



## David Lynn Delawder

August 3, 1947 - September 8, 2020

Dateline: Godfrey

David Lynn Delawder, 73, passed away September 8, 2020 at Alton Memorial Rehabilitation and Therapy. David was born in Galesburg, IL on August 3, 1947, the son of John and Rosaleen Delawder. He is survived by a sister, Ann Larson of her husband Rick; a sister-in-law Linda Delawder, and nephews Scott and Eric Delawder. He is also survived by his longtime companion, Rita Cooke; her son, Scott and grandchildren, Michael and Madeline. In addition, Dave leaves behind a dear friend, Joe Hook. David was preceded in death by his parents and older brother, John Delawder III. After graduating from Knox College in Galesburg, David was hired by the Alton School District. He spent his entire teaching career at East Middle School. David found joy in teaching, injecting humor into his life science lessons. He was always happy to help students and give them encouragement. David received numerous awards throughout his teaching career including being honored as 2001 Silver Medallion Teacher of the Year, being inducted into the Alton High School Hall of Fame, The Alton High School Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Sports were an important part of David's life. He was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Bulls. Dave hosted eight basketball players while they attended Lewis & Clark Community College and has maintained a special friendship with Fernando Coloneze, Leo Gomes, and Daniel Sorares of Brazil. Keeping stats for high

school sports was something Dave truly enjoyed. He kept Alton High football stats for a few years, but his favorite was keeping basketball stats. David volunteered time to keep basketball stats for both Alton High and Alton Marquette. Because of COVID there will be no visitation. David will be laid to rest in a graveside ceremony in Abingdon, IL, next to his parents. A celebration of Dave's life will be held at a later date for friends and family to gather together, share stories, and remember the wonderful man we were privileged to know. The family would like to thank the staff at Alton Memorial Rehabilitation and Therapy for the care given Dave these last three years. Memorials in Dave's honor may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, the 5A's Humane Society, or the TreeHouse Wildlife Center. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *David Lynn Delawder*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *David Lynn Delawder*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I just now found out about Mr. Delawder's passing. I was a student at East in the 70's. Although I never had Mr. Delawder, he always made a point to talk with me and tease me after school, as he monitored outside. He was a lot of fun and always recognized me when I'd run into him out and about, raising my own family. He seemed the same age in the 1990's as he was in the 1970's. He was a bright spot in my junior high years. East Junior had lots of special teachers like him who connected with the kids and were respected. It was a special time. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

**Martha Campbell Roberts** - February 06, 2021 at 08:57 PM



“ *Mr. Delawder was my 7th grade science teacher in 1997/98. I will always remember his fun personality and stuffed cat! He really did make science come to life and is honestly probably the only teacher that made a shy girl feel important and seen. He is also only 1 of a few teachers that I remember vividly. Prayers to the family in your loss.*

**Alicia Gillean** - September 26, 2020 at 09:43 PM

KM

“ Rita - my heart goes out to you and your family. I am so sorry for your loss, for our loss. Mr. Delawder really loved teaching, his students, you, (he always talked about you, all good), his friends, co-workers and people in general. He was a phenomenal, funny, caring teacher. When I first met him as I was a parent, I was Mrs. McCormick. Once I started working at the high school and my kids played sports, I saw Mr. Delawder more often and then I was considered his friend and he called me Kelli. He told me so many funny stories about his students (my daughter included). He introduced me to the International Students he was sponsoring. He had a HUGE heart. He will be missed!!  
Sincerely, Kelli McCormick

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**KELLI JO MCCORMICK** - September 24, 2020 at 02:00 PM

JF

“ I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to Mr. Delawder's companion, family, friends and coworkers. In 1972, Mr. Delawder was my 7th grade science teacher. My best friend and I had a huge crush on Mr. D. We hung on his every word in class and strived to be his top students. We watched him play basketball and flip his famous long blonde hair from his face while sporting his Knox College t-shirt. I recall waiting after school just to see him drive away in his cool Corvette. He was a wonderful teacher and had a special way of keeping all of us interested and engaged in class. It was great seeing him later at our high school basketball games. We are all better people after having him as our teacher and our role model. Rest In Peace Mr. D.

