



David Henry Felts

January 20, 1954 - February 18, 2016

David Henry Felts, 62, of Mount Dora, FL, died at home on Thursday, February 18, 2016. Born and raised in Lakeland, he moved to Mount Dora in 1987. He was a locomotive engineer for Amtrak's Auto Train.

He was a skilled carpenter, history buff, lover of books, and a lifelong railroad enthusiast who lived out his childhood dream through his 38-year railroad career. He was president emeritus of the Mount Dora Historical Society and a charter member of the Mount Dora Historic Preservation Board, sharing a love of local history with everyone he met. He was a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen and the Lions Club, a tireless volunteer, a mentor to many, and a generous giver of time, resources, sweat, tears, guidance, laughter, and friendship.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Felts and Margaret Kelley Felts. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and devoted wife of 42 years, Lynn Mitchell Felts; daughters Merita (Arthur) Reyes, Beverly Felts; son, Byron (Darcy) Felts; sister Judy (Jimmie) Lee; and grandchildren Summer, Leo, Nick, Skylar, Jason, and Wesley.

Visitation will be Sun. from 4-6 pm at Gentry Morrison Southside Chapel, 1727 Bartow Rd. Lakeland. Funeral services will be conducted Mon. at 1 pm at Christ Memorial Baptist Church, 2929 Hardin Combee Rd. Lakeland, with interment to follow at Oak Hill Burial Park. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in David's memory to the Mount Dora Historical Society, 450 Royellou, Mount Dora, FL 32757

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **21**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Southside Chapel
1727 Bartow Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 688-7679
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ Memorial Baptist Church
2929 Hardin Combee Road
Lakeland, FL 33801

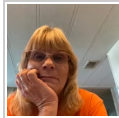
Tribute Wall



“ *Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of David Henry Felts*

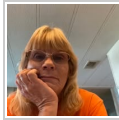


Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - February 21, 2016 at 07:21 AM



Very well done you work with people everyday and you don't know there story of life.

Sandy Kirby - February 21, 2016 at 07:08 PM



Rest in peace

Sandy Kirby - February 21, 2016 at 07:09 PM

BK

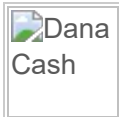
I was saddened to hear of Dave's passing. Dave was such a great coworker and family man who will be truly missed by all. My heart goes out to his family. I am sorry for your loss of such a great man.

Bret kellough - February 21, 2016 at 07:15 PM



Thank you Trey for everything it was a very beautiful tribute

Beverly Felts - February 23, 2016 at 07:12 AM



Beautiful Beverly!

Dana Cash - February 23, 2016 at 07:35 AM

EB

“ So very sorry to hear of this. Our hearts go out to you all; such a loss. We were in Mount Dora only a few months when I (Elizabeth) went for a walk and met David. He was sitting on the porch of an old farm house, a sign at his side - save this house! Hard to believe it was more than 23 years ago. He drew Rod and I in and we are proud to have known David and helped in a small way. We know he will be missed by many. Our love & regards to Lynn and their children, Rod & Elizabeth Brewer

Elizabeth Brewer - February 25, 2016 at 04:20 PM

“ I first met Dave when my brother dated his youngest daughter after a wacky boy scout/girl scout weekend in Wildwood. Dave knew I was interested in trains and so he took every opportunity to spoil this geeky teenager on some train time. Most of my summer that year was spent either in the Sanford switching yard or at his house in Mt Dora. Lots of things came about after that summer which drove a wedge between myself and the interest I shared with Dave that summer but I never forgot it. A few years later I began working for Time Warner Cable and worked side by side with Dave's son Byron. But after about a year and making no progress in the career I had chosen, I happened to find myself on that front porch again with Dave, talking about life and my career choices. "Sometimes I just want to go and fix [computers] with a big hammer!" I told Dave, which brought him to a chuckle. He agreed that would make him happy as well sometimes. "You ever apply to work for the railroad? " he asked, "I bet they will let you fix things with a big hammer," he added. At first, I just figured he was being sarcastic, but I humored him and stopped by the depot in Mt Dora to talk to the station agent who was also the general manager. He asked me to come aboard and start in the concessions. The very next week they asked me to fire the steam engine. I went back to Dave's house after a day of firing that engine and shared my experience with him. He seemed quite pleased with my endeavors and offered me a final word of advice. "you can make a career out of the railroad, but be careful because it's a lot different today than when I started. Try to get the most out of it and have fun, otherwise it'll just be a job and you'll find yourself working too hard. A man who enjoys his job will never work a day in his life, "

