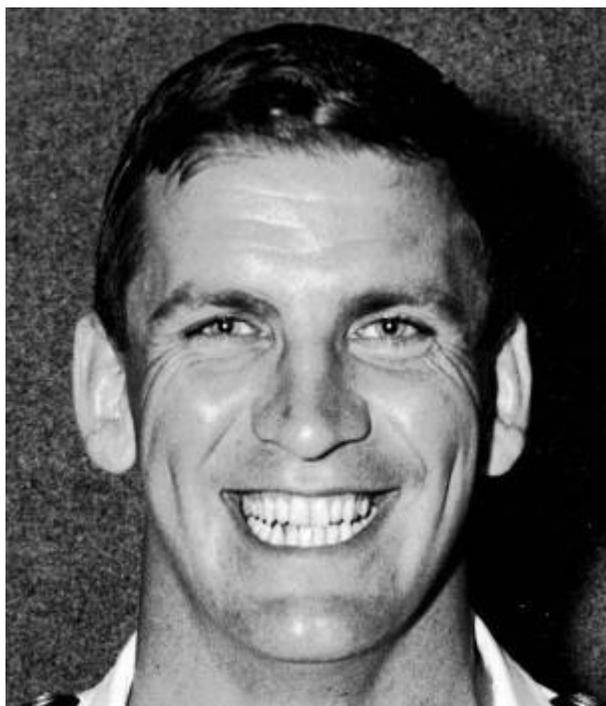


A Celebration of Life



David M. Sjuggerud
1942 – 2008

***“I am very proud of my Naval Academy background.
It is the defining factor in my life’s biography.”***

-from Dave’s Secret Autobiography*

***Nobody knew about it. But Dave was secretly working on his autobiography.**

**Before he died, he had written up to the time when he entered college.
So the stories in this book are Dave’s on the left pages, unless noted otherwise.**

**Dave’s deceased sister Nancy kept scrapbooks of Dave’s accomplishments.
So most of the photos and articles in this book are from Nancy’s books.**

**While they are no longer with us, Nancy’s meticulous scrapbooks and Dave’s eloquent words
are mostly responsible for this book in your hands now.**



Nobody knew Dave was on the way...

I was a surprise!

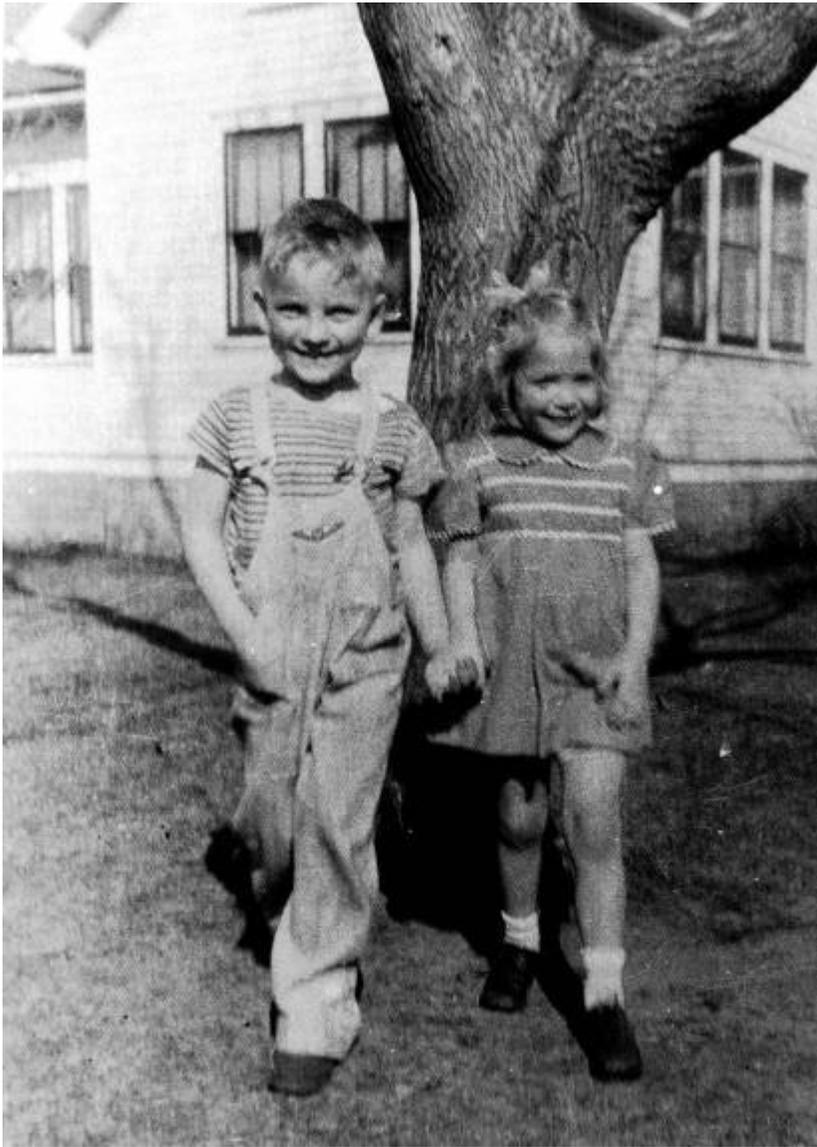
My twin sister Diane and I were born during World War II. The family history says that I was unexpected – twins had not been forecast. I arrived fifteen minutes after Diane. A mid-wife on a kitchen table most likely delivered us in my grandparents' home.