Janice Allan Fuchs

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**Janice Fuchs** - September 17, 2020 at 04:53 PM

RD

“ *Mr. Delawder was my 7th grade math and science teacher at East Middle School. He was one of the teachers you hope to have and glad you did. His teaching style was one of the best and most entertaining (the stuffed cat!) I ever had, and I will always be grateful for him speaking at my Eagle Scout Ceremony.....Mr. Delawder, you won't be forgotten.*

*Ryan DuPatz*

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**Ryan DuPatz** - September 13, 2020 at 10:30 PM

LD

“ *David was my wife's cousin, and certainly a life long relative to me. We loved to discuss sports, and yes, argue about teams and players. :) I was involved in sports all my life, both as a player and coach. David loved to follow my activities, and talk to me at length about them. I can't begin to tell him how much I will miss our conversations. As all who really new him, he loved to play cards. Some of my most enjoyable times with him was family cards. We never spent a holiday or simple family time together without a good card game. I really loved this guy, and will forever miss him.*

*Larry Davis*

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**Larry Davis** - September 13, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ *Rest in beautiful peace Mr. Delawder! He was one of my favorite teachers.*



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**Joely Johnson** - September 11, 2020 at 10:55 PM

LA

“ Mr. Delawder was my 7th-grade math and science teacher. I never would have made it through Algebra without his kindness and extra help. He even offered to come in early or stay late to help me when I was struggling. His genuine care and concern for me has not been forgotten and is something that encourages me as a teacher in my own classroom. Over the years students have many teachers, but he is one that I have never forgotten. I am so thankful for the positive impact he had on my life. Of all the teachers I have ever met, I cannot think of one as truly caring and generous as he was.

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**Laura Atkins** - September 11, 2020 at 05:03 PM

C(

“ Mr. Delawder was my 7th grade science teacher and he was amazing! He was one of my all time favorite teachers.

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**Carrie Mahan (Bridgeman)** - September 11, 2020 at 02:14 PM

JH

“ was very sad to hear about dave's passing. working at lewis and clark c.c., i knew him because of his generous heart in opening his home as housing to some of our international basketball players. he possessed such an easy going, calming, spirit, and would crack a joke, demonstrating his love of life.

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**jared hennings** - September 11, 2020 at 10:51 AM

MK

“ I met Mr. D when I went to Alton High School. He headed up Athletic Tutoring, and I volunteered to help in Athletic Tutoring starting in my Junior year. That opportunity helped me to learn that I enjoy helping others. I've worked in various helping professions since then, and I never would have learned that had Mr. D not allowed me to volunteer. He was instrumental in helping me become the man I am today, and the world is a lesser place for losing someone like him.

Matthew Kuehn - September 11, 2020 at 12:15 AM

NC

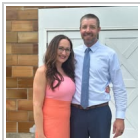
“ I had Mr. Delawder for 7th grade science and loved his passion for teaching and his sense of humor! It was fun to be in his class and he helped me to want to learn/know more... My love and prayers are with his family! May the light that he ignited in so many people help bring some comfort to his family and friends.

Nancy (Genutis) Caponi - September 10, 2020 at 09:17 PM

DT

“ I had Mr. Delawder as a teacher at East Jr. And he was a great teacher. I'm sorry for his passing. Sending prayers for his family. RIP Mr. Delawder.

Debbie Ackerman Torbeck - September 10, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ Mr. Delawder was absolutely one of my favorite teachers. I have so many fond memories from being in his class, but my favorite one is when he brought in his tape player and played Joe Jones's "You Talk Too Much" just for me! I think he was trying to tell me something..