Dave, your words are worth more than gold. Even last Wednesday we were just talking about the trouble of work and having our jokes about the current state of the business. You were saying you'd like to retire soon and I was telling you that I look forward to being in your position one day. Never would have guessed it was the last time I would speak to you.

Dave Felts, you were a huge inspiration to me, professionally and personally. For the past 21 years, I have been blessed to have you

and your family as my friends. I will miss you terribly but I look forward to the reunion. In the meantime, I will lift up your wife and family in prayers. Thanks for the memories! Until then, be safe and keep it on the rails! Out...

Jason T. - February 24, 2016 at 07:34 PM

LT

“*Dave was a coworker to me for about 12 years at Amtrak (Auto train). I remember one day he came to work without his jacket and I told him it was going to rain and he said no way no cloud in sky. Later that day he was on the train and no jacket and it started to rain. He told rest of the guys in the locker room to watch out for me as I could tell when it was going to rain. This was just one story out of a bunch as Dave was a man with a lot of friends and he was always ready to help any way he could. Dave will be miss in more ways then one at Amtrak.*

My son Mike also had some great memories with Dave over the pass year. Dave worked with Mike and was always ready to help him when he moved from Jacksonville to work in Sanford. Dave now you can rest and look down on the Amtrak and say you helped to get that train where it is today with a smile on your face as you will be miss by all.

*A Friend,
Leroy F. Thrift*

Leroy F. Thrift - February 21, 2016 at 04:31 PM

TM

“ Terry Moon purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of David Henry Felts.



Terry Moon - February 21, 2016 at 01:16 PM

CH

“ There are so many special memories that span years, but mainly his willingness to help whether it was for Girl Scouts, (trust me, we had him busy all the time!), his work with the Historical Society, or just relaxing for a well deserved minute on his porch surrounded by his topiaries and large variety of plants and trees he took such pride in caring for. You will be missed Dave!

Cindy Hauge - February 21, 2016 at 08:37 AM

TD

“ The Johannes's, Rich, Tammie, Chloe, and. D.J. purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of David Henry Felts.



The Johannes's, Rich, Tammie, Chloe, and. D.J. - February 20, 2016 at 07:47 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of David Henry Felts.



February 20, 2016 at 06:46 PM

AR

“ Armando, Amanda and Aaren Rivera purchased the Fruits and Blooms Basket for the family of David Henry Felts.



Armando, Amanda and Aaren Rivera - February 20, 2016 at 04:44 PM

BL

“ Bill and Rosie Lain purchased the Grande Gourmet Fruit Basket for the family of David Henry Felts.



Bill and Rosie Lain - February 20, 2016 at 04:16 PM

JK

“ Joe and Kim purchased the Simply Elegant Spatiphyllum for the family of David Henry Felts.



Joe and Kim - February 20, 2016 at 02:04 PM



“ 50 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - February 20, 2016 at 01:33 PM

JF

“ *Jeri Spence and family purchased the Dawn of Remembrance Basket for the family of David Henry Felts.*



Jeri Spence and family - February 20, 2016 at 10:57 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of David Henry Felts.*



February 20, 2016 at 09:18 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Beverly Felts - February 20, 2016 at 09:14 AM



one of my dads favorite pictures*

Beverly Felts - February 20, 2016 at 09:16 AM



“ Lynn Thompson lit a candle in memory of David Henry Felts



Lynn Thompson - February 20, 2016 at 08:16 AM



You brightened our days on facebook with your humor, wit, thoughtfulness, and kindness. The love of family, especially for your wife, Lynn, was apparent and admired by us all. You left way too soon and you will be so very missed in this world. RIP, my friend.

Lynn Thompson - February 20, 2016 at 08:27 AM



thank you

Beverly Felts - February 20, 2016 at 09:12 AM