



THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

1 WEST POTOMAC STREET · BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND 21716 · (301) 834-7500

Distinguished Citizens biography for:

David House

b. 1957

Honored as a Distinguished Citizen in 2025

The entire country celebrated – with fireworks – when David Eugene House was born. It was the 4th of July, 1957. Other than a brief period in Burkittsville, he spent his childhood and youth living in Brunswick. He and his younger brother Doug became close buddies as they navigated life in the “wild town” of Brunswick.

Dave remembers taking Peg’s cab to elementary school each morning. In high school, he participated in football, tennis, and track. He was also a cast member in five high school musicals, sang in the glee club, and was a drummer in the then-80-member-strong BHS marching band. He spent the summer of 1973 with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) clearing handicap trails near Thurmont. During his junior year, he spent six months as a senatorial intern in Senator Charles McCurdy “Mac” Mathias’ Baltimore office.



After high school, he aspired to attend medical school. However, when he was not accepted by the college he had applied to, he decided to join the military. Although Dave was later accepted by another college, this occurred after he had already enlisted in the Army, so his course was set. His interest in medicine led him to join the Army because that was the only branch that would guarantee him training as a Medical Laboratory Specialist.

After three months of basic training at Ft. Knox, Dave went to Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio where he received his initial 16 weeks training as a Medical Laboratory Specialist. It was during this time that he became engaged to his high school sweetheart, Connie Ballentine. They were married four months later on August 29, 1976.

The next 23 years saw Dave transferred from one assignment to another, sometimes able to take his family with him and occasionally having to do it alone. His first assignment was to Kirk Army Hospital at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, closer to his hometown. While there, he became a certified EMT, which led to his later obtaining a second MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) as a combat medic (in addition to Medical Laboratory Specialist). The Houses’ first child Becky was born there.



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In 1979, Dave re-enlisted for an overseas assignment, which Connie consented to “only if you leave your motorcycle behind.” He agreed, and they set off to Berlin, where the couple would spend the next three years before the Berlin wall came down. As a member of “the army of occupation,” he was allowed to spend some time in East Berlin where he witnessed the depressed economy (and took advantage of it by making purchases at very low prices). It was while they were in Berlin that the Houses’ second child Jessie was born. Their third daughter Erin was born a year later when Dave spent his second assignment at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio.

There is not room in this brief bio to describe the rest of Dave’s military career, which included assignments in Honduras, in Texas, back again to Germany, and finally at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. During these years, he continued his education, taking classes from seven different universities, and finally achieving a bachelor’s degree in Health Care Administration.

After 23 years of military service, Dave retired in 1998 as a Master Sergeant. The House’s decided to settle down in Jefferson where they were able to purchase the home where Connie had lived as a teenager. Becky was now in college, while Jessie and Erin would attend Dave’s and Connie’s alma mater, Brunswick High School.

Almost immediately, Dave and Connie became involved with the Jefferson Ruritan Club. Connie was the first female member of that organization and Dave later became president (in 2005). They continue to be supportive members of that organization today.

It wasn’t until 2010 that Dave joined American Legion Post 96 in Brunswick. Perhaps the initial attraction was the Legion Riders motorcycle group, as he was an avid motorcyclist. Connie and the girls joined the auxiliary at the same time, and Dave describes his family as “a Legion Family.” He has served three terms as Post Commander. In addition to his participation with the Legion Riders (currently serving as Road Captain on the annual National Legacy Ride), he has played an active role in the reactivation of the Legion Honor Guard (which pays homage to veterans at their funerals), the restoration of Veterans’ Park on A Street, Post sponsorship of the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troop 279 and, three years ago, the revival of the Post’s baseball team.

Dave and Connie live in Jefferson, but most of their waking hours are spent in Brunswick. Their daughter Becky is a cancer care coordinator with Capital Women’s Care. Jessie is a “stay at home baker.” Erin works in the office of Hopwood Industries. The Houses have eight grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor David House as a Distinguished Citizen of Brunswick, Maryland.