We were always associated together. We both had good friends. We were both well behaved. We were close. We always exchanged information on who liked whom, who would say “Yes” if asked to a prom or a school dance, etc. We had a relationship that others might not have had.

As we went through school in Menomonie, Wisconsin, sports success led me to popularity and a more visible persona. So Diane was somewhat stuck with being Dave's sister. To Diane, though I'm sure she was proud of my sports success, I'm sure that I was just the brother who was competing with her for resources and attention at home!

Diane and I had the exact same experience at exactly the same time... I wonder how she would describe it now, and if she would describe it differently. [*Diane's comment today: “Dave said it just right”*]

Of all of us in the family, my twin sister Diane seems most committed to keeping us together as a family. She will spend more time on the phone, sending cards, etc than the rest of us. I'm thankful for that...



Dave and his twin sister Diane

Seven people (five women!)... and just one bathroom...

With seven people in a four bedroom house, our home was sort of filled up. With only one bathroom, it's easy to imagine a huge bottleneck in the morning of people waiting for their turn -- especially when five out of seven of those people were women!

But that is not the way I remember it. I think we evolved into an unofficial order based on when our schools started, and then just took our turn when it came up without making a big deal of it. Mom made sure that all of her kids were all respectful and polite, and as well fed, clothed, and groomed as could be.

My older sisters (Nancy, Sandy, Candy and Diane) were all good students and active in school activities. They set the example for Diane and me. In addition to being expected to be good students, we all participated in band (I played the tuba), choir, sports, drama, honor societies, and civics clubs.

All of us were either involved in Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts. Mom was a Den Mother for both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. I participated for many years in Boy Scouts. One year, I actually camped out (slept in a tent) more nights than I actually spent in my bed at home! I eventually became an Eagle Scout, and a member of the BSA Order of the Arrow honorary society. Some of my best boyhood memories are of summer camps at the Boy Scouts Camp Phillips in northern Wisconsin.

Upon high school graduation, my sister Sandy was selected for the Alumni Award as the most outstanding graduate of our graduating class. It was a proud day for my family. I took note... Five years later, I won the same award...

Dave and his four sisters



“Watch this one, Coach!”

Track and field was always fun. I ran the high and low hurdles, high jumped, threw the discus, and contributed to the sprint relays. I was good, but not good enough to take home any individual state awards in any track and field event.

My fondest track memory came during my freshman year when I was learning how to hurdle...

The 120-yard high hurdles is a race with ten hurdles in your path. Each set of hurdles is set 10 yards apart. The only way to gain speed in the race is by using proper technique. Only three steps were allowed between hurdles in order to keep the lead leg in the lead. As a freshman, I had to really stretch to make those strides.

After a lot of hard work, I thought I finally had it down right. I called across the field for our coach, Mr. Greer, to watch. After a fast take-off out of the starting blocks, the toe on my lead foot hit the very first hurdle, and I went over the hurdle in a huge face plant and on all four hands and knees. Mr. Greer was not quite impressed.

Our track was covered with cinders, an ash residue substance which was common for tracks at the time. So I ended up with hands and knees full of cinders, some of which are still visible in my knees some forty-five years later. It's funny in a way, because that field and the cinders have long since been removed for other improvements at Stout, yet, some of those cinders continue with me far beyond the life of that track.

