



John David Williams

September 17, 1946 - December 17, 2025

John David Williams (Dave), age 79, of Fort Collins, CO, passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 17, 2025.

Dave was born in Lamar, CO on September 17th, 1946 to George Williams and Jean Williams (McGrath).

Dave graduated from Lamar High School in 1964. He attended the Honors College of Michigan State University where he was the president of his fraternity Phi Sigma Kappa. He then went on to graduate from Harvard Law School in 1971.

After graduating from law school, he settled in Fort Collins, eventually starting his own law firm. He had a 30 year career focusing on real estate and business planning law. He concluded his law career serving as a Judge in the 8th Judicial District of Larimer County for a decade.

As a young bachelor, Dave enjoyed nothing more than traveling and photographing the world. His travels took him to six continents and all 50 states. He also developed an enduring love of the local arts and supporting the greater Fort Collins community.

On January, 28th, 1984 Dave and Linda Glenn married at St Joseph's Catholic

Church in Old Town Fort Collins. They were lovingly married for over 40 years. In this time they raised two children, Scott and Breanne.

When he wasn't with his family, you would likely find him golfing at the Fort Collins Country Club or deeply involved in one of his many community building efforts, ranging from selling beer at CSU football games for the Sertoma Club to sitting on the board of Canyon Concert Ballet.

Dave's legacy and memory will live on through his wife, Linda Williams, his son Scott and his wife Jaclyn, their two kids Clara (13) and Dylan (10) in Portland, Maine, his daughter Bre Rosen and her husband, Max and their daughter Lucy (8) in Denver. Along with his immediate family, he is survived by three of his siblings Mike Williams, Mary Ann Stults, Nancy Woods, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brothers Kent Williams and Fred Williams.

A celebration of life will be held in Fort Collins in the summer of 2026.

Donations in Dave's memory may be directed to The Family Center/La Familia of Fort Collins. Donations can be made on their website, thefamilycenterfc.org, or by calling 970-221-1615.

Tribute Wall

GK

“ Dear Linda,

On behalf of The Family Center/La Familia, please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of your husband Dave. His leadership, generosity, and unwavering commitment to our mission left a lasting imprint on the children and families we serve. We remain profoundly grateful for the wisdom and heart he shared during his years on our Board.

We are holding you and your family in our thoughts during this difficult time.

With heartfelt sympathy,

*Gloria Kat
Executive Director*

Gloria Kat - January 21 at 01:23 PM

KW

“ Linda, I was saddened to hear of Dave's passing. He was one of the finest men I have ever known. He was good, kind, and always showed an interest in what others had to say. He was so smart but ever so humble. I loved that he would share his beautiful photographs always with an explanation about each one. In the early years, maybe in the 70s-80s he even took the time to coach our team in the volleyball ladies' league-with a tremendous amount of patience. Unfortunately, his coaching was so much better than our performance, but we sure had a great time! Our weekly get-togethers at Kelsey's and then Joe's with 'the gang' was something Roy and I always looked forward to and getting to spend time with everyone and especially Dave. Dave will be remembered and missed greatly. Praying for you and your family for comfort and strength, Karen Wittstruck

KAREN WITTSTRUCK - January 13 at 07:35 PM

JS

“ My grandparents were very good friends with Dave (as well as my father). They enjoyed playing golf or tennis together. I also got a chance to get to know Judge Williams in his professional capacity as a Judge. I appeared before him for many cases and he always had a good smile and a hope for the future. He made a lot of tough decisions but did it with grace and thoughtfulness. I missed his wisdom after he retired from the bench but I really enjoyed seeing his enjoyment of CSU women's volleyball. I also really loved seeing all of his photos from his travels as they were displayed in the jury room. The earth is a little less warm from the loss of Judge Williams. May he rest in peace.

Jennifer A. Stewart - January 06 at 04:27 PM

WC

“ So Sorry! Sending love and light Linda

wendy cohen - January 06 at 10:20 AM

KS

“ Linda and family---you are in my thoughts and prayers. Remembering the special times keeps our loved ones with us forever. Treasure these wonderful memories each day. Please take care of yourselves. Love---Karen Shirey

Karen Shirey - January 05 at 10:25 AM

BK

“ I knew Dave through the practice of law and as a District Court Judge. He was an incredibly intelligent person and a fine person as well. He was a real credit to his community and the legal profession. We could use many more persons like Dave.

Bill Kaufman - January 04 at 05:38 PM

CA

“ I knew Dave mostly as a District Judge, before whom I practiced from time to time, as well as a skilled mediator, whom I used on several cases. Unlike some judges, Dave was never afflicted with “black robe syndrome”. He was always decent, approachable, a real pleasure to know as a fellow attorney. Even when things became heated in his courtroom, as some cases do from time to time, he remained calm—and yet totally in charge. Litigants and attorneys were always treated politely, and with compassion when necessary. A truly good man.

Cary Alburn - January 04 at 10:40 AM

DD

“ Linda. News reaches me slowly. I am sorry for you. A scab has been picked on my soul. I empathize and sympathize. He was a friend for awhile, a golfing partner, and a soul I could mine. I know I didn't fit in your economic strata but I always appreciated being recognized by him. PEACE! If I can help in your Celebration of Life for this summer, please ask. Dan Dean 01-04-2026

dan dean - January 04 at 10:01 AM