



## David Lee Rich

August 24, 1967 - June 18, 2021

David Lee Rich's hometown was Springfield, MO. He was born to Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Buck Rich & Donald Lee Rich, individuals whom had humble beginnings. Throughout his life, David was honored to say he was from the Ozarks. He loved a local delicacy "cashew chicken," but he was more captivated with his mother's stories in her hometown, Ponce de Leon, MO.

David was a graduate of The University of Kansas and majored in English. He was member of the Theta Chi Fraternity, serving as president his junior year.

Summers spent in Sarasota along with his love of Disney brought him to The Sunshine State. David never looked back. He had a zest for freedom that was unmatched. His new sense of liberty enriched his life. His drive propelled him up the corporate ladder. However, he dreamed up something more than magic. David along with a business partner formulated a concept of entertainment, art and an environment where everyone had a place. The Peacock Room was an award-winning accomplishment to them. It left a lasting impression on the local community. The connections everyone made there were invaluable. It gave him notoriety, praise and a culture he was always looking for.

David resided in Downtown Orlando for over 25 years. He was a founding board member of Lake Formosa Neighborhood Association. David utterly adored his surrounding community. He took great pride in supporting local establishments.

His passions in life mainly focused on family, friends, food and traveling. David loved seeking ancestry info, family photos, and was honored to keep family Bibles in his possession. He loved inspiring others, was known for his authenticity, and for his genuine soul. He would seek reassurance and moral support along the way. He was also known for reciprocating the insight he received. He dissected recipes in cookbooks. He combined techniques and ingredients to make them his own. David loved to get the hell out of town. Whether it was a day trip in Florida or a long weekend to a new destination, he got an escape when he traveled.

David was an avid animal lover at an early age. The unconditional love he received from animals was nourishing to him. He had numerous rescued pets during his journey.

Life experience gave David the material he needed to tell a great story. His memory, empathy, and sincerity made him a perfect storyteller. David thought he inherited this trait from his mother, Betty. No fabrication was necessary. His social media platform gave him a broad audience from every stage of his life. David lived in the past, present and future, his stories reflected that. He wore his vulnerability on his plaid sleeves. The comments made by readers of his posts meant as much to him as the content itself. He was known for his “5 for 5” phone sessions. Often, his past was ringing the phone. This delighted

David beyond words.

His dream was to write a book. The support he received gave him the confidence he needed. Unfortunately, this did not come to fruition. David never took the humility of life for granted. He remembered each and every soul that ever crossed his path. Laughter got him through the best & worst times.

David is survived by his devoted husband, Daniel Joseph Giaquinto Rich; his four dynamic pets: Chopstick, Dagwood, Fairbanks and Topeka Joe; his father, Donald Lee Rich; his stepmother, Renee Brandes Rich; his supportive siblings, Sarah Rich Wehmeyer and Stephen "Steve" Donald Rich; his sister-in-law, Bennett Cave Rich; his niece, Eliza Lee Rich & his nephew, Marshall Barrier Rich; his cherished cousins: Amy Lynn Rich Webb, Julie Beth Rich MacDonald, Shelley Anne Rich Manning, Carol Ellen Branson, Lesli Ann Buck Burns and Robert "Bob" Kent Buck; his aunt & uncle, Bryon Kent & Doris Ann Buck; and last, but not least, his motherly aunt, Margaret Louise "Peggy" Shelley Rich.

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ *From one David Lee Rich to the family of another my condolences*

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**David Lee Rich** - January 14, 2022 at 05:24 AM

SR

“ *Dear Steve, the entire Rich family and Danny - my heart aches over this news. I am so incredibly sorry for this loss. David and I spoke just about every day recently after his health issues were discovered and we had kept in touch since our KU days. I called him "Lee" and he called me "Doug" (our middle names) and I have a voice message from him that I will save forever. Unknown to me, David had kept in touch with my mother until her death in 2008. He is the definition of a life-long friend and I will hear his voice in my head for the rest of my life. Rest in peace my friend. I will love and miss you forever.*

*Shannon Ruedlinger  
Tucson, Arizona*

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**Shannon Ruedlinger** - July 02, 2021 at 05:38 PM

KI

“ David came into my life late, it seems to both of us.  
His Mother was a cousin of mine and just like another sister. David was like a bear cub, I was happy to meet. He came across a serious young man.

As time went by, I read his stories and saw his humor, I like to think we were good friends. His stories were true and I enjoyed reliving a lot with him.

Bless you, Dan. Hanging in is hard to do. I have know doubt you can do it.

Blessing.

Aunt Kay

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**Kay Iveyb** - July 01, 2021 at 09:02 PM

JR

“ There are few people in my life who have had a bigger impact than Dave did. At Glendale High School, he was a welcome and welcoming friend to a kid who had transferred in at sophomore year.

We spent so much time together during those years. I leaned on Dave a lot, and he was always there, wiser and kinder (I realize now) than young men usually are.

After a false start, I ended up at the University of Kansas where Dave was already attending. Once again he helped make a difficult transition easier with his easygoing nature and generosity.

After college, we talked less, as adults with lives do — but when we did it was as though we spoke all the time. Dave was always open and interested and genuinely invested in the people he knew.

Something that I always carried with me is Dave’s insistence on kindness. The few sharp words he ever had for me were when he thought I had been careless with someone’s feelings. He was always in the right about that, and I know that the time I spent in his company made me a better person.

We lost a great friend in Dave’s passing. One of the truly good, forthright, and compassionate people.

– Jay Robinson

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**Jay Robinson** - June 30, 2021 at 06:22 PM



Jay Robinson thank you. I am speechless. You said it exactly.

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**Kim Kraus** - July 06, 2021 at 08:39 PM

BB

“ *David is my nephew. The Rich and Branson family grew up together in Springfield, MO.*

*To my mind, David is the best chronicler of the 'growing up in the Ozarks' parts of the story. David is amazing story teller and excellent word-smith.*

*I caught up with David many years after everyone left the Ozarks for adventures beyond the 'Wonder Years' in the Ozark hills.*

*In this later part of life, I knew him best via his Facebook posts and updates from his cousins and sibs. I liked him and what he stood for.*

*My heart aches with sadness for Daniel, and the families... but there's a special Joy knowing that David did it with style and grace.*

*The Tributes shared by Friends of David and his Kinsmen are positive testimony that David's time on earth made a difference.*

*BobB*

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**Bob Branson** - June 30, 2021 at 04:37 PM

BF

“ *I remember working with David at Disney many years ago. He had such a wry sense of humor - could be completely deadpan! I am so sorry to hear of his passing and my condolences to his family and friends.*

*Barb*

*York, PA*

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**Barb Froman** - June 29, 2021 at 12:13 PM

DA

“ David was one of the best managers Disney ever had! His support of the cast and joy he shared will never be forgotten. He was more than a manager, he was a friend. He always had great advice with his wise words. He gave the best hugs and will be truly missed.  
Dawn

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**Dawn** - June 29, 2021 at 09:56 AM



“ David was my co- Manager at the World of Disney in the Villains Room, back in 1998. He was great to work with and we kept in touch over the years as I left Disney operations in 2000. I have most recently enjoyed reading his stories about family and growing up in the Ozarks on his Facebook page. What a special person with a unique storytelling gift. He will be missed. Rest In Peace, David.  
Jeanne Lewis

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**Jeanne Lewis** - June 23, 2021 at 10:21 PM