



## David Phillip Dowding

December 10, 1939 - August 1, 2019

David Phillip Dowding, a proud Air Force retiree that lived to help others, died August 1, 2019 at the age of 79. David lived in Springport and was born December 10, 1939 in Eaton Rapids Michigan, one of five children of Vern and Freda (Mohler) Dowding. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Air Force and served in Vietnam and until his retirement in 1977. He very proudly served his country, receiving many military awards and commendations throughout his career and traveling all around the U.S. and to foreign countries. David had an interesting collection...lawnmowers. He enjoyed taking them apart, even if they weren't broken. A talented mechanic with an extensive toolbox that he was very proud of, David also enjoyed working for International Harvester. A very sharp minded person, he enjoyed projects that made him use his mind to figure out a problem, and he never forgot anything. A hard-worker, David loved helping others and was definitely a "people person," loving to sip his coffee, talk with friends, and share stories about Vietnam. He was very proud of his family and loved time he could spend with his children and grandchildren.

David is survived by his children, Phillip (Deborah) Dowding, Robert Dowding, Joey (Leesa) Dowding, Larry Dowding, Paul (Verna) Dowding, Melissa Lenard, and David Dowding Jr.; 18 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sister, Janice (Keith) Johnson; brothers, Skip (Karen) Dowding and Sam Dowding; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his

brother, Roger Dowding; and his parents.

Friends are encouraged to support the Dowding family at visitation and graveside services. Visitation is Wednesday, August 7, 2019, 6-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Graveside services are Thursday, August 8, at Clarence Center Cemetery with the family meeting at 11:00 AM at Skip Dowding's home to travel to the cemetery. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Mother Teresa House in Lansing. Friends and family are asked to share memories of David on his Tribute Page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Cemetery Details

## Clarence Center Cemetery

20962 27 1/2 Mile Rd (at R Drive North)  
Albion, MI 49224

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Graveside Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clarence Center Cemetery  
20962 27 1/2 Mile Rd (at R Drive North)  
Albion, MI 49224

# Tribute Wall

BP

“ Dave and I met in Anchorage Alaska in the Air Force. He was my training NCO. We got into all kinds of trouble together. I remember one time we were waiting on a plane to come in when we got a call. They had a C-141 on the runway that the pilots had left because it was too slick for them to taxi it. They were just too scared to taxi it. Dave was qualified to run engines and taxi on the C-141. I wasn't. He said lets go. We got to the air plane and got it started up and was taxing down the runway when it slid to the right about 10 ft. We just laughed and increased the power on the right engine to straighten it out. Got it safely parked and got chewed out by the Commander for doing the taxi when we knew it was too slick. It was so slick we would slide just trying to walk.

Another time we were driving around in the tow vehicle killing time and got it stuck in a fuel pit. We ran over the cover and caved it in. Had to run to the hanger and get a 4X4 dodge to pull it out.

We chased Moose off the runway lots of times.

You boys probably don't remember but I used to baby sit all of you ( Phil, Bobby Joey, Larry, and Paul) while your Mom and Dave went out. All except little Dave. Met him after Dave came to Altus AFB where I had been stationed.

Not going to tell all the other stories cause some might embarrass some of you HaHa.

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**Bobby Perry** - August 04, 2019 at 04:23 PM

JG

“ I had the pleasure to meet Dave when he married my husband Aunt Rosie. I would love to tease him by yelling across the table, quick get this man a fork he can't eat with his hands like a us Mexicans. He will be truly missed ... I pray the Angels recieved him with open arms.

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**Joe Elda Gonzales** - August 02, 2019 at 09:09 PM



“ I was nice getting to know grandpa when he would come and visit us in Kansas.. When I went to Michigan in 2011 was the best time because I got to see him and my dad but I also got to meet all the family.. It was the best time that I had and I will never forget that time

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**Genna Rose** - August 02, 2019 at 08:44 PM

CK

“ It is hard to express how much this guy meant to those that knew and loved him. He was always glad to sit for a visit and always seemed genuinely happy to see you. I loved his smile and his voice. The way he took his time in talking. He was one of my favorite people on this earth and will be missed. Love you to the moon Uncle Davey.

*Hugs and love to Phillip, Bobby, Joey, Larry, Paul, Missy. Jr. and families. You guys are in my heart and my prayers. xo Carol Ann*

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**Carol Ann Kita** - August 02, 2019 at 08:14 PM

EH

*So sorry to hear of David' s passing. Knew him mostly when visiting the Dowding farm growing up. Praying for God's comfort to family and friends. Elaine (Holmes) Heath*

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**Elaine (Holmes) Heath** - August 03, 2019 at 04:04 PM

MG

*So sorry to hear of Dave's passing. He and my husband (George Gisi) became best friends while stationed at Forbes Air Force Base near Topeka, Kansas. They both came to our church and became involved in the Youth activities.*

*He and George were always working together on someone's car to help them out. Dave was responsible for helping to get George & I together. We broke up once and He dared George to sit by me in church, which he did. Dave thought it was funny and chuckled all through church because he knew it embarrassed me. Later on when George and I did marry, Dave was George's best man..*

*We are praying for his families that God will surround you all with his love and comfort.*

*George and Marjorie Gisi*

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**Marjorie Gisi** - August 25, 2019 at 02:14 AM