Leah McCormick Kuebrich - September 10, 2020 at 04:17 PM

AB

“ I had Mr. Delawder for 7th grade science at East Middle. He was so much fun!! I always enjoyed his teaching and all the excitement he put into our learning. I remember I decided to do Science Fair that year... jim and I would stay for an hour after school to work on my project... he never got frustrated or rushed to get it done. Even as an adult, I always enjoyed seeing him and Miss Cooke out and about. I loved David and always will! Till we meet again my friend.

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**Amanda Beneze** - September 10, 2020 at 12:29 PM

JM

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. He was one of my favorite teachers at East back when it was a Jr high. When I would run into him years later he would call me by name and I appreciated that quality in him.

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**Joe Mercurio** - September 10, 2020 at 12:17 PM

NS

“ I remember Mr. Delawder used to have a stuffed cat! He said it was our class pet! He was the best science teacher. Every science idea seemed so intriguing in his class! He will truly be missed.

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**Natalie Smith-Odom** - September 10, 2020 at 11:48 AM

AC

“ Rita and family, I'm so sorry for the loss of Dave. I always enjoyed your visits to our shop; they often made my whole day! I've thought of you fondly many times over the years. Dave was such a pleasant, peaceful guy. I pray that all of you are comforted by happy memories. Sincerely

*Andrea Crabtree  
Harvest, Alabama*

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**Andrea Crabtree** - September 10, 2020 at 11:33 AM

RP

“ My sincerest condolences to the family of Mr. D., a true testament of a great and humble man. I will always remember talking and laughing with him after him keeping stats at our basketball games. Rest well.

*Rhonda Patterson*

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**Rhonda Patterson** - September 10, 2020 at 11:12 AM

RT

“ Sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Delawder. Myself being a former player for the Redbirds I know what he meant for the basketball program. He was my favorite teacher back in the day at East Jr High. It was always fun talking about the Dodgers/Cardinals games with him.

*RIP*

*Ron Twichell*

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**Ron Twichell** - September 10, 2020 at 09:55 AM

SB

“ Mr. Delawder was my 7th grade science teacher at East middle. He introduced me to the wonderful word, hypothesis. To this very day, my mind associates him with the scientific method. I will never forget his sense of humor and his gift for teaching.

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**Shelly Hancock Buford** - September 10, 2020 at 09:15 AM

TJ

“ My heart breaks seeing this. Mr. D you were the best science teacher but more than that you were my best fan. I will never forget feeling so loved to look up in the stands and see you cheering for me. I will carry those memories in my heart forever. Thank you for touching my life in a very special way. One more thing I'll play you one on one when I see you in heaven. ❤️🏀



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**Tonya Jackson** - September 10, 2020 at 08:49 AM

TS

“ He was my 7th grade science teacher. He was very encouraging and instilled a fascination with all branches of science. He made a huge positive impact on my life. So sorry to hear of his passing.

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**Tom Seymour** - September 10, 2020 at 12:10 AM



“ David was my science teacher when I was in 7th grade at east. He was a great teacher and fine man RIP sir

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**Don Pugh** - September 10, 2020 at 12:06 AM

JB

“ Dave and I started our teaching careers at about the same time. He was a true professional and devoted his life to bringing science to life for the students in his classes. Dave was very humble and when he was selected as the Silver Medallion Teacher of the Year in 2001 he couldn't believe he was nominated by his peers for such a prestigious award. Reading the comments from former students about the impact he had on them tells you how much he was respected. I enjoyed talking sports with Dave, especially high school basketball! Rest In Peace my friend, you will be missed!

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**Jim Baiter** - September 09, 2020 at 10:08 PM

JC

“ Dave was such a great teacher, a great caring person, and most importantly a great friend to Jim and me. He had such a good sense of humor, too. I am so very sorry for your loss and am keeping you 8n my thoughts and prayers. Judy Clark

Judy Clark - September 09, 2020 at 09:34 PM

BH

“ What a great teacher!! He always called me Barbie Doll even when I would run into him as an adult at some of the AHS basketball games! He made learning science somewhat enjoyable! I have fond memories of him! RIP and prayers to his family!

