



David J. Duquette

November 4, 1939 - February 21, 2023

Loudonville, NY-David J. Duquette of Loudonville, NY passed away at the Teresian House Rehabilitation Center in Albany, NY on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023.

David was born on November 4th, 1939, in Springfield, MA (Indian Orchard) to Joseph Duquette and Jeannette Bernier. He graduated from Springfield Technical High School and was a proud graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy – Class of '61 (Never Outdone). He achieved the rank of Lieutenant in the Coast Guard during four years serving on Ocean Station Vessels in the North Atlantic.

He obtained his PhD in Metallurgy and Materials Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA. He spent two years as a Research Associate in the Advanced Materials Research and Development Laboratory at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in Middletown, CT.

In 1970 David joined the faculty of the Materials Science and Engineering Department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY where he found a career home for the next 53 years. During his time at the Institute, he served as Department Chair and was given the honor of a chaired professorship, the John Tod Horton Professor of Engineering. He was particularly proud of having been thesis advisor to more than 50 doctoral

students.

He is the author and co-author of more than 250 scientific publications primarily in the areas of environmental degradation of materials and electrochemical processing of semiconductors. He was the recipient of numerous awards and was elected a fellow to three academic societies including an Alexander von Humboldt Award from the German government. He served on many governmental advisory boards including an appointment to the Nuclear Waste Technology Review Board by President George W. Bush.

Along with his academic achievements, David was a gourmet chef who took great pleasure in preparing meals for family and friends. He was a member of the wine group, Les Confrerie des Chevaliers du Tastevin, and a member of the wine committee at the Schuyler Meadows Club and treasured the company of his fellow oenophiles. David served on the North Colonie School Board, the Boards of the Musicians of Ma'alwyck and the Albany Symphony Orchestra, as well as a Trustee of The Fort Orange Club.

David was an avid opera fan. He loved escorting his wife to the Met Opera in NYC where they held season tickets for many years. He was a regular attendee at the Classical Season at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown.

David is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, JoAnn Nazarko, and his sons David Duquette Jr. of Fairhaven, MA, and Peter (Marti) Duquette of Louisville, CO. He was the proud grandfather of J. Culver Duquette of New York City, NY, and the apple of his eye Sophie Duquette of Louisville, CO. He is survived by his siblings Beatrice Ellis of Springfield, MA, Irene Makuch of Florence, OR, Louise Spedero of East Longmeadow, MA, Bob Onishi of Osaka, Japan, Eugene Duquette of Riverton, UT, as well as many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, a gift may be made in David's memory to the USCG Academy Class of '61, 31 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT, or the Teresian House Foundation, 200 Washington Ave Ext. Albany, NY.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Graveside services will be held at the St. Peter and St. Paul Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, Middletown Road, in Waterford, NY on Thursday, May 4th, 2023 at 11 am followed by a Celebration of David's Life.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter and Paul Ukranian Cemetery

Middletown Road
Waterford, NY 12188

Previous Events

Graveside

MAY 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter and Paul Ukranian Cemetery
Middletown Road
Waterford, NY 12188

Tribute Wall



“ Joann, I recently learned of Prof. Duquette's passing. My deepest condolences. He was instrumental in helping me prepare for my preliminary exams, and later became my thesis advisor. I was PhD student number 24 in his group. From all of the postings it is clear his legacy lives on.

Ron Iacocca ('85, 87, '91)

Ron Iacocca - July 15, 2025 at 12:50 AM



“ *David J. Duquette*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Walter A. purchased a sympathy card for the family of David J. Duquette.*



Walter A. - May 08, 2023 at 02:22 PM

WJ

“ JoAnn, just heard about Dave's passing from Ronald Gibala. Extremely sorry for your loss. I was one of Dave' students 1972-78. He was a great member of my thesis committees. But even more, he helped me with so many difficult and complex industrial corrosion problems. I could never repay him for his invaluable advice, technical support, and professional counsel.

JoAnn, I hope that you can take comfort in the fact that Dave was a very kind, helpful, and thoughtful person in many people's professional and personal lives.

Kind regards, God Bless,
Walt (RPI '75 & '78) and Cindy Johnson

Walt Johnson - May 01, 2023 at 03:56 PM

MK

“ Oh, Joann! I am so sorry to hear of David's passing! I grieve for you and the loss of your beloved. Hugs from afar. Martha

Martha Kuchar - April 30, 2023 at 03:04 PM

JM

“ We are so deeply saddened to hear of David’s passing. David and JoAnn were the first couple we met upon moving into the neighborhood eighteen years ago—over that time they extended many invitations to holiday events, community activities, and neighborhood get-togethers.

David was always a delight to speak with whether over a whiskey at the Fort Orange Club or over Daffodils in spring. We will miss him as a friend and neighbor and extend to JoAnn and his family our sincerest condolences.

And of course we’ll continue the local lore, sharing David’s fame, as “the inventor of Rustolium.”

*Much love and admiration for a life well lived,
Jamie & Patrick Masson*

Jamie & Patrick Masson - March 19, 2023 at 07:07 PM

DL

“ As Professor Duquette's very last PhD student, I have known him since 2017 when I took my first undergraduate materials science class with him and subsequently started working in his lab. I often regard my time working with him as transformative both on my life and career. Professor Duquette had always been known to me as a strong-willed man, and at the same time, an unrelenting advocate for his student. Since the last time we talked in person on my doctoral candidacy exam in October last year, we had had regular communications on research up until several weeks before his passing. It is very unfortunate that he never witnessed me finishing the degree, but I am more determined than ever to carry on the work. He will be forever remembered.

Dominic Lu - March 14, 2023 at 05:34 PM

PC

“ *JoAnn and Family,
I was sorry to learn of David's passing. He was always very kind to me. Colonie has suffered a great loss.
Peter*

Peter G. Crummey - March 06, 2023 at 03:14 PM

GD

“ *As Davids Brother we were not close but I did have an opportunity to speak with him shortly before his death we spoke on the phone about his incident at the hospital when he told me he was going to be ok I was so sorry to hear he passed away my condolences to his wife and family gene duquette, utah.*

GENE DUQUETTE - March 05, 2023 at 07:07 PM

DS

“ *I am very sorry to hear about David's passing. I had the privilege of working with and for David at RPI for 27 years. He was a great Chairman, professor, engineer, and friend. We shared many great students, staff, projects, and times together. He will be forever remembered and missed. Don Van Steele*

Donald Van Steele - March 05, 2023 at 12:00 PM

DS

“ *I was very sorry to hear of David's passing. We were colleagues at RPI and once worked together on a corrosion project. He was a highly regarded scientist and a gentleman. My condolences to the family.*

Don Steiner - March 05, 2023 at 06:38 AM

TB

“ I was a student in his corrosion class (BS Materials Engineering '98). I fondly remember him being sunburnt in January and sharing stories of his recent trip to the Marine Corrosion Center at Naval Research Lab Key West. I would refer to what I learned from him in my 20 year Naval Career in submarines.

Timothy Buckley - March 03, 2023 at 10:07 PM

PM

“ I took Professor Duquette's corrosion course in 1973 and started work in his lab in 1974 the year I finished my BS degree. I believe I was his 6th PhD student and finished in 1978. I truly appreciate the encouragement and drive he gave me to pursue a career in corrosion engineering. I enjoyed his occasional phone calls throughout my career and his interest in all his students. He will be remembered always and is missed.
Paul Manning (RPI '74 '78)

Paul Manning - March 03, 2023 at 01:34 PM

DL

“ Dave and I met for the first time in July of 1957 and was my first wife during swab summer at the Coast Guard Academy. In 1965, Dave attended MIT as a civilian and at the same time, I was assigned to MIT for graduate school along with three other classmates of the class of 61 (Never Outdone). Besides being an excellent professor and researcher, Dave was a good friend and will be missed.
Don Langrock

