



David Anton Stensland

JUN 4, 1940 - FEB 1, 2021



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Harper's
Community Funeral Home

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David Anton Stensland

JUN 4, 1940 - FEB 1, 2021

David Anton Stensland, 80, passed away on Monday, February 1, 2021 at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne. Born in Englewood, New Jersey, he was the son of two Norwegian immigrants, the late Salve and Lillian (Olsen) Stensland. He graduated from Teaneck High School in Teaneck, New Jersey in 1958. As a Junior in high school, he attended his first of 50 Indy 500 races, driving 750 miles with a close friend to attend. This sparked a passion of open wheel racing in him. He attended Delhi State College from 1958 to 1960. He served his country in the US Marines from 1961 to 1964, where he was aboard ship ready to stop Soviet Union missile proliferation during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He obtained a Mechanical Engineering degree from Indiana Tech in 1968. It was during this time he met the love of his life, Ruth M. Campbell. They wed in June 1965. After living in Point Pleasant, NJ for a short time where his two children, David S. Stensland, M.D. and Karen A. Stensland (Lyon) were born, he relocated the family to Monroeville, IN in 1974, where he lived until his passing. He retired from Navistar in 2004 after 31 years as an mechanical engineer. In his retirement he enjoyed sprint car racing, working on motors and formed a race team, S.S.T. Motorsports, with his son. He enjoyed restoring a street rod with his daughter. He attended Woodburn Missionary Church. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ruth; children, David Samuel (Deborah) Stensland MD of Fort Wayne and Karen (Jeff) Lyon of Terre Haute; grandchildren, David (Shaina) Armstrong, Haley, Samuel and Lilliana Stansland, Jacob and Samantha Lyon; and five great grandchildren. Funeral service is 3 p.m. Saturday at Harper's Community Funeral Home, 740 St. Rd. 930 E., New Haven with visitation two hours prior. Service will be streamed live on the "Harper's Community Funeral Home" Facebook page. Burial in IOOF Cemetery, New Haven with military honors. Preferred memorials are to Woodburn Missionary Church. To share online condolences please visit www.harperfuneralhome.com



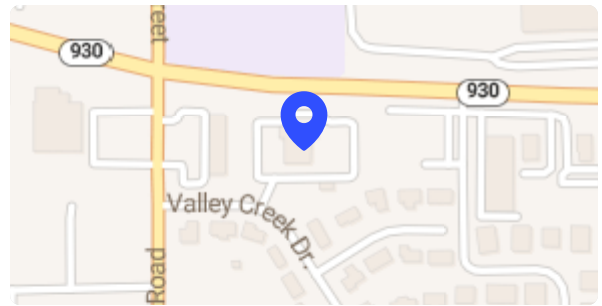
Events

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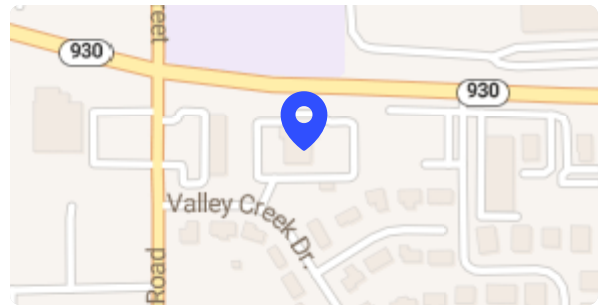
Visitation

- Saturday**, February 6, 2021
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET
- Harper's Community Funeral Home**
740 State Road 930 E, New Haven IN 46774



Funeral Service

- Saturday**, February 6, 2021
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET
- Harper's Community Funeral Home**
740 State Road 930 E, New Haven IN 46774





Tribute Wall

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JS

Jim & Helen Shanebrook posted:

So sorry Jim and I couldn't come Saturday. Jim fell yesterday on ice at the bank in Harlan and was taken by the EMS to the hospital. He didn't break anything, but has a cut above his left eye that had to be stitched. He doesn't feel good today. You, an your family are in our prayers.

February 6 at 12:02 PM

BR

Betty And Frank Roselle posted:

It's difficult to write about a kindred soul that was so close for a lifetime. So I'll tell you something funny instead. We came home from church up in the country and Dave was talking about going water skiing. We were young teenagers and David had his dark blue suit on white shirt and red tie. I don't remember who's idea it was but I drove the boat, he rolled up the pants on his suit and we took off from the end of the dock. Once around the lake and he came off on the shore. As I remember he was damp but not wet. Aunt Lil was not amused and needless to say that didn't happen again. There are other great stories but I always got a kick out of that one. We will miss you. Betty Roselle

February 6 at 10:58 AM

PE

Phyllis Evertz shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



David was my cousin but he was more like my brother. Our five cousins have stayed close all through the years. I have wonderful memories of times we spent together, especially our summers in New York State. We had many memorable adventures in the "country." In recent years David and Ruth visited family in New Jersey almost every year and we had great reunions catching up and reminiscing all the good times we had with our family through the years. Love, prayers and hugs to Ruth, David and Debbie, Karen and Jeff, DJ and Shaina, Haley, Sam, Lilly, Jake, Samantha and the great grandchildren. David was so proud his family and loved to tell about all their achievements. David was kind and always willing to help in any way he could and I will miss him.

