



David Howard Fish

September 23, 1962 - May 14, 2021

David H. (Dave) Fish, of St. Augustine, FL, died unexpectedly of natural causes on Thursday, May 14, 2021. He was 58 years old.

David was born and grew up in Vermont, the son of Edward R. and Beryl (Sykes) Fish. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1981. He completed Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training, considered to be some of the most difficult military training in the world. He was a graduate of BUD/S class 119, and was assigned to SEAL Team 4, where he deployed to Europe twice, and served during hostilities in Beirut, Lebanon. David finished his enlistment and became a Vermont State Police trooper, following his father's footsteps. Two years later, David returned to the navy and served at SEAL Team 5, Naval Special Warfare Center, and SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1. He was promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer in 1992.

David's list of degrees shows the importance he placed on education:

Bachelor of Public Administration 1992

Master of Arts, Human Resources Management 1993

Master of Public Administration 1996

Master of Arts, Management 1997

Master of Business Administration 2004

Doctor of Education 2007

After several years in the business world Dr. Fish began teaching at the post-secondary level. He became a professor of business at Florida State College, Jacksonville in 2012.

David also returned to the Navy in 2012 as a reserve intelligence officer, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. During this time he deployed in support of navy operations at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

He spent his leisure time enjoying his Jeep and his Harley.

David is survived by his mother, Beryl Fish, daughter Whitney Fish and son Edward Fish, II, and sister Alison Fish (husband Scott and family). David was predeceased by his father, Edward Fish. He also leaves behind a multitude of friends, colleagues and students who had the good fortune of knowing him. David cared deeply about his family and friends. We will miss you dearly, David.

A military service will be conducted at Jacksonville National Cemetery on Monday, May 24th, 2021 at 2:00 pm (Please arrive 10-15 minutes early). A Celebration of Life will follow at a place to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of David H. Fish, LT USNR, to the Navy Seal Foundation, <https://www.navysealfoundation.org/>

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY **24**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Jacksonville National Cemetery
4083 Lannie Road
Jacksonville, FL

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of David Howard Fish*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - May 20, 2021 at 01:42 PM

BG

He was a friend to me when I needed one most! I never met me but was kind enough to have an open mind and listen to me. It was a very difficult time in my life and he was patient and kind. I would like to remember him always as a stranger that opened his heart to me which says a lot about his character. I wanted to share in his memory what a beautiful soul he had! I will always remember his kindness!

Barbara Green - June 27, 2021 at 09:21 PM

EH

“ *I am so sorry to hear that Dave has died . I was a young state trooper in St Albans when Dave arrived to the barracks after the academy . He and I were friends while he was a trooper. I knew Dave from some of his off color stuff like buzzing me at over 100 mph when I was running radar on the interstate . I remember the day he went to the barracks with all his gear and told the Sgt he would rather bag groceries than what we were doing , he then went back to the teams . Wish we had gotten together while you were in Florida , see you some day . Semper Fi*

Edward Hunter - March 30 at 01:06 PM

RR

“ I came on the Vermont State Police with David Fish. The world will miss him for everything he has done for us.

Real Robillard - August 10, 2021 at 06:10 PM

TW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tom Washington - May 30, 2021 at 05:51 PM

TW

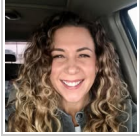
(1988) While in training @FT. Lee, VA. on short notice, I ask Fish and other Teammates to compete in a foot race against ARMY. We quickly form a group (took a snapshot) and placed 2nd.
Tom Washington

Tom Washington - May 30, 2021 at 05:59 PM



Hey Tom, good to see you. RIP Dave.
Kevin Blake

Kevin Blake - July 02, 2021 at 09:17 PM



“ *Drinks in the driveway.
Daily two-hour Daily’s coffee drives.
Changing the laws in Historical Downtown St. Augustine.
Friday Beach walks, chocolate martinis, Ruth’s Chris, and laughing
for hours.
All-day rides on Raven.
Thank you for inspiring my three boys who are all active-duty
soldiers.
Talking for hours and hours about personal philosophies and
business plans.
Bathroom dancing, neighborhood runs, and walks.
Me running from your box, you busting out of your box and building
a badass box.
Laughing about being single and swapping stories.
Thank you for your continued friendship.
Our love did not make sense but we had a blast figuring it out.
My heart was so happy to hear about your wonderful visit with your
son Edward and your super fun evening with your sister Alison.
I absolutely enjoyed watching you let your hair down, winging it, and
letting out your inner BADASS.
You will be greatly missed!
I last spoke to you on May 10 you were looking forward to running
Raven hard and riding with Jay.
I felt your love, joy, friendship, and happiness.
I have so many pictures and videos.
I wanted to share. I hear your laugh as I am adding the pictures. ❤️*



Kimberly Hausmann - May 23, 2021 at 10:10 AM

SH

🥰❤️🥰 *Beautifully stated*

sherry - May 23, 2021 at 11:15 AM

JA

RIP My Brother

Jay - May 24, 2021 at 08:31 AM

KJ

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Kendyl Jennings - May 22, 2021 at 10:46 AM

WF

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Whitney Fish - May 21, 2021 at 06:49 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Robert Smith - May 21, 2021 at 06:27 PM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - May 20, 2021 at 01:37 PM



Such a beautiful tribute.

Sending massive love to his Family and Best friend.

Kimberly Hausmann - May 23, 2021 at 12:24 PM

RD

Sadly, I just happen to check on David because I had not heard from him. Now I know why.

I am a retired Vermont State Police Detective Sergeant. Robert M. Duhaime. Before young David joined the Navy he asked me about Seal training. His dad knew I was in Class 29 at Little Creek January 1963. The first seals were trained at our class. Much extensive inland training capability preparing us for Vietnam. None of us heard of it but the training was not like it had been. I was involuntarily disenrolled due to injuries.

David became a seal and joined the VSP afterwards. I got to see him several times. I fondly remember him jumping at Plattsburgh, NY and having to do a cut-away because of the main chute streamer. He didn't think a thing about it but a lot of troops couldn't understand how he could be so casual about it. Our training always came in handy for me.

My heart goes out to his mom Beryl, sister and entire family.

I'm so sad to hear about this but thankful I found this information. Like any other trooper, he'll always be remembered.

Robert M. Duhaime - November 06, 2023 at 10:58 AM

JS

Trying to get in touch with someone related to David Howard Fish. Please reach out to us at jsadler@udtseal.org. Thank you Janice (09/11/2025)

Janice Sadler - September 11, 2025 at 01:22 PM