



The grand old oak stood alone- its wood harder than the times it has witnessed.  
Crooked branches reaching towards the sky like the weathered hands of a farmer in dirty, sun-faded overalls.  
Yet on this day, the oak stands tall and proud- the beauty of youth and hope and love shrouded in the canopy of its new, shiny-green leaves.  
Its roots nourished with the weight of love.  
The scars of the past are forgiven; today is the day I begin living.

*Poem written by Dave, May, 2002*



*In Loving Memory  
David Guy Partridge  
1965-2007*

The sounds of the two canoe paddles being lifted out of the tea-stained waters of the Nina Moose created a soothing melody as the two voyagers worked in unison down the meandering river.

Serenity flowed, like a peaceful river, into their souls as they continued to navigate down the ancient highway. Unaware were they that through their pores they were seeping, oozing - draining their learned dependency on the infrastructure of their modern world. The technological super highway. Surf the World Wide Web - a modern day version of a wilderness. A modern world filled with virtual adventures - more seeping, oozing with every stroke of the paddle. A perfect J-stroke - the glossy water briefly parts as to acknowledge their existence.

*~ From Dave's journal on one of his trips  
to the Canadian boundary waters*

David was a passionate outdoorsman and conservationist who loved to share his vigorous life adventures with others. He was a proud uncle and familiar touchstone for his family and friends, always interested, always involved in their lives.

Born September 5, 1965 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, he grew up in cities around the US, but his desire for untamed spaces and wildlife was kindled by regular visits with relatives in rural Iowa. When he was 13, his dreams were realized when his family moved to the countryside around Breda and Wall Lake. He liked to fish and hunt, even then, and would ride his bike several miles to fish in the gravel pits outside of Lake View. He graduated in 1983 from Wall Lake Community High School.

In 1988 he graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management, but realized that his true call was the outdoors. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1990, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology, and moved to Mattoon, IL as a Fisheries Research Technician for the Illinois Natural History Survey. In 1995, he received his Masters of Science degree in Fisheries Biology from Auburn University in Auburn, AL, and started his career as a District Fisheries Biologist for the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division in Albany, GA. In 2000 he became Senior Fisheries Biologist. He oversaw fish hatcheries and many lakes and rivers in Southern Georgia and was responsible for research studies, public relations events, habitat improvement, and teaching kids to enjoy the outdoors safely. His work was published regularly in newsletters and professional journals and he was especially proud of his work consulting with former President Jimmy Carter to help him with his pond. In Fall 2005 David moved back to Iowa to begin a professional sabbatical to reconnect with Iowa and his family, and prepare for his next adventure.

David loved the Raccoon River, and the Flint River, the timber and trail, field and marsh and the wide-open farm fields that were his land. Always hunting, waiting for the next season. Walking for hours, endless miles, watching nature and the wildlife, changing with the seasons and letting his friends know what he saw, when and where. Sitting in tree stands and blinds for hours, becoming part of the landscape he loved. On the hunt for morel mushrooms, turkey and pheasant, deer, dove, quail, ducks, and always the fish. Journaling and plotting times, dates and temperatures and details he could share with his friends in person, and in regular phone calls. Tending to food plots and trees, planning and building habitat for the wildlife he loved. He was the consummate naturalist. He always gave back more than he took.

His was the eye behind the camera, an active amateur photographer, recording and documenting the happiness and excitement of the lives he touched, and framing the picture with his lively presence. His smile and pride reflected from the other side of the lens. His panoramic outdoor pictures, and the sunrises and sunsets he captured while scouting for wildlife chronicled his life.

Beyond all things, he loved his family and friends. He was a storyteller, overflowing with tales for every occasion, and his cup brimmed with laughter. We laughed with him - he loved it. We laughed at him - he loved it. When Dave was around, the circle of friendship and family was complete and good times were at hand. He was a loyal supporter, fan and follower of his nieces and nephews many activities. He did all he could to be a part of them and fulfilled their lives with his exuberant support. An irreplaceable fan, sponsor and pit crew member of his brother-in-law's 92b racing team, devoted fan of his brother Todd's music and follower of his band, Salamagundi, and his nephew Reilly's band Misabel. His encouragement, and infectious and boundless energy made everyone feel proud and excited about what they were doing in their lives.

He loved to teach and was teaching all of us all the time.

*Oh, Buddy! Daylight's Burnin'!*

*In loving memory of*

## **DAVID GUY PARTRIDGE**

### *Born*

September 5, 1965, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

### *Entered into Rest*

February 16, 2007

### *Funeral Services*

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2007

Sharp Funeral Home, Breda, Iowa

### *Officiating*

Rev. Roger Carlisle

### *Honorary Casket Bearers*

Kacie Partridge

Reilly Partridge

### *Casket Bearers*

Brian Donovan

Tim Donovan

Mark Frier

Al Stewart

Graves Lowell

Noah Dryden

Jeff Dryden

Jeff Niehaus

### *Internment*

St. Mary's Cemetery, Auburn, Iowa

Sharp Funeral Home Service

Breda, Iowa