



David Walter Garst

July 4, 1973 - February 25, 2026

David Walter Garst, 52, born on July 4, 1973, passed away on February 25, 2026. David devoted his career to conserving and protecting natural resources as a wildlife biologist with the Virginia Department of Wildlife, a role he approached with deep knowledge, steady dedication, and genuine care for the outdoors he loved.

Exceptionally talented, David had a hands-on skill and curiosity that seemed to have no limits. He tied his own flies, built his own fishing rods, and was always learning something new. More recently, he began tanning the squirrels he and Andrew hunted together—another example of David’s resourcefulness and the pride he took in doing things the right way, from start to finish. He was happiest outside—on the water at daybreak, along a quiet shoreline, or walking the woods with a watchful eye and a patient heart. An avid angler and lifelong outdoorsman, he found peace in nature and joy in sharing it with others, especially his family.

He is survived by his wife, Rachel Mair; and his son, Andrew Garst, age 12. He is also survived by his parents, Carolyn and Toby Garst; his brothers, Jamie Garst (Sarah) and Kevin Garst (Sarah); and his beloved nieces and nephews, Jackson, Parker, Finn, Lauren, and Elizabeth, as well as many extended family members and friends who will miss him dearly.

A celebration of David's life will be held on March 7, 2026, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Vincent Funeral Home, 9923 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140. Family and friends are invited to gather, share memories, and honor David's life and the legacy he leaves behind.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes memorial contributions to a wildlife conservation or outdoor education organization of their choosing, in honor of David's lifelong commitment to animals and nature.

David will be remembered for his brilliant mind, his remarkable abilities, his love of the outdoors, and the steady love he gave to his family—his greatest pride and purpose.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel
9923 Pocahontas Trail
Providence Forge, VA 23140
(804) 966-7075

Tribute Wall

BD

“ *Beverly Darlington lit a candle in memory of David Walter Garst*



Beverly Darlington - March 07 at 12:04 PM

ST

“ *Sidney & Altheia Tyler lit a candle in memory of David Walter Garst*



Sidney & Altheia Tyler - March 05 at 07:00 PM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss*



Thomas Widgeon - March 04 at 06:29 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of David Walter Garst.



March 03 at 11:59 PM



“ David Garst was a valued and respected member of the Free Hunters Hunt Club in New Kent County. He was always among the first to volunteer, especially for our annual pig picking, where his willingness to help and positive spirit never went unnoticed. David was a dedicated wildlife biologist who had a deep passion for conservation and the outdoors. He took great pride in sharing that passion with others, particularly his son, Andrew, with whom he spent many cherished hours fishing and hunting. An avid fly fisherman, David not only enjoyed the sport himself but also found great satisfaction in teaching others how to fly fish and tie their own flies. His patience, knowledge, and enthusiasm made a lasting impression on all who had the opportunity to learn from him. David's friendship, service, and love of the outdoors will not be forgotten. He will be deeply missed by our club and by all who knew him.

*Free Hunters Hunt Club
Secretary
Rick Chisholm*

Richard Chisholm - March 02 at 11:52 AM

ES

*David and I connected as strangers with a phone call..we immediately knew we had so much in common that we needed to meet.. we agreed and from that meeting years ago, a wonderful friendship grew beyond our expectations.. With David finding the perfect situation for Andrew and he to hunt together... There are no words to express my sadness in David's passing...I will miss him and give thanks for the times we enjoyed...May Gods comfort surround his family...
For friend...Earl Slone*

Earl Slone - March 02 at 10:16 PM

SH

I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your brother. Praying for peace and comfort during this difficult time for the family.

Stacy Howard - March 03 at 09:47 AM

WC

David and I were great friends in elementary school, but as we grew older and got busy with our lives and our studies, we lost touch. I am eternally sad to hear of his passing, and very sorry for his family. They have my most heartfelt condolences.

Wade Cox - March 03 at 11:44 PM

DH

Very sorry to hear about this. Rachel and family have my condolences.

Dave Hople

dave hopler - March 05 at 04:01 PM

WC

I am sorry to hear about the loss of a good man of who I consider a good friend. I am going miss our talks over tacos at Taco Mexico after taking a look at my elk population at DLA in Richmond. We express our condolences to the family.

Will Crump and The Environmental Team

Will Crump - March 06 at 10:43 AM