



IN LOVING MEMORY

*David Mark Vereen*

JUNE 8, 1952 - JANUARY 6, 2026



*Memorial Service*

2 p.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Munden Funeral Home, Morehead City, NC

Officiated by Rev. Dr. Nate Leonard / Musician Deborah Lockey

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PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

“AMAZING GRACE”  
Congregational Hymn

SPECIAL MEMORIES

“IT IS WELL”  
Congregational Hymn

MESSAGE

“I’LL FLY AWAY”  
Special Music

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

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*Graveside Service*

2 p.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2026

New Bern Memorial Cemetery, New Bern, NC

# *David Mark Vereen*

JUNE 8, 1952 - JANUARY 6, 2026

David Mark Vereen, 73, of Newport, North Carolina, passed away peacefully at his home on January 6, 2026, following an 11-year battle with prostate cancer.

David, known to all as Mark, was born on June 8, 1952, in Morehead City, NC, to the late Joseph Hiram Vereen and Virginia Clemmer Vereen. After completing his bachelor's degree, Mark embarked on a successful career as a loss prevention and risk management specialist in the insurance industry, where his strong analytical and problem-solving skills served him well.

A true enthusiast of classic cars, Mark had a deep appreciation for their timeless beauty, craftsmanship, and history. He also attended First Baptist Church in Morehead City, finding fellowship and community among its members.

Mark will be dearly remembered as a loving husband of 52 years, a supportive father, and a proud grandfather. His family will carry forward the memories of his kindness and dedication, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Those remaining to cherish his memory are his loving and devoted wife, Lesley Musselman Vereen; daughter, Robin DeGrandis (Michael) of Hudson, NH; son, David Todd Vereen (Erin) of Hubert, NC; and grandchildren, Ethan DeGrandis and Violet Vereen.

Mark is also survived by his sister, Beverly Kay Vereen of New Orleans, LA; brothers-in-law, Brian Musselman (Barbara) of Camp Hill, PA, Dane Musselman of Los Alamos, NM, and Maurice Chevalier of San Antonio, TX; and nieces and nephews, Christian Musselman, Edward Musselman, Andrew Musselman, Georgia Pham (Kai), Mark Dudley, and Terry Chevalier (Mandy).

In addition to his parents, Mark was preceded in death by his sister, Virginia Carol Chevalier and brother, Donald Eugene Vereen.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mark's memory to Carteret Health Care Home Health and Hospice, 3500 Arendell St., Morehead City, NC 28557 or First Baptist Church, 810 Bridges St., Morehead City, NC 28557.

ARRANGEMENTS BY MUNDEN FUNERAL HOME, MOREHEAD CITY, NC.

## *In Loving Memory of Mark*

Mark and Lesley returned to Carteret County, North Carolina, in May of 2018. Mark often reminded people that he was not truly a newcomer—he had been born in the old Morehead City hospital in 1952. He grew up in New Bern, attending school there from first grade through his junior year at New Bern High School.

As a young man, Mark enjoyed many adventures with close friends, but his mother believed that a year of military school would better prepare him for college. He completed his senior year at Augusta Military Academy in Staunton, Virginia, and went on to graduate from East Carolina University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in History with a minor in Archaeology.

During his junior year at ECU, Mark met Lesley. They married in 1973 and, after Mark's graduation, moved to the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area, where Lesley was from. They spent ten years there, surrounded by extended family, and it was during this time that their children, Robin and Todd, were born.

Life in Pennsylvania required some adjustment for a North Carolina native—cold winters, ice skating, sledding down “real” hills, skiing, and even a few unfamiliar Pennsylvania Dutch foods. Mark embraced it all. In those early years, he took graduate classes, worked as a substitute teacher, spent time at Bell Telephone, and worked at a hotel that housed the owner's antique car collection, sparking a lifelong appreciation for vintage automobiles.

In 1977, Mark began working for Roadway Express. A promotion in 1984 took the family to New Hampshire, where Mark developed deep expertise in workplace safety, OSHA practices, and fleet compliance. He earned Red Cross certifications, trained managers throughout New England, and volunteered for several years at the Boston Marathon.

In 1990, Mark accepted a position with Travelers Insurance in Hartford, Connecticut, as a Risk Management Specialist. There he earned and maintained the Certified Safety Professional designation, continuing professional education throughout his career.

Mark's work later took the family back to North Carolina and eventually to Omaha, Nebraska, for what he called his "dream job" with Zurich Insurance. Though lifelong East Coasters, Mark and Lesley found Omaha to be a welcoming home.

Mark's career spanned more than forty years as a dedicated safety professional. His work quietly made workplaces safer and protected countless people he would never meet.

At every home they lived in, Mark expressed care through his hands. He was an exceptional woodworker and home renovator, building a large deck in Connecticut and completing extensive, high-quality renovations in Omaha.

In 2014, Mark was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Though it later returned, he faced years of treatment with strength and grace. He retired in 2017, and in 2018 Mark and Lesley returned to North Carolina, settling along Bogue Sound.

Mark believed this was where God wanted them to be—a place of peace, friendship, and reflection.

We are deeply grateful for the love, prayers, and support that Mark and our family have received, especially over these past few years. Those prayers carried us, strengthened us, and reminded us that we were never alone. Mark felt surrounded by care, friendship, and faith, and that gave him peace. From our hearts, thank you for walking this journey with us and for remembering and honoring the life of the man we loved.

# *Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep*

Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;

I am not there. I did not die.

BY MARY ELIZABETH FRYE



**MUNDEN**  
**FUNERAL HOME**  
*Family Owned & Operated Since 1955*