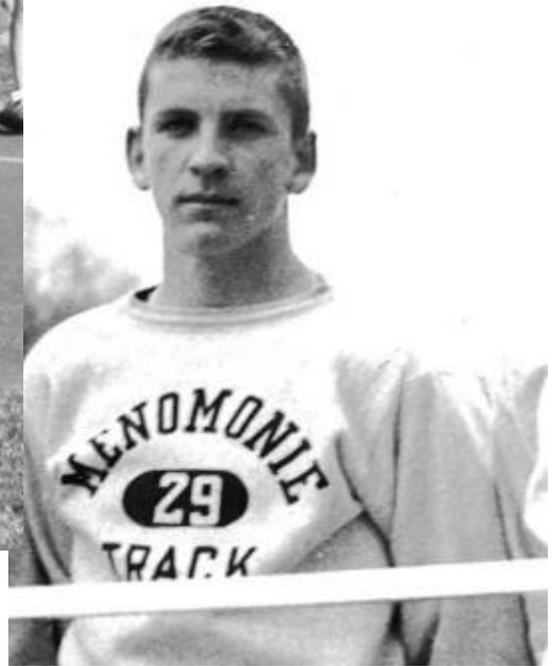
I always liked running the rest of my life. It remained a fun thing to do for most of my adult years.



THIRD ANNUAL
MARINE CORPS MARATHON
NOVEMBER 5, 1978

Left: Dave ran the Marine Corps Marathon at age 36. He considered it a big life accomplishment.

Below: Dave, the schoolboy hurdler with the cinders in his knees



How to get motivated to try harder... Get cut from the team!

One of my biggest disappointments was being “cut” from the eighth grade basketball team for not being good enough. It was doubly painful because I thought I had an “in” – the coach was dating my cousin Ann, who was living with us at the time!

After getting cut, I worked hard to make it the next year. I lifted weights and did weight training during the summers of my sophomore and junior years. This was before weight training became common in sports. I also wanted to develop better jumping ability. I wanted to be able to “dunk” the basketball. Almost no one in high school in our area could do it.

About halfway through my junior season, everything seemed to come together for me. I started playing good basketball. My skills had improved, and I seemed ready for bigger role on the team and getting more time in games.

I finally was able to dunk the ball. Though dunking was illegal at that time during games, we could always get a lot of “oohs” and “aahs” during warm-ups because most people in northern Wisconsin had never seen anyone dunk a basketball.

By my senior year, all this paid off...



Dave works on his dunk shot



**Dave (#44) fights four defenders
for the basketball**

**His hard work in the gym after
getting cut paid off...**

Look at those leg muscles!!!

Star of the basketball team

Senior year, we had a great basketball team.

I was named co-captain along with Ron Larson. I averaged over twenty points a game playing center for over twenty-five games. I once scored forty-one points in a game against Chippewa Falls.

We beat our arch rivals. We won our sectional and regional tournament basketball tournaments which qualified us for the state tournament.

We lost to Wausau in the State Championship Final in 1960 during what was then perceived as one of the best years in the history of Menomonie High School basketball.

Even though we lost, our town still held a big parade for the basketball team when we returned home from the state tournament.

Sjggerud Hits 41 Against Cards

DAVE SUGGERUD scored through several and over the Chippewa Falls defense to lead in points and the team to a 41-17 win over Menomonie Friday at Chippewa Falls. Sjggerud, leader of the team, finished over a Free Hickerson finished eight and the top point protected by an Indian center since late 1950, scored Keith Miesner hit 41 against Oso in a tournament game. Len Stewart pulled 40 against River Falls on Jan. 1, 1957.

The top now Menomonie's first in the state while Chippewa scored second by 41.

The last time for Cardigan's possession of the Chippewa County News traveling trophy. Since the trophy was not installed, Menomonie had won four straight regular season games over the Cards.

There is only one way to describe Sjggerud's performance—brilliant! And the way Indian center scored his points over through Chippewa turned the center and led the Indians to their first victory.

Sjggerud hit 13 points in each of the first two quarters, eight in the third and seven in the final period. His six straight points scored Menomonie from a 25-23 deficit to a 40-33 lead at the half.

To top off his splendid evening, he grabbed 12 of Menomonie's 25 rebounds.

Although not rebounded, 29-25, it was being average shooting from the outside line, not victory.

