



David Lawrence Denier

September 20, 1949 - January 29, 2026

David Lawrence Denier--a husband, father, grandfather, coach, and former federal prosecutor – passed away January 29, 2026 at Stanford Hospital with his family by his side.

David was born in Highland Park, Michigan to Leon and Esther Denier. He was raised in Allen Park, Michigan and went on to attend the University of Michigan. After his graduation, his interest in African studies prompted him to travel to Africa for nearly a year, which provided him a lifetime of favorite memories and stories. He moved to Oakland Hills, California in 1974, working for a few years before entering law school at the University of San Francisco.

After graduating law school, David was introduced to his wife, Joy, through a mutual friend. He worked for the IRS until he attained his dream job – becoming a federal prosecutor in San Francisco. David and Joy married in the summer of 1983 and established their first house in San Mateo, CA. One year later they welcomed their son Kirk. The family moved to their current home in Menlo Park, California in the summer of 1989.

David's love for Michigan carried through the entirety of his life and was passed on to his son. He brought his family on summer camping trips to Ludington, Michigan, sharing fond childhood memories and activities he cherished with his family. Next to family, the most important thing was

University of Michigan football – something he also passed on to his son. He loved singing the tune of “Hail to the Victor’s” at any opportunity.

Coaching was another great love of David’s life. He started with his son’s soccer team when Kirk was 4 years old, and moved on to coaching tee ball a year later. Baseball was David’s favorite sport, and he continued to coach baseball through the decades. He also took the time to coach many of his son’s basketball teams. David created endless memories and made countless friends through his years of coaching.

Later in life, David developed a keen interest in gardening. In his retirement years, he delighted in mulling around the front and back yards, socializing with neighbors passing by, and enjoying the relaxation of the life he built. When he wasn’t in the yard, David could often be found standing around and admiring photos of his grandkids as they scrolled through on their digital picture frame.

David was survived by his wife Joy Kosobayashi, sister Jane Kaneko, brother Craig, son Kirk, daughter-in-law Tiyasha, niece Emi Kaneko, and grandchildren Myles and Layla.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the “Med Fund,” online at medicalgiving.stanford.edu (using the “Make a Gift tab”) or by mail to Stanford University Development Services, P.O. Box 20466, Stanford, CA 94309-0466. Please make checks payable to Stanford University and include a note or indicate on the memo line that the gift is made “In memory of David Denier” for the Med Fund.

Tribute Wall

IV

“ In Gassho, Sharon Venters purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of David Lawrence Denier.



In Gassho, Sharon Venters - February 26 at 05:16 PM

IV

“ In Gassho, Sharon Venters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Lawrence Denier.

In Gassho, Sharon Venters - February 26 at 05:16 PM

DC

“ It was an honor to know Dave and earn his trust. He shared so much wisdom. I truly enjoyed learning about his childhood, his memories, and the experiences that shaped the person he was. I will miss the goofy talks on our neighborhood walks, and sitting enjoying each others company at the duck pond. Our time was meaningful and left a lasting impression on me. He wasn't a client, he was my friend. As a private caregiver who's been in the field a long time, he is a favorite and holds a very special place in my heart. He will be remembered for his warmth, his stories, and the quiet strength he carried. He passed on such great advice and encouragement that I will forever carry with me. Caring for him and knowing Joy was a privilege I will always be grateful for.

Devin C - February 10 at 10:20 PM

LL

“ Dave has been one of my truest friends for 64 years. He has been there for me during some of the darkest periods of my life, during my divorce (my boys, now in their 50's, remember him taking us all to see the fireworks), and during my transition back to the states when I learned my father had terminal cancer. He was a steady shoulder of support. We shared an interest in genealogy, politics, and history and always found something to talk about. He truly loved his family, another favorite topic, and when he became a grandfather he was on top of the world. I am so sorry his beautiful grandchildren won't grow up knowing him, but they will hear the stories about what a wonderful person he was, of that I am certain. I will remember you always, my dear, dear friend.

Lana LaFortune - February 09 at 06:00 PM

PB

“ Dave was a great friend over the years from when we were in the same Boy Scout Troop that went to the 1964 National Jamboree and on through HS. We lost track a bit but in recent years we had frequent phone conversations on many topics and the occasional visit when I was in the Bay area. He was a true gentleman and will be missed.

Paul Barkhaus - February 06 at 05:40 PM

GB

“ Denier was an active member of APHS67 and was always a joy to see and talk with him. Surprisingly, he enjoyed *The Forgotten 500*, a book about the WWII rescue of US airman from Yugoslavia. Dave's Dad was a tail gunner, my Uncle Merko was on the OSS Team... Dave's Dad didn't have a need.... We talked for hours about their war time experiences. He was extremely proud of his Dad.

Greg Bozanich - February 06 at 12:48 PM