



Alexander Kade

August 30, 1952 - August 7, 2021

Alexander Kade, age 68, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away at home on August 7, 2021. He was born on August 30, 1952 to Maria and Chadzeslan (George) Kade in Klagenfurt, Austria and emigrated with his family to the United States in 1955. He attended Cass Technical High School and achieved both his bachelor's and master's degree Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University.

During his university years, Alex began what became a storied 33-year career in engineering at General Motors, during which he recorded 37 patents with a heavy focus on improving the safety of motor vehicles, especially anti-lock braking systems and collision detection and avoidance. The ABS-VI system, of which he led development, won numerous awards, including the Henry Ford II Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers, GM's Boss Kettering Award and Popular Science's Best of What's New.

After General Motors, Alex continued his pursuit of improving vehicle safety and security over almost a decade with the U.S. Army TARDEC in Warren, Michigan, focusing on autonomous vehicles. During his tenure there, he was twice awarded the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

Alex was an avid fisherman and traveled across the United States and Canada, from Florida to Lake Nipissing to Alaska, in search of the next catch.

Alex was a family man and a loyal friend and was respected by everyone who had the opportunity to work with him.

Alex is survived by his three children, Jonathan (Diane) Kade, Dr. Allison (Chris) Fox, and Andrew Kade; his two grandchildren Evelyn and Audrey Fox; and his sister, Lillian Kade. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Anne Kade.

Memorials are suggested to Headwaters Land Conservancy: <https://headwatersconservancy.org/>

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

Woodward South of 8 Mile Road
Detroit, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Alexander Kade*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Alexander Kade*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to his family. Alex was an acquaintance of my brother Jack Coleman, and I was friends with his sister Lillian when we lived on Florida Street in Detroit. Alex and Lillian lived a couple blocks west of us. I have fond memories of them and their parents and remember him as a very intelligent, kind and quiet person. I have been looking for Lillian and Alex of and on over the years. I'm sorry that this was the first time I came across Alex's name. Sounds like he did very well, as I had always expected he would.*

Kathleen Coleman Gutierrez - March 20, 2022 at 02:57 PM



“ *I was privileged to work with Alex on ABS VI back in the late 80s and early 90s as a legal adviser to the engineering group. A brilliant engineer and a great guy to work with. I would bump into him very occasionally at GM after that and it was always great to see him and catch up. My condolences to his family and friends.*

Ron Porter - August 25, 2021 at 10:31 AM

CH

“ So sad to hear of Alex's passing. We were neighbors with Alex and Ruth Ann in Grosse Pointe Woods from 1985-2008. I have lots of wonderful memories of all the fun get-togethers we had. Alex had such a happy spirit. I can't remember a time where Alex wasn't smiling or laughing. That is my most favorite, lasting image of him. Rest in peace dear friend.
The Huntsman family

Colleen Huntsman - August 22, 2021 at 04:07 PM

RD

“ I was fortunate to be among those who worked with Alex in his 'GM days'. He was the definition of integrity, creativity and caring. My deepest condolences to his family.

Richard Deering - August 19, 2021 at 07:07 PM



“ Alex was a second father to me so often. Very often I would come over to spend time with Andy, Jon, Allie, and Roxie and was treated like family by Alex. I always had good conversations with him. The last time I saw him was exactly 15 years ago - at my wedding recital dinner. Jon, I saw you too that night. Too many years went by where I just heard updates but failed to stay in touch. I miss him. He was such a great man and father and will be missed so much. Best wishes and many condolences...

Nick

Nick Sabella - August 12, 2021 at 09:14 PM

AL

“ Spending a lot of time thinking about my dad today, and a couple of memories came to mind.

1. I'm 16 years old. I'm driving my first car, following behind him and the family on the way to my grandma's house. One of my best friends is riding with me. I notice before we get on the highway that she's not buckled and tell her she needs to buckle up, because that was always a non-negotiable rule with my family. She argues and I insist and joke about being new at driving. 15 minutes or so later a car cuts into our lane and I lose control, fishtailing all over the highway. My friend starts praying. I start talking about how we're going to be fine because my dad told me about how the medians and cars were designed to absorb the impact. I didn't get it all out before the airbags went off, we spun across the highway, made it up the hill, made it down the hill, hit the median again from the rear. And walked away relatively unscathed, because the safety stuff did what it was supposed to do.