Barb Hayes - September 09, 2020 at 09:23 PM

SS

“ Mr. Delawder taught both me and my father. He was a wonderful teacher and fun to learn with. He will be so missed.

Sara Spencer - September 09, 2020 at 08:56 PM

TH

“ I was such a lucky girl to have Mr. Delaware for my teacher in the mid 1970's at East Jr. He was, by far, my very favorite teacher. He made learning so much fun! I was fortunate enough to run into him a few times as a adult. He always remembered me, and would ask about my sister and our friends. May his sweet soul Rest In Peace.

Traci Hopkins - September 09, 2020 at 08:06 PM

KE

“ I had Mr. Delawder for science in 1972, 7th grade at East. He brought out my love of science.

Kim Dreith Embry - September 09, 2020 at 03:42 PM

CF

*Sincere condolences to all the family Hugs to you Rita and Scott. I know Dave was a very important part of your lives for many years. He will truly be missed by many!*

**Cathy Forbes** - September 09, 2020 at 04:10 PM

VD

*Ann and Rick so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Vicki Dawson.*

**Vicki Dawson** - September 09, 2020 at 06:46 PM

DJ

*I have such fond memories of our time at East Middle School. He was a very caring person and an excellent teacher. His positive attitude made my days so much easier. May he RIP.*

**Darlene Fearheiley Jackson** - September 09, 2020 at 09:29 PM

GD

*I first met Dave as the PA announcer at AHS basketball games in the 80's. We would sit next to each other, helping each other with stats and scoring. Our friendship would grow as he and I, and a few others, would ride together to out of town games as I would be broadcasting them for WBGZ. Some of our trips included Scott Harper, Dan and Pat Carter and a few others. Oh the stories I could tell about the conversations that went on. But I'm saving them for the book. Dave was a great friend, advisor, teacher and overall a person you would hope in the world could be. I'm gonna miss "Double D" and our contests of who could guess the song title of a song playing on the radio on the way back from a game. Dave was and still is a special person. I hope that I can measure up to him. Rita our thoughts and prayers are with you. RIP "Double D". I'm sure he's keeping stats somewhere in that "Gym in the Sky". Save me a seat.  
George and Sue Depper.*

**George Depper** - September 09, 2020 at 09:50 PM

GV

*George Van Voorhis*

*I also taught with Dave at East. I was always amazed how Dave remembered the names of his students and where they sat in class. I'll never forget our Cardinal BB road trip. I was the designated driver of the van. What a crazy funny time. Joe Hook roasted Dave on his birthday. Joe said because of an illness Dave experienced, Pizza Hut had to lay off 3 drivers. Dave loved his job and his subject. He fought the good fight and wasn't afraid to break one up.*

**George Van Voorhis** - September 10, 2020 at 12:04 AM

KA

*Mr. Delawder was my 7th grade science teacher at East Junior in the 70's. He was so funny and really loved what he was teaching so he made it fun. We had a somewhat rowdy class but he knew how to handle it all with grace. He was one of the best teachers I ever had. Rest in peace Mr. Delawder.*

**Karen (Simon) Mondin Ashley** - September 10, 2020 at 12:24 PM

GH

*Mr Delawder as evryone else has said was my best teacher at EAST jr high back in the 70s.i had him basketball for years and everytime i would see him up to about 4 years ago he always said we had the best football team at east jr . going to be missed.but i have plenty of memories.Your good friend Greg (HOSS) Hosford*

**Gregory Peggy Hosford** - September 11, 2020 at 11:03 AM

GB

*Dave D. -first in to East in the mornings and last out at night.....my pleasure to teach with him for five years at East Middle.... Gary Brown*

**gary brown** - September 14, 2020 at 01:50 PM

LR

*I extend my condolences to Dave's family. Back in the old days at East Junior, I have great memories teaching with him. What a blast when the varsity basketball team played against the teachers!*

**Larry Reid** - September 16, 2020 at 04:22 PM