



## David Elder

September 23, 1975 - January 31, 2023

David Matthew Elder of McDonough, Georgia, age 47, passed away on January 31, 2023. He was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Deborah Norton Elder, who adored him. David was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and grew up in Conyers, Georgia, until his family moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1990.

David was magic. When he was six years old, he popped wheelies and jumped cul-de-sac bike ramps like Evel Knievel. At eight, David spit out his multiplication tables at lightning speed. He dominated at kickball, math quizzes, and all field day events. Out of all sports and contests, nothing won his heart like baseball.

His backyard moonlighted as the neighborhood wiffle ball field. His talent started there but blossomed into a lifetime career. In 1994, he landed a scholarship to pitch for Georgia Tech. He then was drafted by the Texas Rangers organization and played professionally for several years. He made his first Major League pitching debut with the Cleveland Indians organization against the New York Yankees. The first batter David faced was homerun hitter Jason Giambi. David struck him out. His family loved showing David's face on his own baseball card.

After multiple arm and shoulder surgeries, his pitching career stopped, but his love for the game never ended. He became involved in youth baseball as a

coach, mentor, and instructor. He coached for many years and found great joy in coaching young players. In 2015, David was inducted as a National Sports Hero for the City of Pensacola, Florida. He spent his lifetime making his family proud.

David had an endless list of talents, but he was best at loving his family. He is survived by his precious daughter, Haven, the love of his life. He is also survived by his father and bonus mom, David (Butch) and Beth Elder of Social Circle; sister and brother-in-law, Dana and David Hammonds of Loganville; brother and sister-in-law, Daniel and Molly Elder of Pensacola, Florida, bonus sisters Angie (Tim) Laird of Bogart and Midge (Bryan) Curles of Winder. He is loved by nieces, Madison (Jordan) Moore of Snellville, Mallory Hammonds of Monroe, Charley Elder and Bella Bannerman of Pensacola; nephews, Dawson Hammonds of Loganville and Baylon Bannerman of Pensacola; bonus niece, Anneston Curles, and bonus nephews, Cameron Curles and Rylan Laird. Also surviving are his great nephews, Brooks Moore of Snellville and Miles Henderson of Pensacola. Many aunts, uncles, and cousins also loved him dearly.

When David Elder smiled, the room always found its light. His laughter rippled through all family gatherings. His magic lives on through those who loved him most.

Donations may be made in David's memory to Crossroads United Methodist Church in Conyers, Georgia. Visitation will be on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm at Scot Ward Funeral Home in Conyers, Georgia. The funeral will be held at 11 am on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at Crossroads United Methodist Church in Conyers, Georgia. Reverend Thomas Hall and Reverend Zach Martin will officiate. The family will hold a private burial at Eastview Cemetery in Conyers, Georgia.

Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Rd., Conyers, GA, 770-483-7216.

To watch the live streamed service you can either watch on facebook: <https://www.smore.com/app/reporting/out/4kasng?u=http%3A%2F%2Ffacebook.com%2Fcrossroadsumcconyers&t=CrossroadsUMCConyers&w=w-3519838537&i=&l=l-1786881147>

or youtube: [https://www.smore.com/app/reporting/out/4kasng?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUC3WytXH9onzb8Avw\\_0fpQ%2F&t=CrossroadsUMC%20Conyers&w=w-3519838537&i=&l=l-2067418809](https://www.smore.com/app/reporting/out/4kasng?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUC3WytXH9onzb8Avw_0fpQ%2F&t=CrossroadsUMC%20Conyers&w=w-3519838537&i=&l=l-2067418809)

# Cemetery Details

## East View Cemetery

1127 East View Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

## Visitation

FEB 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

## Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Crossroads United Methodist Church  
2460 Highway 138 NE  
Conyers, GA 30013



# Tribute Wall



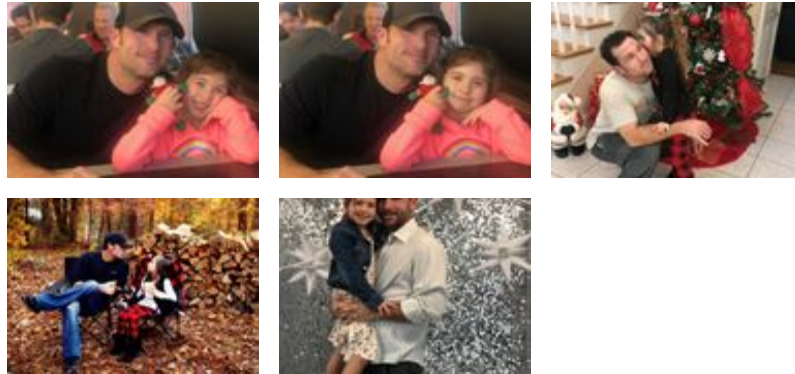
“ Dan & Deborah Lowery purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of David Elder.