2. I made my dad drive with me down to New Orleans a few years after Hurricane Katrina because I was presenting at a conference and he agreed because he wanted to check out the fishing. We ended up in an abandoned boat tour swamp at dusk, because fish. Obviously. He's casting and I'm watching and a snout pokes up out of the water. "Honey, I think I saw a rise," he says, casting back at that area. "Dad, I think that's an alligator," I say. It gets very close to shore before he agrees and we make a run for it.

Allie - August 12, 2021 at 07:04 PM



Jonathar
Kade

Given his track record of catching stuff that was not fish, I'm surprised he didn't hook a gator!

Jonathan Kade - August 12, 2021 at 07:28 PM



Jonathar
Kade

I was in the car with him and Mom and Andy and saw that wreck in the rearview mirror. I never saw him as scared as he was in that moment.

Jonathan Kade - August 12, 2021 at 07:29 PM



Nicole and I were just talking about this - we miss you all. @allie, Nicole just texted you on fb as well

Nick Sabella - August 12, 2021 at 09:10 PM

NR

“*It is with a heavy heart that I hear the news of the passing of Alex Kade. He was always a terrific family friend and positive influence. His wisdom, kindness, and humor illuminated my childhood and teenage years. Though his life was short, it was full of meaning and contributions. Human kind is lucky to have such souls, who sacrifice themselves to lift up others. Cancer is a faceless demon who does not discriminate based on race, religion, or culture. It kills indiscriminately and without mercy. I am sorry that contributions to cancer research could not move the needle in time. This monster hurts us all, and is a burden to us all. I wish that prayers could bring Mr. Kade back in to this world, but we all know they cannot. My condolences go out to Jon, Allie, and Andrew, the children that survive Alex Kade. May your lives be long and prosperous, and may you find the things that you seek. Your father's soul is in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope that he is in heaven. His time on earth has come to an end, and his suffering is over. Let this bring comfort in this terrible time of grief.*

Nicholas Raptis - August 12, 2021 at 06:11 PM

EB

“ It has been a blessing in my life to know Alex. He was so much more than a work colleague at GM. Besides being a brilliant and creative engineer, he was a welcoming compassionate individual. A fantastic man. His honesty and integrity were inspirational to all that worked with him. I will truly fondly remember the times I spent with him and feel honored to have been his friend. I miss you already Alex.

Eternal rest grant unto him dear Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon him.

Ed Browalski

Ed Browalski - August 11, 2021 at 11:50 PM

CC

“ Glad Susie and I had the pleasure of growing up next door to Alex. One of the sweetest guys ever - always with a smile on his face. Forever in our memories and our hearts. You will be deeply missed.



carol chrzastek - August 11, 2021 at 05:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alexander Kade.



August 11, 2021 at 08:59 AM

AN

“ So sad to hear that Alex has passed away. We met when I started at GM's Electrical Center in 2000. Alex was one of the few people a young engineer could turn to and know he would get the right answer - even if it was not the convenient one.

Alex had earned the respect of the organization, not only with his deep engineering skills, but with his friendly, approachable, and patient style. He was one you would be glad to call your colleague, neighbor, and friend. Simply a great role model. Rest in peace, Alex. I will miss you.

Axel Nix - August 10, 2021 at 08:49 PM

DB

“ Alex and I were great friends in elementary school through college and he was my Best Man at my wedding in 1976. My wife and I have many fond memories of our camping trips with Alex where we fished and canoed in Michigan. He will be forever remembered by our family for his wonderful sense of humor and his passion for engineering and the outdoors.

David Bartnicki and Anita Otal



David Bartnicki - August 10, 2021 at 06:01 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Alexander Kade.*



August 10, 2021 at 05:32 PM



“ *Sorry to see you go Alex, I can still vividly hear your voice and laughter even though it's been three years since I last saw you. Always smiling, always willing to help, every room got brighter when you walked in.*

Matt DeMinico - August 10, 2021 at 05:29 PM

DS

“ Alex was a friend to all, even in his younger years!