LeQue Hits

Substitute Jerry LeQue was the star for the Cards. Coming in when Don Kop picked up his fourth foul with 1:02 left in the third period, LeQue was the big gun in the Cards' fourth quarter.

The 4-4 center, who hadn't scored a point this season, finished in 31 minutes in the final contest as he worked inside. His track showed LeQue to be one of the best in the north part of the state and to play.

Menomonie started with the Cards and trailed by two, 40-38, with 3:33 to play when the home team had eight straight points. The Cards had leads of 14-13 at 1:14, 10-07 at 2:40 and 10-07 at 1:58.

The fighting Indians found the range in the last minute to close the gap from 16 to five points on baskets by Wayne Salska, Ron Larson, and Sjggerud's glitter hit line ran out on the Indians.

Pro Hits 10

Chippewa had four players in double figures headed by Elmer De Big Stone (15) and Paul Sauer (15) and LeQue finished with 12.

Larson trailed Stewart and

Big Stone finished 10-10.

Sjggerud Edges Harsh for UPI All-State First Team

By RAY W. BISHOP
UPI Staff Writer
MILWAUKEE, Wis. (UPI)—

DAVE SUGGERUD, center of the Chippewa Falls team, edged Harsh for UPI All-State First Team. Sjggerud, center of the Chippewa Falls team, edged Harsh for UPI All-State First Team. Sjggerud, center of the Chippewa Falls team, edged Harsh for UPI All-State First Team.

Indian Leader Sjggerud Closing in on 500 Points

By RON HUCKLE
UPI Staff Writer
MILWAUKEE, Wis. (UPI)—

DAVE SUGGERUD, center of the Chippewa Falls team, is closing in on 500 points. Sjggerud, center of the Chippewa Falls team, is closing in on 500 points. Sjggerud, center of the Chippewa Falls team, is closing in on 500 points.



DAVE SUGGERUD, center of the Chippewa Falls team, is closing in on 500 points.

Indian Leader Sjuggerud Closing in on 500 Points

By Ron Buckli
[Eau Claire Leader, 1960]

A basketball team is only as good as its leader. And because the Menomonie Indians have that leader in Dave Sjuggerud, they are a serious contender for the state high school championship this weekend at Madison.

Sjuggerud has scored the fabulous total of 491 points already this season. And yet, it is not just the scoring prowess of Sjuggerud that makes him the vital part.

Besides great mobility and scoring ability around the basket, he passes exceptionally well for a big man, is one of the area's best rebounders, and is a top defensive player. The sectional meet in Eau

Claire saw him continuously feeding teammates for easy baskets, passing up shots he probably could have made himself. Because of his unselfish attitude as a leader, he holds the respect of his teammates.

Sjuggerud, a rugged 200-pounder, is not only a basketball player but also excels at football, as an end, and in track. He likes each sport equally well, in season.

As for the future, Dave has his eyes on the Naval Academy. He has already been contacted by both Wisconsin and Minnesota for scholarships.

But right now, Dave is thinking of just one thing. And that's a state championship for the Menomonie Indians.

Don't cross off the possibility. With Dave Sjuggerud in the driver's seat, the Indians have gone a long way this year. They're not about to quit now.

Number 81: My “X-Ray Player”

By Dave’s Navy football coach Wayne Hardin, age 82

In 1961 we were training at Quonset Point, Rhode Island. I didn’t have time to get the practice film developed. I watched it “blind” -- it was like watching skeletons on the wall. I noticed this kid on defense, trying hard and doing everything by the numbers. I thought “*ooh... that guy’s pretty good!*”

But who was he? Who was that end playing there? The next day, nobody knew who I was talking about. We finally figured it out. He was on junior varsity -- it was Sugar. The next day, I moved him to varsity. “*Here’s the varsity playbook... learn it this weekend.*” He was a starter right after that.

Three weeks later, he led the defensive linemen in tackles in a 17-6 upset win over Miami. We watched the films, and named him the outstanding lineman on defense. The next year, he played more minutes than anyone on the team.

I remember President Kennedy came out to see us that day at Quonset Point. I got a private tour of Air Force One. I presented JFK a ball signed by all the players. The ball is apparently in a museum in Washington now, with Sugar’s name visible on it.

Anyway, well, Dave’s made the “real” varsity now... you know, Heaven.

–Coach Hardin, via telephone



President Kennedy meets Dave and the team at Quonset Point. Coach Hardin gives the President the signed ball.



