



## David Michael Ihnat

November 16, 1953 - June 17, 2024

David Michael Ihnat, 70, skilled computer consultant (and then some), of Chicago's Peterson Woods neighborhood, passed away surrounded by love, after a short illness, June 17, 2024.

Born in Gary, Indiana, David graduated from Waukegan High School and earned his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He was a proud member of the Rho Delta Rho Chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity. An active participant in Navy ROTC throughout high school and college. Member of the Midwest Chapter of the High-Technology Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA).

His career spanned nearly 50 years working first at IITRI (Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute). He worked as a consultant for Analysts International with larger companies including Zenith, Kraft, Morningstar, Reuters, and Bell Labs. His work with Systems Development Corporation took him to Mexico City, London, and Dublin.

He started his own firm in January 2004, specializing small to mid size businesses, as he felt they were not getting the attention they deserved. He also supported many non-profit organizations as clients.

David was an avid reader including science fiction, fantasy, and history. He

greatly enjoyed attending Windycon, Capricon and other SF conventions. Meeting and speaking with authors, like Faith Hunter, gave him great joy. He truly loved vacationing and visiting family in Western Ireland, Hawaii, the Northeast Coast of the USA, and Texas. He was well known as a lover of chilies and hot sauce. Thankfully he had a cast iron stomach.

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David especially valued his last fifteen summer trips to the Keweenaw in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where he gathered with other General Technics (GT) members. Reconnecting with old friends, sitting around the fire pit at Centennial Cottage, watching the fireworks and trading stories was a much anticipated social event of the summer.

Beloved husband of 34 years to Patricia "Pattie" J. Kennedy, devoted father of Sean David Kennedy Ihnat.

Son of Michael John Ihnat and Marva Lee Ihnat (nee Shick), stepson of his much loved Joanne Foreman Ihnat. Half-brother of Roger Ihnat of Houston.

Adored son-in-law of Maureen K. and the late Terrence Kennedy, much appreciated brother-in-law of 13, endearingly puckish uncle of eighteen, and enthusiastic great-uncle of 30.

Faithful caretaker of Max the Moluccan Cockatoo and two feral felines, Sorsha and Willow.

David's family has chosen cremation, and a celebration of life is being held Saturday July 27, 2-6pm (remembrances begin 3pm) at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago, 60630. Hawaiian shirts are encouraged, but not required.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Illinois Legal Aid

Online <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/> or CatVando <https://www.catvando.org/>

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL **27**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N Knox Ave

Chicago, IL 60630

<https://irish-american.org/>

*2pm doors open 3pm service begins 4-6 reception*

# Tribute Wall

DP

“*Dave and I (and others) went to a Unix computer conference in San Diego. The last night we were there, per Dave’s suggestion, we made an evening trip to Tijuana, that turned into a drunken disaster, including a Navy frigate navigator that couldn’t navigate Tijuana, a 4 foot 8 inch female computer consultant trying to go Tiquila shot-for-shot with the boys, lost members of the party due to urination on a public tree, Dave assaulting a Mexican police officer in the judge’s court to get their attention to find the missing individuals, and a short interaction with the US border patrol asking why we had stopped on the side of the highway (we were disposing of our overindulgence in alcohol). All in all, a ridiculous night, followed by 2 hours sleep before making the plane home.*”

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**DOUGLAS PRICE** - July 25, 2024 at 09:31 AM

DP

“*I brought Dave into a startup company that I had recently joined close to its beginning. Now, the CIO of this company was a bit of a joker and trickster, but I really think he met his match with Dave, who could coldly plan out appropriate retribution, including burying a croaking noise maker in the CIO’s office ceiling, which would sound off occasionally.*”

*Dave and I were at the startup company for some months, and I went on a short vacation. When I returned, I sat down at my desk and turned my computer on. Nothing happened. I opened up the computer and found an IOU from Dave for 16Mb of memory that he had ‘borrowed’ for the testing lab.*

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**DOUGLAS PRICE** - July 25, 2024 at 09:30 AM

DP

“ At the consulting firm, we regularly had lunch meetings where 30 to 60 consultants working in the area would meet up for a nice lunch lead by the area manager. In this case, the area manager was late, so we proceeded to start ordering. At Dave’s suggestion, we got ahold of the ‘good’ wine list and ordered up a significant selection. Two hours later, the area manager showed up, to which we said, “Oh, look at the time! We have to get back to the customer site! Thanks for buying!, Bye!”. The bill was impressive. The next time we saw the area manager’s boss, the branch manager, he said: “Well played guys. Don’t do that again...”

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**DOUGLAS PRICE** - July 25, 2024 at 09:29 AM

DP

“ Dave and I met through Science Fiction, and at only 3 years out of college in a programming job, suggested that I had it in me to be a computer consultant. Happily, I took his advice, and joined his company, Analysts International, and spent over 13 years at places like Bell Labs. I will always be grateful that he saw that I had potential and dragged me into a successful career and life. Thanks Dave.

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**DOUGLAS PRICE** - July 25, 2024 at 09:28 AM