Dan & Deborah Lowery - February 08, 2023 at 06:38 PM



“ 36 files added to the album Life Tributes



Scot Ward Funeral Services - February 08, 2023 at 10:38 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Elder.



February 08, 2023 at 09:30 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Elder.



February 07, 2023 at 09:49 PM



“ JR Homes purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of David Elder.



**JR Homes** - February 07, 2023 at 05:09 PM



“ Washington High School Baseball



**Britton Condon** - February 07, 2023 at 01:18 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Elder.



February 07, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Elder.*



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February 07, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *1 file added to the album cousins*



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**cousin** - February 07, 2023 at 07:23 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David Elder.*



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February 06, 2023 at 07:15 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of David Elder.*



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February 06, 2023 at 03:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Elder.*



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February 06, 2023 at 03:14 PM



“ *2 files added to the album cousins*

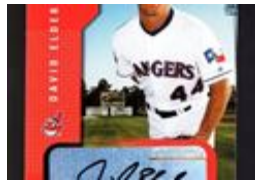


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**sheila** - February 06, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Scot Ward Funeral Services** - February 06, 2023 at 02:18 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David Elder.*

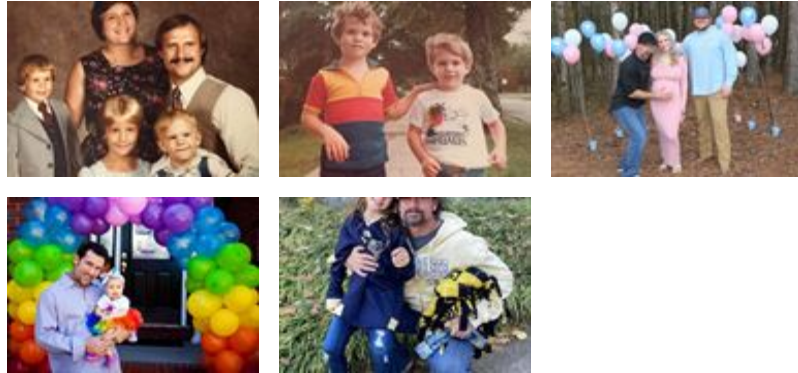


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February 06, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ 73 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Scot Ward Funeral Services** - February 06, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ *Matt, Jennifer & Colin Keefe purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David Elder.*



**Matt, Jennifer & Colin Keefe** - February 06, 2023 at 08:24 AM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of David Elder.*



February 05, 2023 at 09:40 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David Elder.*



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February 05, 2023 at 09:28 PM



“ *My family met David through baseball and both of my boys had the privilege of working with him for many years. David impacted their lives greatly both on and off the field and became a friend to our family. It was much more than baseball - he genuinely cared about and invested in the kids he coached and he will be so incredibly missed. Many prayers for his family during this difficult time. Please know what an impact he made on this world and I sincerely hope there is peace found in that.*

*Love, The Burghardts*

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**The Burghardt Family** - February 05, 2023 at 05:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Elder.*



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February 05, 2023 at 05:26 PM

MC

“ While we dated for a time, more importantly we stayed friends for more than 30 years. I will always remember us being silly as often as we could, laughing and crying when needed. Rest soundly sweetie, you’ll be remembered with love by so many.

Love,  
Michele

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**Michele Cochrane** - February 05, 2023 at 03:32 PM

SH

“ Sheila, Larry, Adam, Erin, Piper, Harper purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of David Elder.



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**Sheila, Larry, Adam, Erin, Piper, Harper** - February 05, 2023 at 03:01 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David Elder.



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February 05, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of David Elder.



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February 05, 2023 at 01:45 PM

MC

“ We only met David less than two years ago during a pivotal point in our son's life. David was an answered prayer and restored our son's love of baseball. He was an incredible, intelligent, and talented coach. He truly cared about the kids, invested in their lives, and always encouraged them to be their best. He played a huge part in our son's life and baseball career in just a short amount of time. We are heartbroken. He'll truly be missed but never forgotten.