Donald Langrock - March 02, 2023 at 01:36 PM

KT

David was charming, smart, and fun to share time with. JoAnn was a beacon of delight for David. He was proud to introduce her to his classmates at one of our Homecoming events. She was smart, beautiful, and blonde and as a first wife you couldn't help but love her style and charming presence. David was a brilliant man who blended his sharp wit in an easy manner. They were an exceptional couple. I will miss David, and will keep JoAnn in my prayers.

*With love,
Kathy Trainor*

Kathy Trainor - March 02, 2023 at 02:20 PM

DE

“ I met Professor Duquette when I was a student taking my very first corrosion class with him at RPI - David was a wonderful professor and had a profound impact on the decisions I made moving forward in my professional career. I had the pleasure of working with him while he was on the NWTRB (to which he was appointed by President Bush) - David was a great person, and I express my deepest condolences to his family.

David E. (RPI '91)

David E. - March 02, 2023 at 08:32 AM

JL

“ I remember Professor Duquette from my days as a student in the Materials Engineering department at RPI (1972-1978). Dave was a young, enthusiastic faculty member who taught us all we needed to know about corrosion. Many of my closest friends in grad school were students in Dave's research group. His record for producing high quality graduate students who went on to make significant contributions in the field of corrosion science and engineering is certainly one of his enduring legacies.

John Lippold (RPI '73, '75, '78)

John Lippold - March 02, 2023 at 08:00 AM

PE

“ David was a wonderful human being and a great American. We will always remember the Coast Guard Academy class of 61 pre-reunion reunions on Nantucket and he and JoAnn's gracious hospitality. A great team.

Peter & Jeanne Joseph

Peter - March 01, 2023 at 07:27 PM

PW

“ So many wonderful memories to share. So many wonderful times David shared with so many.

Especially being our “Captain “ at the sailing adventures on Nantucket sound .

We were his “green” crew for sure but he always made us feel we were contributing... even when we were messing up the ropes and laughing about it!

May you rest in peace our dear friend and please know we will take care of your Joann .

Patrick and Patty Whelan

Patricia Whelan - March 01, 2023 at 03:18 PM

MP

I learned a lot from him, but most important was you have to be a good person in order to be good at anything else.

I remember when those of us in the Class of 87 were taking his corrosion class. He let us bring in champagne for the last class (or maybe final) before graduation. We gave him the first one. I will never forget his expression as we unscrewed the top of the champagne bottle, poured champagne into a styrofoam cup and gave it to him.

Mark A Palmer - March 03, 2023 at 07:20 PM

RD

Dave and I were classmates at the Coast Guard Academy. We roomed together much of first class year. He was also my best man at my wedding right after graduation.

Dave was a competitive guy and we challenged each other academically which benefitted us both. We both started graduate school in Boston in the fall of 1965.

We kept in touch for many years after graduation. The last time we talked was at our 25th class reunion. An epistemic savant, Dave's family should be very proud of his career and accomplishments. My deepest sympathies to them.

Ron Dugan

Ron Dugan - March 07, 2023 at 02:27 AM

GE

Our hearts are heavy with sadness for Dave's passing but at the same time we are so fortunate to have shared his friendship along with JoAnn's, bicoastal for over 40 years. There is not another more generous, interesting, enthusiastic couple known to us. Together JoAnn and Dave lived life to the fullest! So thankful to have our memories with them.

Gil and Ann Esparza - March 19, 2023 at 02:07 PM

MS

Professor Duquette was my thesis advisor in the early 1980's while I worked at General Electric and I always appreciated his guidance. I believe this experience helped prepare me to work the field of Materials Engineering for over 40 years

Michael Silverman - April 10, 2023 at 03:26 AM