



David Roder Jr.

January 18, 1962 - October 10, 2025

David Roder Jr., age 63, passed away on October 10, 2025, in Houston, Texas. Born on January 18, 1962, in Houston, David spent his life in the city he loved and called home.

David's early education took him through Long Fellow Elementary School, Pershing Junior High School, and Bellaire High School. His passion for learning and technology led him to complete the Microsoft Certification course in Information Management Systems at Rice University.

David's professional journey reflected both dedication and adaptability. He spent 17 years with HiLo Auto Parts, beginning in sales and later transitioning into the IT department where he was instrumental in installing computer systems across store locations. Following HiLo's acquisition by O'Reilly Auto Parts, David chose a severance package and continued his career at First Data for seven years. He later joined Verizon Wireless at their Houston call center before returning briefly to O'Reilly Auto Parts in a sales role. David retired in August 2010 due to health reasons.

In his personal life, David found enduring love and companionship with Maria Maldonado Roder. Their story began decades ago when David met Maria through her brother Rick Maldonado, a lifelong friend of David's from their time at HiLo. Although they met in the 1980s, it wasn't until September 2001 that

they began dating. After more than twenty years of quiet patience and mutual respect, David and Maria married on his birthday in January 2004. They shared over 21 years of marriage filled with devotion and shared passions.

David is survived by his beloved wife Maria Maldonado Roder; his sister Sheri Denise Roder and her husband Richard Zahradnik; and their son Patrick Zahradnik. He is also remembered by his first cousins on his mother's side: Yvonne Senturia, Susie Senturia, Mariam Senturia, Sam Senturia, Libbie Poppick, John Naman, and the late Arthur Naman—and their families. On Maria's side of the family, David is remembered by her sisters Martha Garcia, Marguerite Moreno, Madeline Contreras (deceased), Marcela Anghilante; and brothers Tomas Maldonado III (deceased), Desiderio (Fred) Maldonado, Ernesto Maldonado (deceased), Ricardo (Rick) Maldonado, Eduardo (Ed) Maldonado (deceased), and Roberto (Bob) Maldonado—and their families.

David was preceded in death by his father David Roder Sr., mother Berenice “Benny” Roder, and maternal grandparents Maurice and Yvonne Dannenbaum.

A man of many interests and talents, David had a deep appreciation for fast cars, hunting, auto mechanics, cooking, movies, and especially World War II documentaries. He enjoyed watching the Houston Astros and Texans and was a life-long loyal fan of his hometown teams. He was an avid gardener who grew his own herbs and took pride in harvesting figs each year to create a beloved fig bar recipe. His homemade mint syrup was a staple for refreshing mint tea enjoyed by those close to him.

David also had a keen eye for design and served on his neighborhood civic club's Architectural Control Committee for over ten years. He found joy in cultivating flowering plants—roses, amaryllis, gerber daisies—with Maria in their home gardens. Together they explored Houston's diverse culinary scene

with enthusiasm.

Music was another passion for David; he favored the sounds of 1980s rock legends such as Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, Queen, Elton John, Kiss, ACDC, ZZ Top, Cheryl Crowe, and Fleetwood Mac.

Though private about his spirituality, David came from a family with deep roots in Houston's Jewish community. His family belonged to Beth Israel Synagogue where he was a great-great-great-grandson of the founding rabbi—a legacy that quietly underscored his heritage.

With courage and resilience, David faced numerous health challenges over the last 25 years of his life. Through it all he remained kind-hearted, generous, loyal, honest—and above all—patient. When unwell he preferred solitude with Maria by his side but cherished time with family and friends when feeling well. His sense of humor remained intact even during difficult times.

David will be remembered for his strength of character and quiet grace. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him. A private Jewish Graveside Burial Service will be held on October 17, 2025.

A Memorial Service with reception to follow will be held on October 23, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Covenant Church 4949 Caroline St., Houston, TX.

Please [CLICK HERE https://player.memoryshare.com/video/david-roderjr-houston-tx](https://player.memoryshare.com/video/david-roderjr-houston-tx) to view the burial and memorial service livestreams.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **23**. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Covenant Chapel
4949 Caroline Street
Houston, TX 77004

Coat and tie is not required. Small parking lot located off Witicha. Street parking available on Caroline, Wichita, Rosedale and Austin.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Earthman Generations created a View the Livestream in memory of David Roder Jr.*



Joseph Earthman Generations - October 14, 2025 at 10:53 PM

MM

“ *Maria M. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Roder Jr..*

Maria M. - October 25, 2025 at 07:04 PM

P

“ *Uncle David was always very generous. We are so grateful for all the times he and Aunt Mary shared their beautiful home with us and especially for the time we spent with them this past August swimming together, enjoying great conversations, and sharing a lovely meal of pizza, fig bars, and peanut M&Ms! We all loved it....especially the kids! 😊*

Pris Balmes - October 23, 2025 at 03:03 PM

DF

“ *Donna F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Roder Jr..*

Donna F. - October 22, 2025 at 02:56 PM

KR

“ Katherine R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Roder Jr..

Katherine R. - October 21, 2025 at 12:17 PM

C

“ David was a truly wonderful person. He loved his neighborhood and I enjoyed working with him in the Knollwood Village Civic Club. David will be missed.
Cheryl Palmer O'Brien

Cheryl O'Brien - October 17, 2025 at 05:40 AM

GW

“ Glenn W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Roder Jr..

Glenn W. - October 16, 2025 at 02:26 PM

MR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Maria Roder - October 16, 2025 at 01:50 AM

MR

“ Dear David,
Here is your first lighted candle celebrating your life - I life well lived!
Thank you for all our wonderful times during our 23 years together! I
always cherished your loyalty, honesty, bravery and patience -
especially when I was running "a thousand miles an hour with my
hair on fire". You were always there to slow me down and you
taught me how to stop and smell our roses every once in a while!
Thank you for building us a wonderful home - I will cherish our
special space always. Thank you for managing my Chanel perfume
stock - you were always so attentive with these little details. Coco
Mademoiselle will always remind me of you! I will still keep
searching for that missing earring - it has to be somewhere in our
closet! If you see it from up there, please move it somewhere that I
can find it.
You have certainly earned your eternal rest. Sleep well now with
peace - no more pills, no more surgeries, no more pain, no more
shots, no more dialysis, no more band-aids, no more falling, no
more wheelchair - only sleep, peace and your hard rock music!
With all my love ... always,
Your Mary

Maria Roder - October 16, 2025 at 01:40 AM