



David G. Brooks
1939 - 2011

Recollections

I met Dave Brooks in 1970 shortly after being separated from the U.S. Navy and returning to my wife and home in Decatur, GA. Dave was a friend of my then brother-in-law, John Sluss. They both worked for the City of Atlanta. John had bought a small, four-unit apartment building in East Atlanta, and Dave was renting one of the units. John and his wife (Jan), at the time, lived in one of the apartments. Shirley and I also moved into one of the apartments. Over the ensuing couple of years I got to know Dave fairly well and we became friends and remained friends for 40 years.

Dave had dropped out of Valdosta State College and moved to Las Vegas, NV with his girlfriend and soon-to-be wife. After a few years, he and his wife split up and Dave was left in something of a financial mess. He took a job working as a dealer in one of the casinos and did that for a couple of years. He eventually decided to return to Valdosta, GA and live with his father and finish his degree in math. Upon completing his degree, he moved to Atlanta and took a drafting position with the City of Atlanta. He shortly left that position and took a teaching position in the City of Atlanta school system. Dave's real passion was automobiles, and he took a class in body and fender repair offered by the school system for their students. The summer after taking that class, Dave got a job working in a local body repair shop and never returned to teaching.

Dave was an outgoing and friendly person who would go out of his way to help someone, if he could. He and I frequently worked on an Austin Healy that I owned. The car went through clutches on a regular basis, and Dave was always ready to help and make his equipment available to change out the clutch, which required removing the engine and transmission from the car. Over the years he helped me with several cars. After he moved to Sugar Hill, GA, I didn't see him as often and we moved to Mobile, AL. He visited us in Mobile and later in Starkville, MS, where we moved when we left Mobile. We often visited him and his third wife, Marilane, in their home in Sugar Hill, GA, when we came to the Atlanta area for a visit.

After I moved back to the Atlanta area, Dave, Mickey and I bought season tickets and started attending Georgia Tech football games. We did that for several years and then switched to the Atlanta Falcons. When the Falcons moved to a new, indoor stadium, the threesome became a twosome. Dave and I continued to go to Falcons games for many years, including attending the first Super Bowl that the Falcons played in.

A couple of years after we stopped going to football games, Dave was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. At the time, he was living in Gainesville, GA, and I was living in Ball Ground, GA. I talked with him by phone a couple of times and then went to visit him about two weeks before he died. Dave was a fine fellow and a good friend. He is sorely missed. In his latter years, he became pretty engaged in the Methodist Church in Sugar Hill, where his wife was an associate minister. I hope he made it to "heaven." He certainly deserved it.