



David Haller

November 27, 2020

David Haller, 75, of Hudson Street in Providence, died on November 27th at Miriam Hospital in Providence.

David was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, on August 15, 1945, the son of William and Ruth (Grossman) Haller. He had been a resident of Providence for the past 15 years.

He is survived by his wife, Dorcas (Woodbury) Haller, his friend, partner, and traveling companion for the past 55 years. He is also survived by his two sons, Tobias Haller, of Providence, Rhode Island and Tristram Haller, of Copenhagen, Denmark; his brother, Benjamin K. Haller, of Venice, California; his daughters-in-law, Lizzie Araujo Haller, of Providence, and Barbara Budtz Haller of Copenhagen; his seven grandchildren -- who were his pride and joy - - Amanda, Silas, Olivia, Nora, and Tobias (Copenhagen), Ruby and George (Providence); and a large circle of extended family and friends.

He and his wife met at the University of Rhode Island in 1964 and they married in 1966. In 1967, they set out for Copenhagen, where David studied cabinet-making and later worked as a carpenter and furniture maker. He was one of the original members of the Danish work collective, 1st Maj Kollektiv. David and his family returned to Rhode Island in 1980, where he worked as a ship builder at a local shipyard for many years.

In the early 1990s, David returned to the University of Rhode Island to complete his undergraduate studies and went on to earn a master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations in 1995.

After some years in the Affirmative Action office of URI and as personnel director for the Narragansett Indian tribe in Charlestown, David began a late career as a grip in the New England film industry. He was an active member of IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) Local 481, serving on the executive board as representative for Rhode Island IATSE members. He retired from film work in 2013, but remained a proud union member until his death

David's lifelong passions included music, social justice, and traveling and meeting new people. He had a great love, and knowledge, of old folk, jug band, and country blues music. He was an accomplished guitar and mandolin player and singer in those styles. He was a member of the K C Moaners Jug Band. He loved playing music with his fellow volunteers and campers at the annual Rhythm & Roots Festival in Charlestown, RI for over thirty years. He also volunteered for a couple of years at the annual Telluride Bluegrass Festival in Colorado with his brother, Ben.

His interest in social justice led him, as a student in 1965, to hitch-hike with a friend to Selma, Alabama, to participate in one of the Selma to Montgomery marches. He was a strong advocate for racial justice in public schools in Providence, and served on the Providence Public School Department's community advisory board. He was also an active member of WBNA (West Broadway Neighborhood Association), concerned with issues of gentrification. Travel allowed David to build a life, raise a family, acquire a new language, and make lifelong friends in Copenhagen, Denmark. He often traveled to England and Spain to visit friends. In August 2008, he and a friend traveled with a brigade from Pastors for Peace to help rebuild a hurricane-damaged school. He made two more trips to Cuba -- in 2016, with the Danish-Cuban Friendship Brigade and, in 2017, with his whole family to celebrate Christmas and New Year in Havana. Last year, he and his wife studied Spanish at the University of Granada, in Spain, for a semester and spent much time with their close friends in that city and in the village of Acequias in the Lecrin Valley. Over the years David also traveled to Hungary, Colombia, France, and Viet

Nam.

David made friends easily, and had friends everywhere. He was a fond husband, a good father and an adoring grandfather. He was known for his easygoing personality, his interest in others, and his zest for life. He was a good man whose absence will be felt forever by his family and his vast, international network of friends.

Because of the current public health conditions, a celebration of David's life will be scheduled for a later date.

In place of flowers, donations may be made to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank at 200 Niantic Avenue, Providence, RI 02907 or at <https://rifoodbank.org/give-now/>, or at your local food bank.

Tribute Wall

AC

“ If condolences from so distant and peripheral a friend were not useless enough, trying to extend them through masks & gloves feels even more so. Let me say simply that I remember David's kindness not only for his steady patronage at The Coffeecake, but for the conspiratorial glee with which he, in the dead of night, helped me to escape an onerous lease and depart from Fortin Road. May the warmth of my memory of those moments soften both his journey and your grief.

Anthony Calise - December 07, 2020 at 08:05 PM

TC

“ I worked with David at the Rhythm & Roots music festival for 30 years. He was a joyful & engaging guy who got along with everyone in his midst. Sat with him the past 5 years at Nick a Nees on bluegrass night. I'll miss him in a big way !

Terrence Cannon - December 07, 2020 at 01:00 PM

NB

“ We so enjoyed our times with David, Dusty and our family, Jude and Kevin dining Al fresco under the Analucian stars. One evening stands out where David played us a song and sung to us as we all sat listening and loving his wonderful performance. He spent many an afternoon teaching our little one Thea to swim, she often asked 'when is the boy who will teaches me to swim coming over?!'. He had such a supportive and encouraging approach. David's warmth, love and humanity was felt by all. We will all miss him dearly. Sending all the love to Dusty and his family xxx

Natalia battistini - December 07, 2020 at 07:10 AM

JS

Remember this episode so well. David had a real affinity with the next generation and they saw him as an ally and friend. He was young at heart.

Judith Scott - December 07, 2020 at 07:07 PM

MS

I remember David's kind, friendly and easy going attitude when I worked at the URI Library with Dusty. I know he is missed. Dusty, I'm very sorry for your loss.

Mary Anne Sumner - December 16, 2020 at 04:55 PM

RB

“ I first met David when we were both in the labor relations graduate program at URI, and I felt an instant connection to him. While I never got to spend a lot of time with David, I always enjoyed running into him over the years at community and musical events. David was warm, thoughtful, and caring. He was the kind of person that makes you feel good about the community you live in - and the people in it. My sincere condolences to David's family. May his memory be a blessing.

Rick Brooks - December 06, 2020 at 01:12 PM

MV

“ When I first moved into my current home years ago, I had a small house warming of some friends and my parents. I was worried about my Dad. He didn't mix easily or well. David picked out my Dad, socialized easily with him and made my Dad comfortable enough to enjoy the house warming. I'll never forget David for that, and I've admired him always for helping my Dad mix. I'm sure Dusty, his sons, and wider family will miss David enormously. I send them all my love for the loss of good, good man. -- Michael Vocino

Michael Vocino - December 05, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Haller.* ”



December 05, 2020 at 10:02 AM