



David Boulding Mallette

September 20, 1944 - May 4, 2019

David Boulding Mallette, 74, Fairfield, died at 2:20 am, Saturday, May 4, 2019, from pancreatic cancer at Kaiser Permanente in Vallejo, CA.

He is survived by his wife of 30+ years, Nina Mallette and daughter, Dania Mallette, as well as three sisters, Ann Mallette-Chappelle, Alaya Mallette-Robinson and Benita Cochran.

David was born September 20, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan to Elinor Cochran and Melyvn Mallette. While he was a lifelong train enthusiast, days spent at Belle Isle Park in Detroit in his younger days exposed him to seagoing vessels, which eventually became his calling in life, leading David to the career path of a Merchant Marine. He dedicated himself to the profession for 30+ years and traveled all over the world, creating lasting friendships and memories along the way.

He eventually settled for several years in the Philippines, where he met his wife, Nina. They were married in Michigan in 1980. Their only child, Dania, was born at the Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines in February of 1983. A few years later, the family relocated permanently to Northern California, where David continued his maritime work until 1998. After leaving the Military Sealift Command organization as a Merchant Marine, he worked for a handful of companies as an engineer on a variety of seagoing vessels, including but not limited to oil tankers, barges, tugboats and ferries. He left the Washington State Ferries System in 2004 and made the reluctant transition into retirement shortly afterwards to his home in Fairfield, CA.

In addition to trains, jazz was one of David's first loves. As a young adult, he dabbled with friends as part of local jazz bands, where he played drums and piano. Though not formally trained as a musician, he developed an ear for being able to play back songs he'd heard on the radio. Miles Davis, Les McCann, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane and Lee Morgan were among the many jazz favorites David kept on constant rotation at home. His passion for music also led to a brief stint in the late '70's, early '80s as an on-air DJ in the Philippines, where he introduced local audiences to numerous American hits and artists. A big kid at heart, David loved cartoons. Star Wars also played a huge role in his life since the first films came out in the 1970's.

Although retirement continued to be a struggle to adapt to, David spent his days listening

to music and NPR, surfing the internet, doing gardening and yard work, “rail-fanning” at the local train station and managed to make one last trip to the Philippines in the fall of 2018 to visit his old stomping grounds and the remaining friends left from his maritime heyday.

His memorial will be held at the Bryan-Braker Funeral Home in Fairfield Saturday, May 18 for local family and friends. In June, a private gathering of immediate family members will be held in Detroit, Michigan, where his ashes will be scattered in the waters of Belle Isle Park.

Events

MAY **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM

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Bryan-Braker Funeral Home
1850 W. Texas St., Fairfield, CA, US, 94533

MAY **Hosted Reception** 12:00PM - 02:00PM

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Bryan- Braker Garden Court
1850 W. Texas Street, Fairfield, CA, US, 94533

Comments



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David Mallette.



May 07 at 11:35 PM