Menomonie Mother to See Son Play Army-Navy Game

By Don Johnson

[Eau-Claire Leader 1961]

Mrs. Hazel Sjuggerud will be a proud spectator at the big game, due to the efforts of scores of generous citizens who take special pride in a Navy defensive end who has won praise from the press and coaches this season.

He's Dave Sjuggerud, now a sophomore at Annapolis, who left an outstanding academic and athletic record at Menomonie High School.

The 6'4 205-pound second-year man won acclaim earlier this year when he pounced on a Notre Dame fumble as the Irish threatened to score in the final minute of play. Navy won the game at South Bend, 13-10.

Now playing a first string defensive position, Sjuggerud has been praised as 'the biggest surprise of the season' on the Navy team.

The Washington Post called him "the Middie with the name only a

mother can pronounce." But the father of an Annapolis third-year man wrote Mrs. Sjuggerud, "I know all the Middies know him by name now."

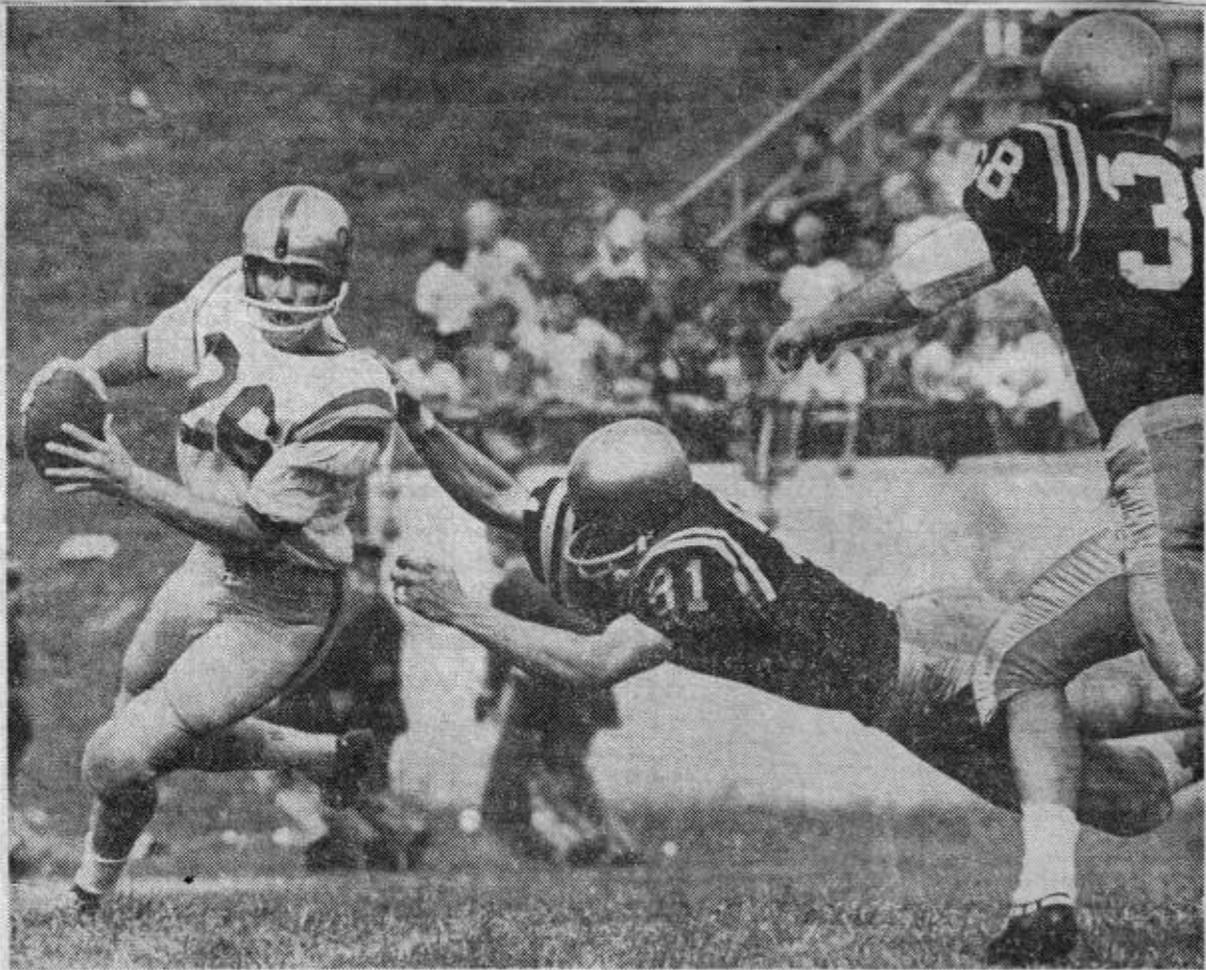
Mrs. Sjuggerud, who works in the kitchen at Memorial Hospital here, had hopes of visiting the academy on graduation day - hardly before.

