



A Tribute to Dave Symmes

Dave Symmes, who recently celebrated his 40th anniversary with the company (see related story) died unexpectedly May 31 from a heart attack. Symmes worked as operations and planning manager for Solution Alliances Engineering in the Technology Solutions group.

Symmes' sudden death was particularly sad because he had completely recovered from cancer a few years ago—a battle he fought with determination and optimism, colleagues said. They remember him as someone who was totally upbeat, even when faced with difficult personal and business challenges.

John Ardini, a recent HP retiree who worked closely with Symmes over the years, recalls him as "a true 'DECie' who was so happy he could achieve his goal of 40 years of service with HP. He taught many of us what it meant to 'do the right thing' at work and in our life situations."

"Dave complemented his many talents with the ethics of integrity, hard work, supporting the success of others and always maintaining a positive attitude and big smile, which lead to many friendships throughout Digital and HP," Ardini said.

One of those friends, Kathleen Connolly (Finance), recalls, "Dave's concern for the individual, love of family and joy he found in life, always came across. His office was full of pictures of his family, little VW Bugs and a plant that fought all the odds to survive. He always took the time to inquire after you and your family and was there with advice when you needed it."

Those who knew him well recall Symmes' commitment to his family, his church and community. He was active in the Danvers Historical Society for many years and served as senior warden at Calvary Episcopal Church. He often shared stories and photos of his children and grandchildren, as well as his two Kerry Blue terriers, Molly and Seamus. He leaves his wife of 45 years, Sally, as well as his parents, three children and six grandchildren. Symmes was 63.

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