Alex and I were childhood friends who grew up across the alley from each other in Detroit. Even though he was 17 months older than me, he was always willing to share his time and knowledge. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor. He had a way of making you feel that your issue or conversation was the most important topic for him to discuss. He taught me the inner workings of electronics, and how to repair the many problems of my old car. He taught me how to fish next to the Ambassador Bridge, and even how to clean fish (including catfish). He even tried to help me understand engineering formulas & theories, which helped me realize how smart he really was. We finally separated paths when Alex continued to feed his love for engineering as I chose the simpler life of accounting.

I always hoped that we would cross paths again allowing us to talk about families, grandchildren, and past careers. But those plans don't usually work out unless we make a valiant effort to make them come true. It is great to hear so many of his recent friends say such great things about him. I guess that his great personal attributes of caring for people could only continue to grow and get more prominent to all.

I will miss you my friend, along with countless others who have had the opportunity to cross your path and be touched by your greatness. If we could only be a fraction of what you were, this world would be a much better place. May your memory live on in all the actions and kind things that we share with others in your name.

Daniel Swisz

Daniel Swisz - August 10, 2021 at 04:45 PM

SM

“ Alex,

I am honored and blessed to have known you. I will miss your smile and your great sense of humor. I will miss all of the wisdom in your advice and you sharing stories of your life.

I'm heartbroken. I wish I'd told you all of these things in person.

I saw the light in your eyes fade after you lost Ruth so I find a little peace knowing you two are together again.

I miss you and I'll see you on the other side of the stars my friend.

Stacy Mills - August 10, 2021 at 02:19 PM


Jonathan
Kade

“ 29 files added to the album Photos from the family



Jonathan Kade - August 10, 2021 at 12:55 PM

CM

“ So sorry to hear this sad news about Alex. I grew up with him and I haven't seen him in many years. I am posting an old picture of him, it's from 1967. I know he will be missed by all who knew him, he was a very special person ❤️.



Chuck Moore - August 10, 2021 at 12:11 PM

DK

“ Everyone at U.S. Army TARDEC Robotics is better for having known Alex Kade. In his post-GM career, Alex was "The New Guy", but his engineering experience, professional demener and true kindness immediately earned the respect and friendship of everyone in the group. We are all thankful for the time we had with him, he is one of the guys that will be remembered forever.

Dave Kowachek - August 10, 2021 at 11:22 AM

SM

Perfectly said Dave. I can't imagine GVR without Alex. I've never met anyone nicer. He always had a smile on his face. I'm going to miss hearing about his grand kids.... he loved his family tremendously. It will never be the same.

Stacy Mills - August 10, 2021 at 01:27 PM

SR

Truly one of the kindest, most intelligent people I ever have ever worked with and had the honor of becoming friends with. He had so much good advice and was like a second father to me. Even when I left TARDEC, we still stayed in touch. I will miss you dearly Alex.

Shanna Render - August 11, 2021 at 09:57 AM

GJ

I was the new guy during his last year at GVR and I remember his smile and warmth in welcoming and helping me through my first year. A genuinely kind and caring gentleman through and through.

Gerald Jung - August 12, 2021 at 07:58 AM

TW

“ *I first met Alex in the late 1980's when his group from GM Research moved over to Advanced Engineering Staff and I became part of that team because of the projects I was involved in. Alex became my Project Manager and over a very short period of time a dear friend. Alex was a great Engineer but he was an even better person. Everybody who worked for Alex enjoyed it because he genuinely cared about them. Alex always found time to break away from his day to day work activities or between meetings to walk on down to the shop area to just say hello and sit a few minutes and talk about everything under the sun. I was blessed to be able to carry our friendship outside of GM. Alex was an avid fisherman and I was someone who just enjoyed fishing. Alex taught me so much on how to fish for Salmon and Steelhead that to this day I can share that knowledge with my own son who enjoys fishing as well. As much as I enjoyed our fishing trips, I enjoyed our conversations traveling to all our fishing destinations.*

Even as life and careers moved on, we still found time through phone calls, e-mails and later texts to say hi and talk about what was going on with our lives, our families and of course fishing.