But an idea was born recently in the office of Art Gilberts, manager of the Menomonie Farmer's Credit Union. "Wouldn't it be nice if Mrs. Sjuggerud could see the Army-Navy game?" "We've got over \$270 now. We've got the ticket to Baltimore and back -- \$119.13."

Response has been gratifying, noted Gilberts. As an example, a former competitor from Regis sent a contribution, along with warm praise of Dave's ability and sportsmanship.

The flight Thursday will be the first airplane ride for the mother of five. "But I've been flying for 10 days... ever since I found out about it," she declared on Monday.

If Dave got just three fingers on you... you weren't getting away!



By Dick Darcey, Staff Photographer

HAS HIS TROUBLES—Dick Kern, quarter-backing for William & Mary, rarely had a moment's peace as Navy tacklers rushed him in yesterday's game in Annapolis.

Here Kern is brought down for a loss by a flying tackle by Dave Sjuggerud (81), defensive Navy end, backed up by Pat Donnelly (38). Navy won the game impressively.

The '63 team that went to the National Championship game

“ With a cluster of fine receivers like Ends Jim Campbell, Dave Sjuggerud, Neil Henderson and Halfback Skip Orr, and the running of Pat Donnelly and Johnny Sai to take the pressure off his passing, Staubach and Navy have weapons to throw away.”

- Sports Illustrated cover story on Navy football, Dec, 1963

Right: Dave with another three-finger quarterback takedown, this time on SMU's quarterback. From Time Magazine, October 1963, with Roger Staubach on the cover

Bottom right: Dave attacking the quarterback in the National Championship game, January 1, 1964

**Below left: A tight group, to this day:
Team Captain Tom Lynch (#51), speedster John Sai (#48),
Heisman Trophy winner Roger Staubach (#12),
Coach Wayne Hardin, and Dave (#81)**





**Dave and Jean get married!
December 6, 1967 – 41 years ago**

Jean recounts the wedding night:

Dave said *“Oh Jean, let’s sleep with the windows open and let the snow come in, like I used to do up North!”*

It was our wedding night in France. I said to myself *“Oh no. What have I done? Who have I married?”*

You see, up to that point, I’d lived in Florida my whole life. I’d never seen snow before. I was freezing. As soon as Dave went to sleep, I shut the windows!

We were married in Marseilles, France, as Dave was on cruise in the Mediterranean. We left Marseilles the day of the wedding to honeymoon in Grenoble. There was a problem after the six-hour train ride though... Grenoble was fully booked when we got there... since it was the site of the Winter Olympics that year. Dave finally found us a “training” hotel way outside of town. Bathroom-down-the-hall-type place.

The next morning Dave woke up and said he was hot... but I was still freezing. I needed a warm coat, so we went shopping. After that, Dave said he didn’t want to shop with me ever again! Off to a rocky start! But what a wonderful marriage it turned out to be...

December 6th, would have been our 41th wedding anniversary. I love you Dave! Happy Anniversary!

