



## David K. Chew

June 1, 1938 - April 1, 2021

David King Chew, of Bradenton, FL and Clayton, NJ, formerly of Blackwood, NJ and Washington Twp., NJ, passed away April 1, 2021 at the age of 82 years. Devoted husband of fifty-nine years of Barbara Chew (nee Seymour). Loving father of David E. Chew (Kim Ann) of IL, Debra C. Conville (Dale) of Turnersville, NJ, and Dean K. Chew of Sewell, NJ. Beloved grandfather of Carlee M. Chew (fiancé, Ricky D’Arcangelo), Victoria E. Karow (Jordan), Grier A. Conville, David P. Chew, Rylan D. Chew, Brayden A. Chew, and Tessa C. Conville. He was predeceased by his parents, Norman M. Chew and Marie K. Chew (nee King), and his brother Donald N. Chew. He is also survived by his beloved dog Jacee.

Dave was a longtime resident of Blackwood, NJ, where he and his wife, Barbara, owned Chew’s Florist, a family owned and operated business since his father, Norman, opened it in 1934. Dave was often referred to as “Mr. Blackwood” and was a devoted servant to his hometown. His dedication to his family business and his town could be felt by anyone who drove past his beautifully decorated business, aptly located in the “heart” of town. He was a charter member (1961), past president, and Paul Harris Fellow recipient of the Blackwood Rotary Club and believed firmly in their pledge, “service above self”. Through the years he was recognized for numerous improvement projects throughout Gloucester Township. The two that brought him the most pride were his participation and development of the Blackwood Pumpkin Festival and the Blackwood Farmer’s Market; annual events to which he devoted a great deal of time and effort to endure their success. Dave was never one to back away from giving of himself if it meant investing in the future of others.

Dave was a man of unlimited interests and hobbies, hunting, fishing, shooting, snowmobiling, waterskiing, boat racing as well as numerous other activities. However, none of these activities brought him as much joy as when he shared them with the ones he loved. For many years Norway Lake, ME was the gathering place for family and friends, and in later years, Marathon in the Florida Keys became his paradise of choice.

Dave was a Member of Laurel Lodge #237 F&AM, Laurel Springs, NJ, and longtime member of the Scottish Rite Consistory, Collingswood, NJ. Since he relocated his NJ residence to Silver Lake in Clayton, NJ, he became a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church, where he found peace, devotion, and strength in his battle against Alzheimer's disease.

Viewing will be Thursday, April 8, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Earle Funeral Home, 122 W. Church St., Blackwood, NJ 08012. Service and interment on Friday will be held privately. Donations in Dave's memory would be appreciated to the Alzheimer's Association, Delaware Valley Chapter, 399 Market St., Suite 102, Philadelphia, PA 19106, or to Fanconi.org in honor of his granddaughter, Carlee M. Chew. Condolences may be shared at [www.earlefuneralhome.com](http://www.earlefuneralhome.com)

# Events

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**APR** **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**8**

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Earle Funeral Home-BLACKWOOD LOCATION  
122 W. Church Street, Blackwood, NJ, US

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



Earle Funeral Home - April 08 at 02:32 PM

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“ David Chew was a mentor and friend to many of his employees. He loved to share his knowledge of floral design, plants, and customer service. He met his customers with a broad smile. He frequently remembered their names and personal details which made them feel at ease. When people ordered with Dave's business, they were treated like family. He taught us all to treat people with respect and to remember the customer at the counter comes first. He had read the book "How to win friends and influence people" and used it as a guide frequently. Dave's life experience did not stop at the shop. He was an integral part of Blackwood and was involved in many things that would promote the businesses there. He wanted people to really care about it as much as he did. The very first year of the Pumpkin Festival I found myself painting kids' faces to help promote the town. Dave had recruited me, and you just could not tell him no. His enthusiasm for public service was contagious. Years later I would be working on props for the floats for the Blackwood Christmas parade. He always had a project he was working on. Dave also talked to me about major life decisions, monetary security and educated me about things like credit, paying down debts and not living beyond your means. His advice was solid and helped me to keep in mind that the bills come first no matter what else you might want to do. The thing I will remember most about Dave besides his sparkling eyes and winning smile, was that he never shied away from a challenge. He wanted to live life authentically, and he did. He engaged in many activities besides work and promotion of the town. He traveled, Hunted, fished, held family gatherings, lived life to the fullest and never stopped trying to help his kids succeed. He was an exceptional man that lived an exceptional life. He will not be forgotten by those of us lucky enough to be in his company on a regular basis. Godspeed Dave. I have no doubt it is 5 O'clock where you are. Save a seat for me.