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**Melissa Collum** - February 05, 2023 at 12:47 PM

BE

“ David spent a great deal of time in our home during his baseball career with the Cleveland Indians, whether in AA, AAA or the Bigs! He was kind beyond words, funny, generous of heart and fit right into our family. My heart is with all of you.  
Betsy Tausch

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**Betsy** - February 05, 2023 at 12:09 PM

LL

“ David coached both my boys and ended up being a wonderful friend. He will truly be missed.

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**Lisa Moore Leavell** - February 05, 2023 at 12:06 PM

SM

“ David was my first love. He thought me so many things about love and loss. Thinking back on David I have many memories, and I will chose to remember the happy ones. I hope he has found his peace that he couldn't find in this life and know he's in heaven with his precious momma. Love, Sarah

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**Sarah Mraz** - February 05, 2023 at 08:43 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Elder.



February 05, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ My son received pitching and batting lessons from David during his youth baseball career. My son loved him. David loved teaching and he loved the game. He wasn't just a Coach, he was a friend. When my dad passed away, he called and check on me and offered his condolences and support bc he knew what it was like to lose a parent. I never forgot the compassion he showed to others and he cared about all the kids who walked into his batting/pitching cage. He was just an all around good guy. Sending love and prayers to his family. David will be greatly missed.

Sabrina Evans - February 05, 2023 at 01:55 AM



“ David and I played ball together. He was an amazing friend to me both on and off the field. My son started playing travel ball at the age of 6, and David was his first and only trainer. He taught my son Brian a lot about the game of baseball and was more than just a trainer to him. We will truly miss David! Rest easy, my friend.



The Ward Family - February 04, 2023 at 10:05 PM

TB

“ I sure hated to hear of David’s passing. My son Jacob loved David and always thought that David was the coolest coach ever. We so looked forward to his lessons because we knew that David would be ready with new jokes, random trivia and unlimited baseball knowledge. David was the total package, smart, kind, and unbelievably talented. I hope he knew how many young men’s lives he impacted! Rest easy coach!!!

Tracey Bradley - February 04, 2023 at 07:19 PM

LR

“ A memory that comes to mind to me of David was when he was like 5 or 6 at Milstead Methodist Church Christmas play. Him and Daniel i think were shepards. They had the congregation laughing . They both knew their parts really well if I remember correctly they added alittle humor to their parts. They both were such sweet boys. I know they kept Debbie and Butch on their toes. 💙

lisa Rooks - February 04, 2023 at 06:14 PM

BE

I have never met David in person but got to know him through our friendship on Facebook...I taught his brother Daniel at WORKMAN MIDDLE in Pensacola in the early 1990's and met his Dad,,Butch at an open house...I realized what a loving family they were after reconnecting with Daniel as he and Molly joined our church...I've seen pictures of David's daughter growing up and know that she was the shining light in his life..my condolences to the family in their tme of grief.

Bonnie Exner

Bonnie Exner - February 04, 2023 at 08:06 PM

JW

I got to know David when I was taking my grandson to lessons at the Bullpen. It was so fun to see how he interacted with Will and encouraged him to work harder every lesson. He had a positive impact on so many boys' lives. Rest in peace my friend. Janet Wesley

Janet Wesley - February 04, 2023 at 10:48 PM

PP

*May God give you strength, comfort, peace and courage as you continue forward. I am so sorry for your loss 🙏❤️*

**Patricia Price** - February 05, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Elder.*



February 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM

TF

“ *My family has known David for over 10+ years. Our boys loved David and saw him as more than a coach, he was always the first one they called after any baseball accomplishments and traveled all over to watch them play when he could. We miss David dearly and my boys are so thankful for everything David shared with and thought them over the years! He made an impact in our household. “Hero’s get remembered but Ledges never died” “Fly high Friend” ~The Henderson Boys~*

**The Henderson Family** - February 04, 2023 at 05:56 PM

KM

*The news of David's passing has saddened me greatly. I taught David Latin at BTWHS, and enjoyed teaching him very much. I was happy when his baseball career became so successful. The tribute about his life was lovingly written and it's clear how beloved he was. I also am sorry to hear of Debbie's passing. The photos that showed such happy moments were both heartbreaking and wonderful. Dear Elder family, I am so very sorry. --Karen McAferty Morris*

**Karen Morris** - February 12, 2023 at 07:01 AM