



DAVID ZEIT

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Wife: Donna

I earned my Bachelor's degree from Willamette University in Sociology. I received my Master's degree from Oregon College of Education, (OCE, now Western Oregon University), with an emphasis in Extreme Learning Problems.

I taught at all levels & in different settings. I taught grade school, high school and community college classes. I also taught at Oregon State Penitentiary, Mid Valley Adolescent Center and managed and taught American Speed Reading for Ben Colbath. In addition, I worked at McLaren School as a Group Life Coordinator. At Adult and Family Services, Department of Human Services, I certified people for Food Stamps, assistance grants and developed jobs for people. The most enjoyable job I ever had was drumming in local night spots with various bands while at Willamette and on weekends when I was teaching.

This July Donna & I will be celebrating 34 years of marriage. I was active in the Oregon Jaycees. In 1982 I won first place in the Oregon Jaycee Speak-Up competition. I represented Oregon at the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona that year. In 1989 Donna was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

At that point we decided having children wasn't the best thing for us to do. So, we gave up on having a family. In 1990 I had back surgery – followed the next year by sinus surgery. In 2000 we drove to Waukegan, Illinois for my cousin's wedding. In 2006 I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

I gave 18 gallons of blood at the American Red Cross Blood Bank. They advised me to keep the rest of my blood for myself. I have become very interested in genealogy. For a number of years I wrote on Prodigy, an early Internet service. Then, I wrote several 1000 posts over a number of years on the Statesman Journal's series of forums. I was told that my writings and humor encouraged others, who were on the forums.

We had a custom home built for us in 2012. It is all on one level with extra wide hallways and doorways to accommodate a wheel chair. We thought with our medical conditions, we might need them someday. They came in mighty handy this year, since I had full knee replacement surgery this March. The recovery is going well. Parkinson's Disease is however causing my recovery time to be a bit longer than for some people. Last year we became first time landlords, which has taught us a lot and made our lives more interesting. As my recovery continues to progress we plan to enjoy the local senior centers and travel more.

What I have enjoyed most in the past 50 years since graduating from SSSHS was playing drums in small local night spots. The most difficult thing was watching my parents die slowly knowing there was nothing I could do to help them. My Mom died from cancer; my Dad from COPD.

In the words of the Grateful Dead – what a long strange trip it's been. I can't wait to see what things will be like when it is time for our 75th reunion. We planned to live forever. So, far so good. Although, I wish I still had my '57 Chevy station wagon.

