



David Drake

Sep. 29, 1937 ~ Feb. 14, 2025

David Drake of Gainesville, Florida (age 87) died on February 14, 2025, in Gainesville Florida. Professor Drake was born in Loraine, Ohio on September 29, 1937, the son of James Allyn Drake and Gladys (Bellinger) Drake. He married Donna Marie Born on June 19, 1959, in Henrietta, Ohio; and she survives.

Drake graduated from Amherst High School, earned a B.A. from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. from Syracuse University. He worked for IBM in Poughkeepsie, NY and was a member of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Florida from 1967 until 2007, serving for five years as department chair. He traveled for extensive research visits to universities in Darmstadt, Berlin, and Giessen (German), and Eindhoven (Netherlands). As is usual for mathematicians, he was the sole author on most of his research papers. He was pleased, however, to have co-authored papers with 16 other mathematicians from six countries on four continents.

Drake was a lifelong jogger, completing marathons in 1959, 1967, and 1983. His other interests included political activism, reading, playing the piano, gardening, and playing duplicate bridge (where he attained the rank of bronze life master). In the 1960's he was active in CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and served one year as vice-chair of the Syracuse chapter of CORE.

Survivors include daughters Barbara (and husband David Hillis) of Massena, NY, Laura Drake (and husband Jun Zhang) of Milwaukee, WI; grandchildren Karen (and husband Rustin Rockstroh), Jennifer (and husband Hunter Schafer), Heather Hillis, Susan Hillis (and husband James Little), and Henry Zhang; great grandchildren Asher Schafer, Xavier Schafer, Alexis Rockstroh, and Jason Rockstroh; sister Elizabeth (and husband John Lowe) of Demarest, NJ; and two nieces and two nephews. Drake was preceded in death by his parents, his brother John Drake, and his great granddaughter Lauren Rockstroh.

Arrangements are under the care of MILAM FUNERAL HOME, INC., 311 s. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601. (352) 376-5361. www.milamfh.com