February 6 at 10:17 AM



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Saran Lewis posted:

David was a wonderful cousin. I have so many fond memories of our times together. Our families spent the summers together in New York State. As the youngest cousin I always looked up to David. One summer he got a Model A Ford and while driving around on the back roads it flipped over. He took us kids out to see it and I just thought he was a hero! David was always kind and caring. After he & Ruth moved back to Indiana, they would always make the long trip to NJ for visits, weddings & funerals. David loved the Lord and continued to grow in his faith through the years. That was always an encouragement to me and I'm sure many others.. I will greatly miss his enthusiastic "Hello Saran" when I would call to talk to him & Ruth. My love and prayers go to Ruth, Dave & Debby, Karen & Jeff, DJ & Shaina, Haley, Sam, Lilly, Jake, Samantha, & the great grandchildren. Saran Lewis

February 4 at 1:03 PM



Jim Bugert lit a candle in honor of David.

Dave was a friend and excellent engineer at Navistar. Cooperative and kind. All who knew Dave were better off after knowing him as a person who did his job very well and left a great legacy.



February 4 at 10:34 AM



Anonymous sent a Red & White Sympathy Floor Basket to the Stensland family.



February 4 at 9:55 AM



Tom Stirling posted:

I was introduced to Dave many years ago when we attended the Indy 500 with mutual friends. That tradition continued for many years. Ever the motor sports enthusiast, Dave proudly walked the talk in his amazing garage where he demonstrated his mechanical and racing expertise. With their welcoming demeanors he and Ruth made countless friends and helped many others. Dave has passed on his motorsport passion and life skills to his wonderful children. Dave and Ruth are role models for true American family values. I am fortunate to have known them. Rest in peace my friend, you are missed. Tom Stirling

February 4 at 9:11 AM



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SS

Susan Shaffer posted:

Dave and Ruth have been our neighbors for 43 years and we could not have had a nicer neighbor than Dave was. Our hearts are aching for Ruth and the family. So sorry we cannot be there at this time. Our prayers are with the family at this time.

February 4 at 5:50 AM

PS

Phyllis & Saran sent a Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers to the Stensland family.



February 3 at 5:58 PM

RK

Rob Pam Donna Kristen sent a White Sympathy Standing Spray to the Stensland family.



February 3 at 11:30 AM

BC

Bernhard Bernie Conrad posted:

I was so very sorry to hear of Dave's passing. Dave was a friend in our junior high school years in Teaneck. Although life took us in different directions, contact was never totally lost. The advent of email and our mutual good friend Jesz were the glue. His Model A and his cold spaghetti on white bread sandwiches have a permanent place in my memory. May God bless Dave and his family. Bernie Conrad and Family

February 3 at 10:08 AM

GM

Gary Mott posted:

Stensland Clan-I truly am saddened to learn of the loss of your family's great patriarch. There are so many intertwined memories between our two families that to reminisce of just one, well, would feel amiss to me. My wish to your family is that the generations coming up behind him learn through the fond stories told by friends and loved ones of the "stock" their roots come from. Gary A. Mott

February 3 at 10:08 AM



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Anonymous sent a White Sympathy Baskets to the Stensland family.

February 3 at 9:42 AM



Gary Mott sent a Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray to the Stensland family.

February 3 at 9:31 AM



Anonymous sent a Healing Tears - All White to the Stensland family.

February 3 at 8:26 AM



Anonymous sent a Cherished Memories - All White to the Stensland family.

February 3 at 7:50 AM





Tribute Wall

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Nancy Jesuele Hazelgrove shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



It is with profound sorrow to learn of Dave's passing. Dave was my brother's closest friend, since high school; and, they even attended College together. How blessed they were, when my brother's New Jersey job was transferred to Michigan, a few hours from the Stensland's. This "gift" gave these two dearest friends over 40 years of the greatest joys life can give. They shared vacations, family get-togethers, surprise birthday parties; and, I had the joy of sharing many visits with Dave & Ruth, when visiting my brother & Pam. But, the most memorable one was in the Summer of 2019, when Don & Dave decided it was time to revisit the College they attended together, "The State University of New York, at Delhi". I was delighted to be invited & the bed & breakfast they found allowed us all to celebrate together. The stories Dave & Don told, gave Ruth, Pam & I a "wonderful window" into how much these two dearest friends shared . . . which has been a gift from God, for sure. The attached picture says it all. My heart is broken for the loss of this wonderful man, husband, father and dearest friend of my brother. But, my heart is also so grateful to God, for the abundance of blessings shared by Dave & my brother, who met in school, and were brought together throughout their adult lives. Rest in Peace dear Dave, and God bless your wonderful family. I believe, with all my heart, we all will be brought together again.

February 2 at 1:12 PM



Anonymous sent a Solid White Standing Cross With Pastel Flower Break to the Stensland family.



February 2 at 6:38 PM



Mr. & Mrs. Mark Fitzcharles sent a Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red to the Stensland family.



February 2 at 1:35 PM



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Donald J Jesuele posted:

Dave has been my best friend for over 65 years. We shared many great times together with him, his wife Ruth, their children Karen and Dr. Davy and many extended members of their family. There was never a more loyal and true friend than Dave. We attended Delhi Tech college in New York state. Dave's parents Sam and Lillian had a cottage in Sidney Center where we spent time swimming and I learned to water ski. After I married my wife Pam in 1974 she also became a part of the Stensland's "family" and she loved them all as I did. We spent vacations together, the most recent in Nov. 2019 when we went to Nashville Tenn. and had such a wonderful time. Dave and I also would talk on the phone at great length about everything from cars, racing and of course politics. At the end of each conversation he would also say to me "your the brother I never had". I will miss Dave more than anyone will ever know and will never forget him as the most loyal and true friend I have ever had. It breaks our hearts that we will not be able to attend his funeral because of the Covid pandemic. Our love and blessings to all of the Stensland Family. Don and Pam Jesuele

February 2 at 1:12 PM



Media

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Phyllis Evertz shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 6 at 10:17 AM





Nancy Jesuele Hazelgrove shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 3 at 7:13 AM



"Our 2019 Vacation"



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring David by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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