Alex, Rest In Peace my friend. You will be missed greatly by everybody you touched but you will stay alive forever in our hearts!

Tom Wiszowaty

Tom Wiszowaty - August 10, 2021 at 10:52 AM

MC

“ A true gentlemen engineer, Alex was one of the best I knew. On top of that was the fact that he was more concerned about people than the political atmosphere that we lived in. He was a great man and engineer; and a pleasure to work with because he actually cared about what was in the best interest and not the political best interest. GM was lucky to have him. I will miss his smile and words of wisdom. He was a great man. Rest in Peace my friend. I am so so sorry to hear of your loss. It is a shock to me. Mike Cutajar.



michael Cutajar - August 10, 2021 at 09:44 AM

DR

“ I first met Alex when his team interviewed and hired me at the research labs, the respect and admiration that all his co-workers had for him told me that he was someone extraordinary. After finding that we had similar interests, we became friends. That friendship grew as time and responsibilities pushed us through life, Alex always found time to be a friend and we had numerous adventures as families and fishermen - Alex taught me a lot about integrity, curiosity and applying wisdom. Our hours of conversation touched on all aspects of life, philosophy and of course on fishing and nature. Like so many, I benefit from his influence every day. I can truly say that Alex was a model of what a person should strive to be. His kindness was manifested in his help of anyone and anything in need, including hungry dogs or lost kittens or turtles crossing a road. Through all of this, his sense of humor and extra effort brought light to a world that needs it, all that knew him understand this. The stories that could be told are many.

Alex left too soon, but his spirit continues on, I see it whenever I speak to his children or friends - he did improve the world.

Alex, I know you are in a better place, devoid of sorrow, pain and suffering. Tight lines, my friend! You will be missed greatly, may your memory be eternal!

dino raptis - August 10, 2021 at 07:57 AM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Benita Rohm - August 09, 2021 at 11:58 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Benita Rohm - August 09, 2021 at 11:55 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Alexander Kade.



August 09, 2021 at 09:07 PM

RL

“ *Rick & Merly Lotoczky* purchased the *A New Sunrise Spray* for the family of Alexander Kade.



Rick & Merly Lotoczky - August 09, 2021 at 08:00 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Alexander Kade.



August 09, 2021 at 07:12 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Alexander Kade.*



August 09, 2021 at 10:17 AM



“ *Alex and I both graduated from Wayne State. I was 10 years earlier and working at General Motors Research Labs when Alex interviewed and was hired. GM got a real prize with Alex and those working with him a real friend. Alex is what could be called an engineer's engineer. He was both technically sharp, but also had a natural and intuitive understanding, allowing him to solve problems quickly. Beyond being recognized technically, Alex had a magnetic personality and people were attracted to him. Even in his early years, before becoming a project manager, Alex seemed to be a central figure in everything he was involved in. This was not by his doing. It seemed to occur organically with those working with him, myself included. We will always remember his smile and his laugh. I feel most fortunate to have worked with Alex, have him as a friend, and stay in contact in the years after GM, most recently last summer sailing on Lake St. Clair with a group of GM retirees.*

Alex you will be so missed by all those who knew you! I am deeply saddened but know your suffering is over and you're in a better place.

John Neuman

John Neuman - August 08, 2021 at 08:49 PM

AD

“ I met Alex in Engineering school in 1974. He was the TA (Teacher Assistant) for the Electrical Department Chair. He was a combination of a big brother and the greatest guy in the world. We became fast friends. After graduation, we went separate ways with careers and family.

Later in life, our paths crossed again while working at GM R&D. I feel blessed for enduring reunion. He was an accomplished and a highly respected engineer and others sought-out his opinion. He was the magic "glue" in meetings.

Beyond the technical end, he was an easy-going guy. We met for lunch at many of his favorite spots — an obscure Chinese joint comes to mind. We would meet for after work beer sessions. He loved my wife's famous Meatloaf and Sloppy Joes. Alex made the trip to Rochester for dinner at my house.

I have the fondest memories of Alex. He fought a courageous fight and never gave up. I — and many others — will miss you dearly Alex. You will live in our memories forever. RIP, my friend.

Arthur Daschke - August 08, 2021 at 10:54 AM