



David James Hess Jr

September 25, 1932 - March 9, 2025

David James Hess Jr, age 92, of Lewis Center, OH passed away March 9, 2025, with family by his side. He was born on September 25, 1932, to David J and Irene Hess in Columbus, OH. Attended Bexley HS where he met his wife Phyllis and graduated in 1952. He was drafted into the Army during the Korean War and served from 1952 to 1954. He married Phyllis Ream in 1958 in Columbus, OH. He was a home builder most of his life working for Homer Schaffner then Rankin and Thoman Builders. He received an award from the Builders Exchange in Columbus for a curved stairway he fabricated which was the first time the award was given to a non-union carpenter and a home builder. He also built the family home on Powell Rd in 1965. Later in life, he worked as the Head of Maintenance at St. Charles Preparatory School in Bexley. Dave has a lover of all sports. He was a football and baseball athlete during high school and college. He even played football on the Fort Riley Kansas Army team during the war. He was the manager of a softball team for many years then continued playing softball in an "old timers" league until 79 years of ages. He was a member of the Central Ohio Grasshoppers, a golf group for 25 years. He volunteered at various sport functions for Olentangy Schools as an assistant coach, clock keeper for football and basketball games and managed the side yard markers during football games when needed. He is survived by: Daughter: Teresa (Michael) Rice, Sons: Bradley and Douglas (Kimberly) Hess, Granddaughters: Ashley (David) Shore, Natalie Rice, Melissa Rice, Sierra (Kyle) Elliott, Savannah Hess, Grandsons: Patrick (Kayla)

Hess, Nick (Olivia) Hess, Great-Grandchildren: Marissa, Everett, Alannah, Conor, Cohen, Jude, Nolan and Ireland. He was preceded in death by: Wife: Phyllis Ream Hess, Parents: David J and Irene Hess, Siblings: Anita Hess, Donald Hess, Robert and Richard Stutton, Evelyn and Roberta Ryan A 'Celebration of Life' service will be held at the grave site at 10 a.m. Saturday April 5, 2025 at Fairview Memorial Park on State Route 23, Delaware, OH. Condolences may be made to the family at www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

Fairview Memorial Park
5035 Columbus Pike
State Route 23
Lewis Center, OH 43065

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Our deepest sympathies to The Hess Family! Although we didn't have the opportunity to meet Mr. Hess, it was through my many conversations with Doug I grew to understand just how proud he and family are of his dad. Doug you and your family have our condolences, and we are sending many prayers during this difficult time.

John and Pamela Corbett

John Corbett - April 08, 2025 at 01:24 PM

TR

“ My deepest sympathies to The Hess Family. Your dad was one of a kind. I remember him fondly as we worked restoring the German Village home. His woodworking skills were second to none as was his patience, dealing with the 7 T's and my dad. I'm sure the two of them are catching up in Heaven. With sincere condolences,
Tierney Thoman Reider

Tierney Thoman Reider - April 06, 2025 at 12:44 PM

DH

“ Doug Hess

I have many fond memories of my dad and mom, but one of my favorites about Dad was when he served in the Army. He was attached to the 101st Airborne division in the US Army. During training one day, they learned how to fire a grenade off their M1 rifle. The instructors said it was impossible to fire the grenade from the shoulder, as the recoil would break the bones. Instead, they were instructed to plant the rifle stock into the ground before firing. Well, Dad just had to test this theory. He successfully fired from his shoulder, but nearly broke it and suffered a huge, bruised area, remaining sore for weeks. He was tough as nails in sports and manned a 50-caliber machine gun during his time in Korea. However, after returning, he never wanted to own or fire a gun for the rest of his life. He was honorably discharged from Fort Riley in Kansas and wanted to come home so badly that he rode his motorcycle back to Columbus through a snowstorm, nearly freezing to death since he had no civilian winter coat or gloves. Looking back, he was tough and a little stubborn at times, but also a kind and giving man.

He instilled a sense of education and service in all three of his children, who voluntarily joined the US Army and Ohio National Guard. We each completed six years of service, obtained honorable discharges, and qualified for the Ohio tuition assistance program. We proudly followed in his footsteps through service in the US Army and completed our college education, which he was not able to do since he was drafted into the war. All seven of Dave's grandchildren have attended or completed their college education. Military service was also passed down through one of his grandsons, who served in the United States Marine Corps as a canine handler and instructor. Another grandson completed four years in the US Navy and currently serves in the US Army as a Special Forces Green Beret. I am confident Dad is proud of the legacy he and Mom have instilled in the family as they look down today from Heaven.

