



David Lee Stromske

August 17, 1942 - July 11, 2024

David Lee Stromske, died Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 4:30pm at Barnes Hospital, after a brief illness, surrounded by family. After 81 years of jokes, sarcastic comments, and amazing hair, he was finally overcome by something more stubborn than he was.

Born August 17, 1942 in Alton, he was the fourth son of Stanley Martin and Gertrude Mary (Miller) Stromske. He was a member of SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Alton. It was David's honor to serve his country in the U.S. Army. He was a proud Vietnam Veteran, serving a tour of duty from 1967-68 and achieving the rank of Sergeant. On January 1, 1992 he married the former Judith Roper in Alton, and she lovingly put up with his many stories, larger than life personality, and smart-assed comments for the next 30+ years. David spent over 40 years as a well-known local salesman for Metro Supply, helping so many restaurants and bars in the area with their needs and sampling some of the wares before finally retiring in 2015. He was a longtime member of the Alton Fraternal Order of the Eagles Lodge 254, serving as a Trustee. David was a member of the Grafton American Legion 648 where he served as the Chaplain and as a member of the Honor Guard. He was also a founding member of the Great River Road Dune Buggy Club. He loved driving that bright yellow buggy with Judy by his side!

In addition to Judy, he is also survived by two daughters, Shannon Walker (Kevin) of Godfrey, Haylie Elmendorf (Jason) of Alton, and bonus daughter Laura Mugge (Bob Morrill) of East Alton, and nine beloved grandchildren:

Nola Effinger, Devin & Leena Walker, Marian, James, and John Elmendorf, Brady Morrill, Maya and Nicolas Mugge. Also surviving is a sister-in-law, Nancy Stromske of Godfrey. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews that he both loved and terrorized in a lot of very original ways over the years. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, James, Thomas, and Edward Stromske, two sisters-in-law, Wanda and Jean, and a nephew, Alan.

David was a man who never met a stranger and ALWAYS had a story or joke for every occasion. He and his lifelong friend Mike Walters were originators of the family run food stand The Corn Hole which they ran together for over 20 years before passing it off to the next generation. David was a man of many hobbies and talents. Over the years he played volleyball, darts, bowling, softball, frisbee, horseshoes, blow darts, washers, bags, bocci, horserace, dominoes, backgammon, cribbage, and any other card game known to man, most of which were just excuses to get together and drink beer with family and friends. He loved spending time entertaining and playing games with family and friends. Next time you deal the cards, roll the dice, or place a bet, be sure to use some "choice words" in his honor! David was well known as an avid winemaker--as he always said, his elderberry wine could make you see double and feel single! In his later years, he loved the simplicity of sitting on the deck looking out at the flowers and gardens in his own backyard. His last legacy was the gift of organ donation after his death.

Now everyone "quit your ball-baggin" and join us for a celebration of a life well-lived at the Grafton American Legion on July 27, 2024 beginning at 12:00 noon. Memorials can be made in David's honor to the Grafton American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **27**. 12:00 PM (CT)

American Legion
14258 Scenic HI Dr
Grafton, IL 62037
(618) 786-3381

Tribute Wall

LE

“ *Leena lit a candle in memory of David Lee Stromske*



Leena - December 02, 2024 at 07:34 PM

LE

“ *I am his granddaughter, and I remember so much about him. He told the best stories, played the greatest card games, did cool magic card tricks, and taught me so much. I have made some of the best memories of my life with him, and I'll never forget them. As I grow, I can only attempt to live the life that he lived. He lived his life joyously and carefree, and he never cared what anyone thought of him. He will forever stay in my heart.*

-Leena W.

Leena - December 02, 2024 at 07:29 PM

CL

“ *I met Dave in the late 70's early 80's. He was bartending at the Stratford Hotel. He was my favorite bartender. I saw him off and on throughout the years, mostly at the former Alton Eagles. Always cheerful and sarcastic at the same time, which was his strong personality trait. That's why everyone loved him. My condolences to Judy and Family. He will be missed. Rest in Peace Dave.*

Cheryl Link - July 25, 2024 at 02:37 PM

TF

“ *The BuggyMeister family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of David Lee Stromske.*



The BuggyMeister family - July 21, 2024 at 11:12 PM

KH

“ *Dave always called me by my first and middle name...Karen Marie. It made me smile 😊 He was always an honest, caring, loving, bigger than life man and you felt all of it when you got one of those Dave Stromske bear hugs! Thank you Dave for being you, for allowing me and my family be a part of your life. You will be missed, but you'll forever have a place in my heart❤️.*

Karen Hancock - July 21, 2024 at 07:07 PM

PS

“ *You have our sympathy. Dave used to be our salesman for Metro when he came to Benld. Always had to time to visit with people and never met a stranger. My parents ran Paul's Place in Benld and my mother was Veronica Bednar's daughter Pat. PJ Pat and John Seketa*

Paul J Seketa - July 21, 2024 at 12:18 AM

JH

“ *Dave and I were school mates at St Matthew's and he was always a jokester even then. I'm very sorry to hear about his passing. Blessings to his family. Judy Wickenhauser Henzlik*

judy Wickenhauser Henzlik - July 17, 2024 at 11:57 PM

DM

“ Love you so much buddy and miss you like hell. RIP my brother, until we meet again.

David May - July 17, 2024 at 12:13 PM

JW

“ Judy, I am so sorry to hear about David. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.



Janis Williams-Poindexter - July 17, 2024 at 06:54 AM

MG

“ Martha Gossett lit a candle in memory of David Lee Stromske



Martha Gossett - July 16, 2024 at 10:45 PM

MG

Judy, so very sorry to see this. My thought and prayers are with you.

Martha Gossett - July 16, 2024 at 10:48 PM

TM

“ I will miss you my friend...TONY McCOY

Tony C Mccoy - July 16, 2024 at 10:43 PM

GP

“ Greg and Nancy Pulizos purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of David Lee Stromske.



Greg and Nancy Pulizos - July 16, 2024 at 09:56 PM

DH

“ My Sincere Condolences to Judy , his Daughters and Grandchildren. Thoughts and Prayers 🙏🙏🙏 RIP David

Don hofgren - July 16, 2024 at 09:54 PM

JF

“ Jill Fowler-Trudell lit a candle in memory of David Lee Stromske



Jill Fowler-Trudell - July 16, 2024 at 09:53 PM

CL

“ Great tribute for an awesome man. I'd known him since moving to Alton in 1975 and was always welcome and included, eventually meeting his whole family. So much fun! He beamed the brightest though when his daughters were born. Love in abundance is in my heart for the whole family. May he rest in well deserved peace AND give 'em a good time in heaven

carol lovelace - July 16, 2024 at 07:55 PM



“ *Rest in peace my friend* ”

Norman Michaels - July 16, 2024 at 06:48 PM