



## Earl Lawrence Davis

May 13, 1925 - April 1, 2015

Earl L. Davis died on April 1, 2015, at his home in Brookdale Churchill Assisted Living in Mooresville, NC. Earl was born in Wilton Junction, Iowa, on May 13, 1925, of the late Philip E. Davis and Elizabeth Crispin Davis. He was preceded in death in 2011 by his wife of 62 years, Francis Ruth Anderson, and earlier this year by his daughter, Elizabeth Ann Davis Rossi. He is survived by his son Philip and wife Linda, son Stephen and wife Elisabeth, all of Cornelius, NC; son-in-law Gilbert Rossi of Lawrenceville, NJ; nine grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren.

Raised on farms in eastern Iowa, Earl graduated from the DeWitt (IA) consolidated high school and enlisted in the Navy from 1944 to 1946, working on early radar installations in Atlanta and Seattle. He earned a bachelor's degree from Iowa State Teachers College (now Northern Iowa University) and did graduate studies at Iowa State University. In 1949, after a whirlwind romance, he married Frances Anderson of Rockford, Ill. Earl taught school for two years in Monticello, Iowa, then sold insurance, before joining the admission staff at Coe College (IA) in 1952. Except for brief interludes in sales for Cherry-Burrell Corporation and Ford tractors, his career in college admissions continued through 2014. He was Director of Admissions at Yankton College (SD), Associate Director at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie-Mellon University), and Director at Coe College, Lindenwood College (MO), and Rider University (NJ), where he retired in 1988. Upon

retirement, Earl and Fran moved to Chapel Hill, NC, and then, in 2004, to Cornelius, NC. While in Chapel Hill, he and Fran served as Regional Advisors for the Society of Children Book Writers and Illustrators of the Carolinas. Earl continued to consult with various independent colleges and served as a reader of college applications, first at the UNC-Chapel Hill and then at Duke University.

The family will receive friends on Friday, April 17, at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, from 11 am to 1 pm. A memorial service will be held at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, NC, at 1 pm on April 18.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are invited to University Presbyterian Church (209 E. Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514; [www.upcch.org](http://www.upcch.org)) or to WDAV (Box 8990, Davidson, NC 28035; [www.wdav.org](http://www.wdav.org)).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Earl Lawrence Davis*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Earl Lawrence Davis*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Earl Lawrence Davis*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *It is with great sadness that I read this notice. I was hired by Earl for my very first job at Rider College. He was a wonderful person to work for, but more importantly he was a gentleman in the pure sense of that word. My sympathy to your family- he was a very special man.*

**Barbara Rosengarten-Bacon** - July 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Earl was my mentor and my friend. We worked together for only 6 years, but he made a lasting impression on my life. He had a great sense of humor and mentored many young people during his career in college admissions. He and Fran hosted all of us in their home at one time or another. His love and dedication to Fran, especially toward the end of her life was remarkable. My heartfelt condolences to his family. He lived life to the fullest. He was a great man.*

**Cindi Ferguson** - April 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *May the God of all comfort, comfort you now at this time of your grief, and give you strength and peace.*

---

April 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ ~

*Sarah R,*

*Cornelius, North Carolina*

---

**Sarah R** - April 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Family, I had the privilege of being one of Fran's caregivers when I worked at Churchill; then I assisted Earl for a few weeks at home before he moved to Churchill. My heartfelt condolences to all of you as you mourn the passing of such an accomplished man and father. Earl's legacies and love will forever shine in your hearts. My face lights up when I remember my times with Earl- what a blessing to have known Earl - such a gentleman. Love to All, Sarah Reagin*

---

**Sarah R** - April 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM