



David John Backes

March 11, 1932 - October 19, 2024

On Oct. 19, 2024, David (Dave) John Backes, age 92, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family. Funeral services celebrating Dave's life will be at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29 at St. John's Catholic Church in Darwin, Minn. Visitation will precede the Mass from 9-11 a.m.

Dave was born to Joseph and Secunda Backes on March 11, 1932, on the family farm in Cold Spring, Minn. Dave was one of seven boys and a sister who worked on the farm. He graduated from St. Boniface High School in 1950. A lifelong passion for baking began when he was a teenager, working for the Cold Spring Bakery.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1951 and proudly served his country until being honorably discharged in 1955. Dave was proud of his family's representation in the U.S. military as all six of his brothers served. Every Veteran's Day and Memorial Day, Dave displayed 19 American flags, each representing serving and formerly serving military family members.

Upon his return from the Navy, Dave enrolled in Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis to formally study baking.

On May 5, 1956, Dave married Margaret Kinzer and celebrated 68 years together until Margaret's passing in June 2024. The couple lived for brief

periods in Davenport, Iowa, and in Austin, Minn., before settling in Dassel, Minn., in 1958 when they purchased the Dassel Bakery and Coffee Bar which they operated as a family business for more than 20 years.

After selling the bakery, Dave sold insurance until purchasing a restaurant and naming it Dave's Cafe. His children and Margaret helped Dave successfully operate the cafe until it was sold in 1979. Dave went back to baking for Bernie's Fairway in Litchfield, Minn., until he retired in 1994.

Dave believed in giving back to the community, and volunteered in several organizations including serving 50 years with the Dassel Fire Department and 50 years with the American Legion. Dave was a fixture for many years at the Dassel Lakeside Nursing Home, where he provided companionship, support and home baked cookies and donuts for residents and staff. He also volunteered at Dassel Red Rooster Days and was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, and held numerous roles at St. John's Catholic Church. Dave was recognized for his outstanding volunteer efforts with a WCCO Good Neighbor award, Minneapolis Aquatennial Commodore award, and the New Ulm Diocese Bishop's Medal of Service, and by the American Red Cross for donating blood. In 2017, Dave successfully led efforts to install a handicapped accessible fishing pier on Spring Lake.

Dave is survived by his five children: Carol (Linden) Hermel, David (Sue) Backes, Mary (Bill) Yackley, Elizabeth (Wayne) Herberg, and Joseph (Cari) Backes, and his 13 grandchildren: Jermey, Melissa, John, Garrett, Stephanie, Andrew, Grant, Heather, Austin, Samantha, Madelyn, Elena and Samuel as well as 13 great-grandchildren: Valerie, Maisie, Devin, Marlo, Lily, Evie, James, Isaac, Ryleigh, Logan, Amelia, Lauren and Russell (with two more on the way) and two great-great grandchildren: Lana and Casey; his sister Marilyn Sayles and two sisters-in-law, along with many nephews and nieces and numerous friends.

Preceded in death by his wife, Margaret, his great grandson, Dominic, his parents, Joseph and Secunda, brothers, Pierre, James, Carl, Robert, Al (Porky), and Joseph.

Memorials are preferred: BirthRight of Hutchinson (MN); St. Joseph Indian School (SD) or Sharing and Caring Hands (MN)

Cemetery Details

St. John's Catholic Cemetery

Darwin, MN 55324

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St John's Catholic Church
106 N 4th St
Darwin, MN 55324-6016
(320) 275-2915

Funeral Service

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM.

St. John's Catholic Church
Darwin, MN

Tribute Wall

MP

“ I spent MANY hours with Dave and Margaret growing up, as they lived next door to my grandparents. They were fantastic people! Sending love and Gods peace your way!

Miranda Piepenburg - December 30, 2024 at 03:55 PM

MT

“ I will never forget my years of working for your dad in the bakery. He was a good boss, funny and generous to those who needed extra of his wonderful bread, rolls, brownies, etc.

Mary Thalberg - October 27, 2024 at 06:30 PM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of David John Backes.



October 22, 2024 at 10:56 AM

JL

“ My sympathies to the Backus family on the passing of both Margret and Dave. I have fond memories working at Daves Cafe when I was in high school. I remember his big pancakes he would make..lol. Such nice people. I was a friend of Marys.
Regards
Janeen Linden (Nelson)

Janeen Linden - October 21, 2024 at 03:58 PM

NL

David was a force in our church and in our community. He will be missed. I know he will be missed even more by his family, so sending my sympathies to all of you.

Nancy Laarson - October 22, 2024 at 07:15 PM

MT

From decades ago until this summer with Margaret's passing, each time seeing Uncle Dave has been filled with moments of grace, humor and lovingkindness. He and Margaret and their family were very much a second home for us, including welcoming short and long term stays. I remember my mother Mary and her younger sister Margaret, having really important conversations about their lives, most often spoken in German, and yes of course, on land lines with long distance charges. As with good marriages, Dave and Margaret danced to the same sheet of music, deeply caring for one and for all. Godspeed David John Backes, and welcome Home to your beloveds!

Margaret Mary Theisen - October 24, 2024 at 11:26 PM

KA

Uncle Dave was a big guy. Big in stature but more importantly, big of heart. His laugh was big. His joy was big.

I'm so grateful for the time I got to work in his bakery..

Uncle Dave is one of those people about whom it can be said "the world is a better place for having him in it."

Kathy Theisen Keil

kathy - October 26, 2024 at 03:04 PM

WE

Condolences to the family. Dave will always be remembered as a very good friend. He was a friend of Mary Jo's family for many years. I met Dave as a friend when we moved here in 1997. Since then, Dave was always there. He will be remembered as a "really good guy"!

Wes and Mary Jo Edwards - October 28, 2024 at 05:15 PM

IB

Mercy, grace and peace in the loss of your precious parents. What serving people. Margaret was a wonderful bus driver for the marching band, navigating tight places safely. The bakery was always a treat. As parents they have left you a legacy of kindness and service.

Irene Bender - November 01, 2024 at 11:10 AM