

David Willard (1948 - 2017)

Obituary



David Willard left this earth on October 7, 2017, to be reunited with his parents, brother, and many of his friends and favorite dogs and animals.

David was educated at Cranbrook Academy of Art, and Tyler School of Art in the 1970's, after which he continued his research in Glass Art as a Fulbright Scholar in England. Upon return he was appointed to head the Glass Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1977-82. In 1982, he became Curator of Education at the Boise Art Museum. As a glass artist, he also exhibited nationally and internationally and is represented in the collections of many museums around the world.

David married his wife of 39 years, Linda Morris, daughter of S. Tom and Estella Morris in 1978.

David worked at the University of Texas in Austin from 1982-2001, where he was the liaison between the Department of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. In 2001, he accepted a position as Director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlingburg, TN. As director, he was able to follow his passions of art, education and bringing people together to share common goals. In 2013, he and his wife Linda moved to Amarillo. Through his recent position as Department Head for Art, Theatre, and Dance for WTAMU, he continued to help educate, and share his lifetime of knowledge.

Always a community leader and arts advocate wherever he lived, David served on many boards including, the Gatlinburg Gateway Foundation, Tennesseans for the Arts, and was appointed by the governor of Tennessee to the Smoky Mountain National Park Commission. He also served on several boards in Amarillo where his advocacy will be missed.

David was an avid Classic Wooden boat enthusiast, rebuilding several Classic boats beginning in the early 80's, and never lost his love for boating in them, especially his 1956 wooden Chris Craft Sea Skiff "Form and Function".

He is survived by his wife, Linda Willard, of Amarillo; sister, Ann Fetzer, niece, Laura Cobb, and nephew, Sam Cobb, all of Ozawkie, KS; niece, Sara Willard Faircloth, and a grand-niece and nephew. Extended family, S. Tom Morris, Marty and Vicki Fineran, and nieces, Skye, Autumn and Auroele.

A celebration of life is planned for 3:00 p.m., Saturday, October 28, 2017, at the Willard Ranch, on the old Claude Highway.