



David Brian Little

March 12, 1952 - January 28, 2026

David Brian Little, age 73, passed away in the early hours of January 28, 2026, after complications from surgery. A devoted husband, father, brother, grandfather and son, he leaves behind a legacy of kindness, generosity and a love of the outdoors.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Paula J. (Smith) Little; his brother Michael D. Little; children Patrick D. Little and Sarah K. (Little) Nichols; son-in-law Patrick L. Nichols and daughter-in-law, Nicole A. (Balli) Little. David was a proud grandfather to Dana Nichols, Jay Nichols, Gabriella Little and Lilliana Little. He was predeceased by his parents Betty Jane (Stenson) Little and Donald E. Little.

Born in March 1952 in Minden, Nebraska, to Donald E. Little and Betty J. (Stenson) Little, David graduated from Lincoln East High School in Lincoln, Nebraska. He earned his degree from the University of Nebraska in 1980. He went on to pursue a career in life insurance data processing which took him and his family across the country with companies such as US Life, ICH, Tenneco, Southwestern Life and Swiss Re.

A lifelong Husker enthusiast, David proudly wore his “N” or “Huskies” baseball caps and enjoyed watching the Huskers, even if they consistently lost in the 4th quarter.

David excelled at beating traffic out of large parking areas and always finding the best spot. Never once did he stay to the end of a concert, sporting event or a large gathering, scarring his children to this day.

With his passion for hard work, David became a regionally recognized Outstanding Forestry Conservationist and award-winning pine tree purveyor in Rusk, Texas, after retiring from a 44-year corporate career. His love of tree farming, pasture maintenance and land conservation led to a nearly full-time farming job for 10 years in retirement. Baling hay, clearing fence lines and trimming and maintaining trees was a passion from dawn to dusk. He would beam ear to ear to show off his latest improvements to friends and family visiting his residence while driving them around the pastures and forested areas. A round of golf and gathering with his Thursday friends were other favorite pastimes in retirement.

Above all, David cherished watching sunsets and sunrises with Paula. He delighted in gathering around the fire pit for conversation, drinks, stories and petting one of his beloved cats or visiting granddogs.

David will be remembered for his humor, comforting nature, kindness and pride in his projects on the farm and around the house. He leaves behind a family, friends and community deeply grateful for his big heart and compassion.

Your loving family will forever remember your big waves (“Grandpa waves”) as we drove down the driveway.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date.

Please direct memorial gifts to Texas Trees Foundation, a 501(c)(3)

organization in memory of David Little. <https://texastrees.org/>

Tribute Wall

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“ David was the best neighbor that anyone could ever have. He and Paula were such a pleasure to visit with. He was extremely generous with his time and resources, each of us who are neighbors benefiting multiple times. Our Lord commanded us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." David lived this command. Paula and the family can proudly claim this legacy.

Charles and Margie Adamz

Charles Adams - February 04 at 08:17 PM

KR

“ My heart goes out to David's family and friends. David was one of the good guys. I have very fond memories playing many rounds of golf with him! -Kent Rowlett

Kent Rowlett - February 02 at 08:00 AM