredients, and whipped up a rudimentary grey concoction which burned like a fuse out of a cartoon. These of course are just a couple that come to mind more frequently. He was damn cool.

I have three little ones now; 9, 6, and 4. I would say he falls second only to my own dad as someone I strive to be like with them. Kind and loving will forever be my memory of him, and how I try to be with my children. Thank you for sharing him with the neighbor kid across the street.

Brian

Brian Moore - March 08, 2025 at 08:30 AM



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

March 07, 2025 at 08:50 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David W. Fessel.



March 07, 2025 at 08:50 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of David W. Fessel.



March 06, 2025 at 02:58 PM



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

March 06, 2025 at 02:58 PM



“ Thinking of you all. My Dad Bud Fessel was a brother to John Ed Fessel. so David and I were first cousins. Our families were not close. The two brothers had Fessels Cleaners together.. 🙏🙏

Lynn Fessel Barber - February 28, 2025 at 04:51 PM

KB

“ *Kay Schneider and Richard Brodkin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of David W. Fessel.*



Kay Schneider and Richard Brodkin - February 28, 2025 at 01:55 PM

MP

“ *Marshall Patrick lit a candle in memory of David W. Fessel*



Marshall Patrick - February 27, 2025 at 11:14 PM

LW

“ *My name is Laurie Wise. I rented one of David's properties in 2007 through 2008. He was the best landlord ever. He was very kind and was nice to my sons. I'm so sorry for your loss. I hated to see He passed. Prayers for his family.*



Laurie Wise - February 27, 2025 at 10:05 PM

MC

“ *Marilyn, Craig and Aaron*
I am so sorry to hear about Dave's passing. He was a great neighbor. Loved sitting on your porch talking with you and Marilyn. Watching our kids getting into mischief. Prayers to all.

Marcia Carrell(Moore) - February 27, 2025 at 06:55 PM

M(

“ *Mohammad Samii (Sammy) lit a candle in memory of David W. Fessel*



Mohammad Samii (Sammy) - February 27, 2025 at 04:39 PM

M(

My condolences to Marilyn and the whole family. He was a nice and gentle man. We played tennis some Sunday mornings at Lydle Park and at times in Atkins Tennis Center in Champaign. He will be missed. May he Rest In Peace.

Mohammad Samii (Sammy) - February 27, 2025 at 04:45 PM

JH

“ *Marilyn and family...I'm so sorry to learn of David's passing. My sincere sympathy to you and all your family. Thinking of you and keeping you in my prayers. May God's comfort be with all of you.*

Janet Homann - February 27, 2025 at 01:56 PM

CS

“ *I am so very sorry. Know all of you are in my thoughts during this difficult time.*

Clyde Self - February 27, 2025 at 10:10 AM

SH

“ *Sheila A Hughes lit a candle in memory of David W. Fessel*



Sheila A Hughes - February 26, 2025 at 07:31 PM

KC

“ *Kathi Sewell Cobble lit a candle in memory of David W. Fessel*



kathi sewell cobble - February 26, 2025 at 05:29 PM