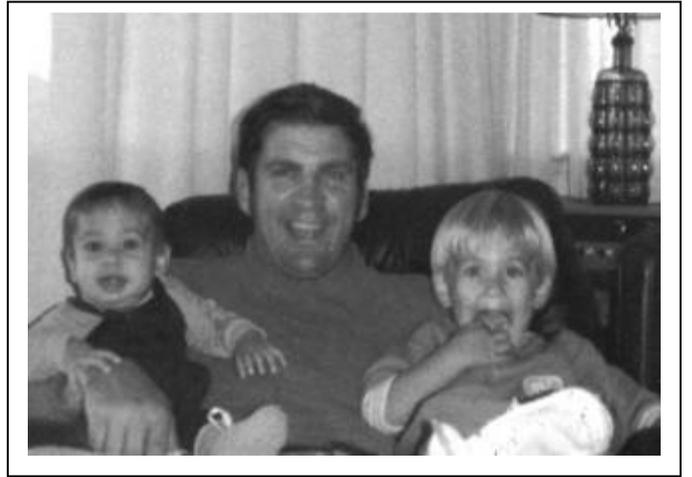
--Jean

**On the way to get married... in Marseilles, France
Don't they look like movie stars?**

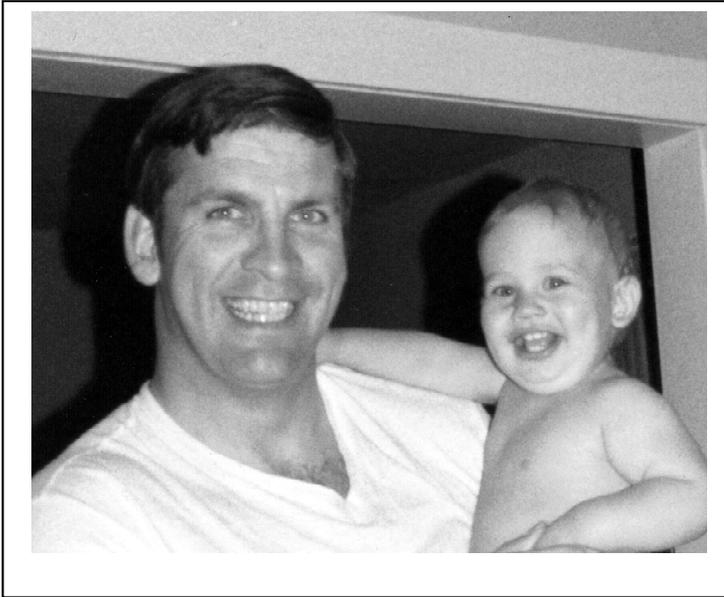


The Next Chapter... Kids!

