



DONORS: Friends and family



For those who knew Dave, it goes without saying that he was personable, kind, down-to-earth, and big-hearted. You might not have known that David Lawrence Alexander was born on January 27, 1959 to immigrant parents in the small town of Milton, outside Brampton, Ontario, Canada. At the age of two, his parents - along with younger sister Kim - started their journey towards America in search of a better life with more opportunities. For a brief time, the family lived in a tent on the beaches of the Pacific Coast before settling down and growing up in the suburbs of San Diego, California where the family became citizens of the United States in 1971, and Dave graduated from Bonita Vista High School in 1978.

As a child, Dave had a carefree positive outlook and love of life. He was a tad stubborn, unafraid, adventurous, and would do things in his own time--that was the independent free spirit of Dave. Underneath this independence was a witty and sincere soul, sensitive like a big hearted boy. If you were fortunate to be around him, it was easy to see these qualities. Dave marched to his own drummer. Dave's parents learned that early when as a young boy, he studied a TV repairman take apart the family's '60s television set, lay out the picture tubes on the carpet, and put the TV back together. Later Dave took apart the television laying out the tubes just as the repairman had done. He smiled at the shock on his parents faces and proudly put the television back to working condition. He proved to his parents then that when motivated and in his own time, Dave could do anything and everything and with great enthusiasm.

Dave was always connected to animals. His bedroom was equipped with an aquarium ready to house the next species that he loved to catch - including the venomous types. One of Dave's pets was Freddie, a six-foot boa constrictor who can be seen in the odd family photo and was occasionally caught roaming the halls while the family slept.

His falconry career started in San Diego, California. During his apprenticeship he trained and hunted with a male Red-Tailed Hawk, while living in Las Vegas, Nevada he met a fellow falconer hunting with a Goshawk, at that moment he fell in love with these birds. For the rest of his life you would only see Dave hawking with a Goshawk on his fist.

He was a minimalistic falconer, his hunting gear only included the bare essentials, taking only to the field the necessary equipment to complete a successful hunt (a hood, a gauntlet, a transmitter and a receiver). While hunting jackrabbits he would take multiple head of games with his bird. Since he didn't use a hawking bag or vest he would leave the carcasses in the field, marking the spot and picking them up later when done hunting.

His favorite quarry was the duck, he would go to the very extreme to find the perfect slip for his bird, totally ignoring his personal comfort and safety. Many of his favorites spots required him to belly-crawl in the mud and wet reeds for 10 minutes or more before releasing his bird after the quarry. Hunting ducks with Dave was an intense experience. He was a dedicated falconer with a passion for Goshawks.

Dave found the perfect opportunity to express himself and his love of wildlife by working as a tour guide for Adventure Photo Tours in Las Vegas, which became his second family. His tours included North and South Rim of the Grand Canyon, Red Rock Canyon, Hoover Dam, Hollywood and the beaches of Santa Monica & Pier. His passengers were given a "live and up-close" encounter with all local species crossing his path or on many occasions extended "off road" paths. Dave was always hopeful of spotting a snake or lizard and would treat his passengers to an informative description in his excited, unique delivery. Just as when he was a child, some of those species were taken to Dave's home for a visit before being let go in the wild.

Through his tours, Dave built friendships with passengers from all over the world. He fulfilled his dream of traveling to his favorite places, Russia and Kiev, to visit passengers who had become friends. With his enthusiastic and personable nature, it is not surprising that Dave was presented with the "Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and Las Vegas Visitor's Authority Appreciation for Customer Service Excellence Gold Award" in 2004-2006. Since his passing, Dave's mother Erika and sister Kim have heard wonderful words and meaningful memories about how Dave changed the lives of his passengers through his years on the road. Erika and Kim will continue to extend those friendships and honor Dave's life.

Dave was a patriot with a great love and pride in the United States. With his first year tiercel Goshawk he traveled the country talking passionately about politics and history.

The greatest achievement in Dave's life was being a Falconer.

Dave, you will always be alive in the hearts of the many people you have truly touched.

