

Good afternoon.

On behalf of Ellen, Matt, Casey, Molly, Royce, Theo, Diane, Daniel, the Kreigshousers, and of all Dave's family and friends thank you for coming to celebrate the life of Dave Norburg.

My name is Bill Meeker and I have been a friend of Dave's for over 45 years.

As I look out at this impressive crowd, I see many people I have known for years, some I have met a few times, and many, many more I don't believe I have ever met.

This is all a testament to Dave's ability to make friends everywhere he went and in all aspects of his life and even the lives of his kids, parents and neighbors.

While we are gathered to Celebrate the life of our friend Dave Norburg - I would like to take this time to thank him for many of the things he has done for me throughout the years

But first I'd like to thank Ellen Norburg for two things.

Thank you Ellen for taking such good care of Dave and helping squeeze out those extra 5 years. He could not have done it without you and without the support of your kids and family.

I also want to thank Ellen for gift she gave me.

About two weeks ago, while visiting Dave, Ellen asked me to read some cards from people she didn't know and thought they may have been from high school friends.

Being the old fart I have become, I couldn't read the cards because I am going blind as a bat and also because like the vain old fart I am, I don't often carry my reading glasses with me.

I asked if she had any reading glasses I could use and she told me I could use Dave's.

His reading glasses were on the table next to him, along with his favorite glasses case.

A few months ago, Dave, Ellen, my wife Pam and I met for dinner and about halfway through dinner - Dave thought he lost his glasses case.

He liked the case a lot because number one, it was a gift from Ellen – and she had given it to him because Dave had lost his previous glasses case

And secondly - because it makes such a good noise when it closes!

My grandmother passed away a few years ago, but I think about her all the time because I have little things around my house I received from her estate that remind me of her – and as long as I think of her – she will always be with me.

Ellen was gracious enough to grant my wish to inherit Dave's reading glasses.

They will remind me of Dave every time I put them on – which is likely to be more and more often as I get older.

I'm also kind of hoping I can be a little wiser when I see things through the wisdom of Dave's eyes.

I am wearing his glasses now and when I look through Dave's glasses and see you all here to celebrate his life, I know now what Dave saw when he looked through them. He saw friends.

And I think I can speak for everyone in this room when I say thank you Dave Norburg for being such a good friend to all of us.

Thank you Dave for leaving this world a little better place in which to live.

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve our country.

Thank you for being a friend to my wonderful wife and your friend Pam

Thank you for being such a good husband to your wonderful wife Ellen.

Thank you for having such great kids – the world is definitely a better place with Matt, Casey and Molly in it.

Thank you for being the best Godfather in the world to my son David – never missing his birthdays, graduations and other events.

Thank you for that twinkle in your eye and the mischievous little smile you get when you have something up your sleeve.

Thank you for the witty comebacks – and thanks even more for the easy setups

Thank you for your constant words of encouragement and for your thoughtful and sound advice.

Thank you for occasionally bringing me back to reality by reminding me I am still that big dumb kid you have known since kindergarten.

Thank you for taking naps with me on the little mats that they made us lie upon on the floor back in grade school

Thank you for playing on the swing sets and jungle jims, playing kickball, dodge ball and all the other games at Border Star

Thank you for being there with me and our classmates to learn to duck and cover in case of an Atomic bomb.

Thank you for the times we took firecrackers and blew up tin cans, mounds of dirt, army men, cowboys, Indians, my sister's Barbie dolls, ants, worms, slugs and even grosser things

Thank you for not telling on me for that thing I did in 4th grade.

Thank you for being in my boy scout troop and going hiking and camping with us. And then late at night, seeing who had the loudest, longest or smelliest farts in the tent. Dave often won all three events.

Thank you for inviting me over to spend the night – although - you snored and kept me awake most of the night

Thank you for coming to my house to spend the night with me and watch spooky movies on channel 41 with Ed Muscarie

Thank you for playing Indian ball, tennis, Battleship, Go Fish, Ping Pong, that vibrating hockey thing, Mousetrap and Rock-Em, Sock-Em robots with me!

Thank you for being on all my teams for YMCA football, basketball & baseball for all those years

Thank you for going with Jim Mullen and me to Katz Drug Store and sneaking a peek at the girlie magazines we hid inside the comic books. Hey - one of had to be the lookout.

Thank you for getting stupid and drinking Boones Farm, Strawberry Hill and MD2020 with me in high school – and for having an older brother who would sometimes get us beer. Thank you Daniel.

And after drinking all that beer, Boones Farm, Strawberry Hill and MD2020 - Thank you for not puking on me or in my car.

Thank you for taking the gut punches and shoulder burns from Jon Gifford so the rest of us didn't have to.

For those that did not know him, Jon was a very big friend of ours. He passed away about a year ago and I am absolutely positive he greeted Dave with a shoulder punch and a great big old bear hug.

Thank you for helping to move the bleachers from Suicide Hill to the middle of Brookside Blvd. after the kegger at my house when my parents were out of town.

Thank you Dave and your assorted accomplices – many of whom are here today - for not doing anything worse than putting my Volkswagen on that poor, highly confused and very agitated lady's front porch.

Thank you Dave Norburg for failing **so miserably** in your duty to keep Pam Cowles from being with any guys on our high school trip to Spain.

Thank you for being **our** Uncle Dave and watching over Pam and me since high school.

Thank you for joining the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and becoming my brother – even if it was at KU.
We are truly brothers in the Bond.

Thank you for being one of those blue and red Jaymmmmms and for the many good years of spirited jokes, taunting and ribbing with our MU/KU rivalry.

Thank you Dave for being the best man at my wedding.

Thank you for the bachelor party you threw me the night before – at least the parts I remember.

Thank you for almost getting into a fight with my father the night of my wedding – it was a fitting end to a memorable day and knowing my father – he probably deserved it

Thank you for being at all the Southwest High School class of 1976 reunion planning meetings and happy hour drinks

And gosh darn it - Thank you for being my moral compass. Because of you, I sometimes even say “gosh darn it”, when I’d really like to say something a little stronger.

And last, but certainly not least –

Thank you Dave Norburg for being a positive example to all of us.

Even in passing you managed to set an example.

You showed how to live a life to the fullest in the time allotted.

How to accept one's fate, but still fight for every minute.

How to prepare yourself and your family as best you can.

And how to leave this earth with strength, pride, grace and dignity

You will be missed my friend, but never forgotten!

THANK YOU!