Douglas J Hess-Son - April 04, 2025 at 10:47 AM

BH

“ My fondest memories of Dad are when he coached me in and we later played sports together such as pickup basketball and even on a softball team in Delaware with other fathers and sons. I know many of you were coached by and played basketball or softball or golf with him, too. He was a great coach as we were undefeated in Little League Football for both years. In years of late, I will remember all the OSU Sporting events that we watched together since Mom’s passing as well as beforehand. I will always think of him each night as he use to enjoy cutting up the fruit so I could feed the animals EVERY NIGHT like I did for the last 8 or more years after he could no longer do it himself. He loved all the wild “critters” that we fed around here but he especially loved Our Dog Liam and Our Cat Bagheera the most. He got to see Liam one more time on his last day before returning to the Hospital to die in Hospice. The last thing he told me was “if you don’t drink water it will kill you” as I was giving him some electrolytes and a Protein Drink with him asking for the water instead. Most of you will not know the true significance of that but he was finally admitting to me that his purposeful dehydration due an enlarged prostate for years which we argued about too much in the end had shutdown his kidneys. I think it would make Dad happy to know that we ALL learn one last lesson from him and drink more water for Our Health. I do and will always miss him until my last day on Earth! 🌍 RIP DAD

Bradley D Hess-Son - April 04, 2025 at 10:33 AM

KD

“ When Doug and I were first married, I mentioned loving Lucky Charms cereal. After that, Dave would buy me a box and say “ aw kimmy, them is for kids. I appreciated him doing that so much as my own dad had died when I was little. And, I’m grateful to have held his hand and stroked his face in the hrs just before he drifted off to heaven. He was a good person.

Kimberly Douglas-Hess - April 03, 2025 at 04:29 PM

KD

To all of Dave's kids, grandkids, other family and friends-I'm sorry for your loss.

Kimberly Douglas-Hess - April 03, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David James Hess Jr.*



April 02, 2025 at 01:14 AM

JW

“ *My condolences to the family on the loss of Dave, both Dave and Phyllis were greatly respected by all that knew them. I agree with Steve B that playing basketball with Dave was always a good game but very bruising lol. He will be missed.*

Jim Wise - March 26, 2025 at 06:45 AM

MF

“ *Sorry for your loss. What a long life.*

Mike Fracasso - March 25, 2025 at 04:47 PM

SB

“ *I fondly remember Dave & Phyllis being on the sideline at all of the Olentangy athletic events. I also had fun playing adult basketball with Dave in very “physical” games. To the family, I'm very sorry for your loss. Steve Bilikam*

Steve Bilikam - March 23, 2025 at 04:50 PM

BB

“ *Butch and Connie Beal purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of David James Hess Jr.*



Butch and Connie Beal - March 22, 2025 at 01:14 PM

BB

“ *Butch and Connie Beal planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David James Hess Jr.*

Butch and Connie Beal - March 22, 2025 at 01:14 PM

JK

“ *Doug, very sorry to hear about your father's passing. Keeping you and your family in my thoughts & prayers.*

Jimmy Kane - March 20, 2025 at 10:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David James Hess Jr.*



March 20, 2025 at 10:41 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David James Hess Jr.*

March 20, 2025 at 10:41 AM

AH

“ When I was a little girl Dave and Phyllis's home was my second home. Dave would always make popcorn for me and kept it in a Tupperware bowl. I think he made it really for himself.lol I would eat the whole thing and he would say "let's go girl we have to make more popcorn." So many more memories with him. Loved him more than he knew. I will miss you Dave. ❤️❤️❤️

Ava I hampton - March 20, 2025 at 09:48 AM

PH

“ Sitting at the kitchen counter every morning before work, talking about life and all the same stories. But, I listened intently every time. He had his pot of reheated coffee he used drank for a few days, while I always made it fresh.



P Hess - March 20, 2025 at 09:24 AM

LB

“ Doug, I am so sorry to hear that you have lost your father. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family. May the wonderful memories of your father stay with you and help you through this time of grief.

Lisa Bawn - March 20, 2025 at 09:16 AM