Janet Pancoast - April 08 at 04:13 PM

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“ My sincere condolences go to the entire Chew family. Dave and Barbara were my neighbors when they lived right next door to my family home on N.J. Ave. I babysat Davie & Debbie, then the elder Mrs. Chew taught me flower arranging. Dave was such a INSPIRATION to me and it has remained with me til this very day. I cleaned Daves parents home when they lived next to the shop. Dave was such a nice guy, he will be sadly missed, however never forgotten. I want to thank Barbara for being so kind to me throughout my years I was maturing. Every member of the Chew family surely has been a inspiration in my life. R.I.P. Dave †



**Gail Gebhard Rauso** - April 06 at 05:39 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. He will be missed. A great person to work for and learned a lot from Dave and his Mother when learning to design floral arrangements. His was very much a part of local business in Blackwood.

**Sandy Gdovin Schemelia** - April 06 at 10:08 PM



“ Barbara,

I have many fond memories of Dave in the florist shop going back to the original shop when I was very young and your first home was behind the shop. And of course, the times up in Maine. Steven was recalling the first time he ever waterskied which was with Dave. Many happy family gatherings through the years. So sad to think of all the family that is no longer with us. Please know that you, Dave E, Debbie, and Dean are in our thoughts and prayers. God's Blessings on you all, Jana and Steven

**Jana and Steven Hubner** - April 06 at 05:07 PM



“ The Lilley Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of David K. Chew.



The Lilley Family - April 06 at 10:12 AM

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“ Dave and I spent time together as kids in Maine and did some crazy things, like swimming to a rock in the middle of the lake when I was 12 and he was 14 without telling an adult or using any flotation device. One day he told me to drive the boat to the marina at the far end of the lake to get gas while he skied behind it wearing jeans, a baseball cap and smoking a cigar (we were a little older then). Of course, we ran out of gas before getting there and I have a vivid memory of him slowly sinking until only the cigar was visible, sputtering and going out. Such good times and great memories.

Condolences to you, Barbara, and to your family at this difficult time.

Jane McCann Miller

Jane McCann Miller - April 05 at 08:11 PM

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“ So sorry to learn of the passing of Dave.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara and the entire Chew family.  
Robert and Dorothy Earle

Dorothy Earle - April 05 at 06:43 PM

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“ One of my favorite neighbors at Silver Lake. He was the most pleasant positive man I've known. His smile and laugh were infectious. He cared most for his loving family and second the earth and the beauty he brought out of it. He never tired of my garden questions and my tomatoes haven't been the same since I left. He was a very special man and my husband and I loved him dearly.

I must mention his great love of Peanut and Jase. We laughed so often at our dogs playing and running through the yards.

My prayers continue for his awesome wife Barbara and his Fabulous Family

Marie & Hank Flowers - April 05 at 12:37 PM



“ It was with considerable sadness that I learned of the passing of David Chew. His floral shop, which he had owned and operated for many years, was a landmark in the area. His personal involvement in the community at large was invaluable. My sincere sympathy is extended to Barbara, Debbie and the entire Chew family. -- Mary Orlando

Mary Orlando - April 05 at 11:47 AM

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“ Spending my summers in Maine living next door to the Chews was always a blast! We Lilley kids were always treated like family. I had the pleasure of having Mr. Chew teach me to waterski, and his determination to have me succeed did not go unnoticed. Whatever the activity, he kept us busy, and a good time was always had by all. I will always remember his kindness. Our condolences to the Chew Family, and may you Rest In Peace, Mr. Chew.

Debbie Lilley Borrelli

Debbie Lilley Borrelli - April 04 at 09:16 AM

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“ I have known Dave my whole life. When I was a kid and Dave was a teenager delivering flowers for his parents floral shop, he would stop in at our house if he was in the area. In those days in the 1950s, our front door was never locked during the day. Dave would “blow” through the front door and call my mom, “Hi Aunt Peg.” It was always such a bright spot in the day. He was the ultimate “people person.” He is missed by so many.

Peggy Davis Crosbie-Burnett - April 04 at 12:11 AM

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“ Dave was like the Mayor of Stirrup Key when he lived in Marathon FL. He was always the first to volunteer when something needed to be done. He gave all the ladies flower arranging classes.. he is sorely missed. RIP dear Dave.

fran Mears - April 03 at 05:10 PM