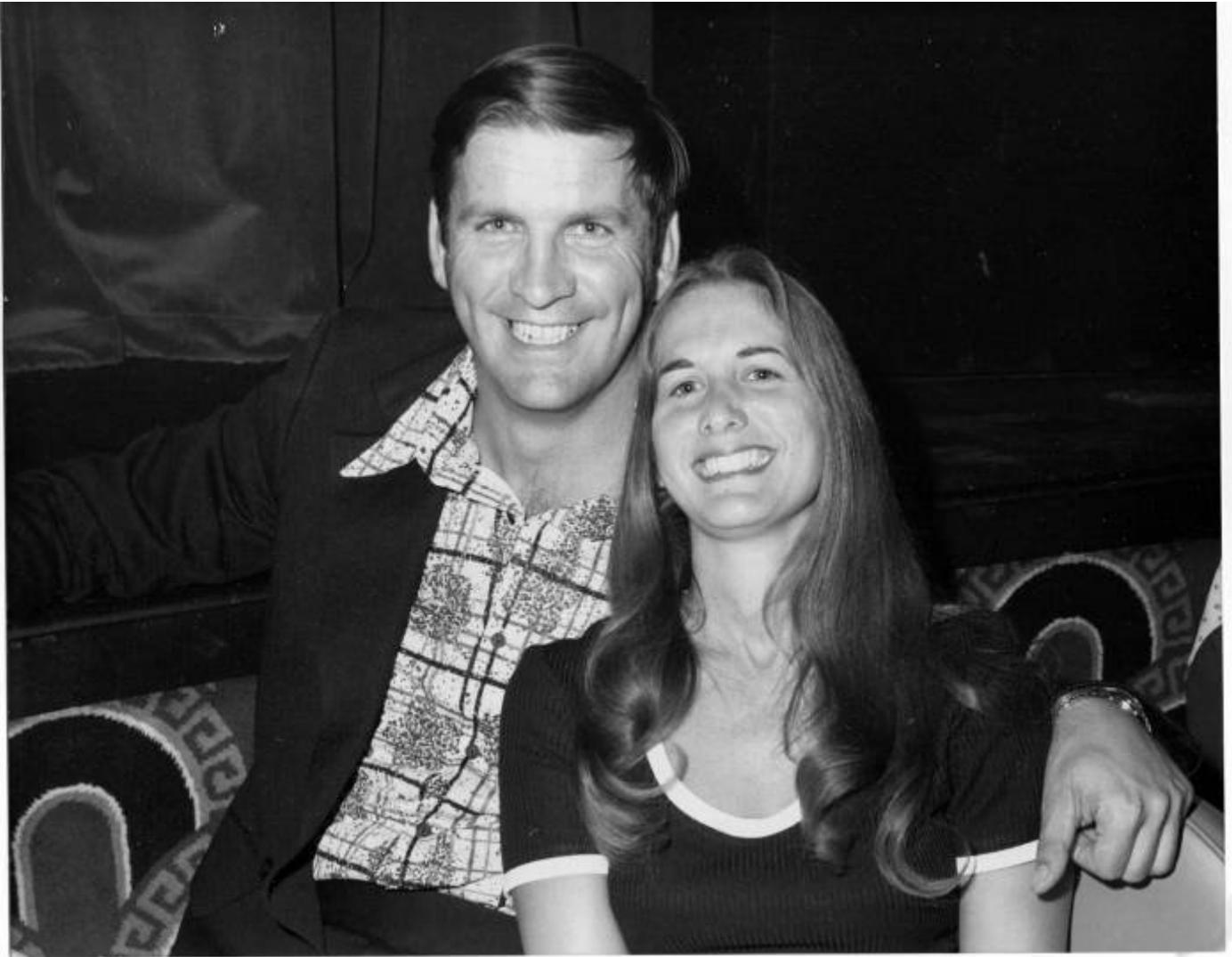
Right: Mike arrived in 1973



Below: Steve arrived in 1971



Why are they smiling with two little kids? One word: Babysitter!



Distinguished Career as a Navy Test Pilot

Letter dated 1/24/86 from J.B. Wilkinson,
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters

Dear Commander Sjuggerud:

Your retirement marks the culmination of over 21 years of exceptional active service in the U.S. Navy. In the future, you may proudly reflect upon a naval career distinguished by personal dedication and professional accomplishment.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1964, you earned your "wings of gold." You were first assigned to... fly the F-8 Crusader and achieved over 350 carrier landings in deployments in support of the North Korean expedition and the Vietnam campaign.

You then graduated from Test Pilot School... where you contributed significantly to testing the F-14 aircraft. Concurrently you earned a Master of Science from George Washington University...

After managing F-18 engineering support for the first flight, you spent the following four years at Eglin AFB as Joint Test Force Deputy Director for the AMRAAM missile. After a tour as Project Director for the F/A-18 Flight Simulator at the Naval Training Equipment Center in Orlando, Florida, you were selected for captain, USN...

On the occasion of your retirement from active duty, I join your family and friends in extending my sincere appreciation to you for your many years of dedicated service to your country... -J.B. Wilkinson



Dave's test pilot skills landed him a trip to NASA, where he became a semifinalist to become an astronaut in 1978. Dave retired from the Navy in 1986 with many service medals.



Navy Retirement years... Time for family and friends

Dave's Central Florida family, 1998...



Reliving his youth in Wisconsin...



***“I just feel so good about feeling so good,
that I’ll go off on it without hardly even asking”***

-Dave, late October 2008 email to Navy football teammate Nick Markoff

Dear Nick,

My health is fine. The nice part of that situation is that I believe that it gets even better each day.

I have continued to lose weight (down about another 25 lbs since the reunion). I continue to walk (really stroll) 30 minutes every day and watch my diet without being obsessive about it. We spent most of the summer months in Menomonie WI (my hometown) where I was biking about 5-7 miles every day on beautiful country roads alongside the lakefronts there. I loved it.

My daughter in law has never seen me in this shape, and my grandkids think I'm a bundle of energy to play with. That was not possible a year ago.

Both my cardiologists have turned me loose. In a recent routine visit with my family practice physician, he told me that I was a medical miracle - that of 100 patients in my condition last November, 95 would not recover. I'm now trying to figure out why He wanted to keep me around.

Well, you asked me for the time, and I told you how to build a watch... Sorry about that. But I just feel so good, and feel so good about feeling so good, that I'll go off on it without hardly even asking.

--Sugar

The Wisconsin House, late 2008



Family Portrait, November 2008

Right where Dave wanted to be... Between his two "girls", two sons, and two grandkids





Happy to be alive

November 2008 email to Dave's friend Mal Schuldiner, who was riding with Dave when he had the accident:

Mal,

I just completed a 12.5 mi ride on the West Orange Trail this morning. Nice track, beautiful day, really pleasant ride. I really have enjoyed our rides and take quite a bit of pride in telling friends and family what we've done. The park trails we've been on have been great. Hope you are having a good time in NYC.

--Dave