



David Lee Funston

January 11, 1938 - December 29, 2020

Batavia - David Lee Funston, 82 of Batavia passed away on Tuesday, (December 29, 2020) at United Memorial Medical Center in Batavia.

Mr. Funston was born January 11, 1938 in Syracuse, a son of the late Herbert and Margaret (Windett) Funston.

Dave was a devout Episcopalian and active musician. He played percussion in the Genesee Symphony Orchestra for 50 years and held several leadership positions including President. Dave played percussion with several other groups including "A Pretty Good Band" in Speculator, NY and in support of local high schools musicals, the Rotary Club and others.

A veteran, David served honorably with the Air Force. Mr. Funston worked in electrical design for nearly 20 years at GTE Sylvania followed by nearly 20 years at Eastman Kodak and was proud of the 21 patents he earned during his career. He and his wife enjoyed summering at their cottage in Lake Pleasant, in Hamilton County where he liked to sail and fly fish. He was also a talented woodworker who enjoyed sharing his products with friends and family.

Surviving are his wife, Anne (Benjamin) Funston of Batavia; children, Barbara (John) Baker of Stafford, Virginia, and Brian (Kristin) Funston of Golden, Colorado; grandchildren, Alison Baker (Jeffrey) Bryant, Samuel (Kayla) Baker, Elsie Baker, Jeb Baker, Maggie Funston, and Matthew Funston; a brother, Bruce (late Shirley) Funston of Jackson, Michigan; a sister, Eileen (late Robert) Houston of Lansing, Michigan.

There will be no visitation. Services will be held at a later date. Burial will be in Grand View Cemetery in Batavia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Genesee Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 391, Batavia, NY 14021; St. James Church, 405 E. Main St., Batavia, NY 14020; or Speculator Ambulance Corps, PO 203, Speculator, NY 12164.

Arrangements were entrusted to the H.E. Turner & Co. Funeral Home in Batavia. Please leave a condolence, share a story, or light a candle at www.bataviafuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery

Grand View Cemetery

Clinton Street Road

Batavia, NY, 14020

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Batavia Funeral Homes - January 07, 2021 at 02:51 PM



“ Ann, I was sorry to read of Dave's passing. I live in Florida now, so sometimes I get a little behind in the most recent news.

Dave was a great percussionist! I loved to watch him. So precise (of course he had to be) and the expressions on his face said it all.

He will be greatly missed by all.

Diane Eldridge
friend of Ann & Henry Emmans

Diane Eldridge - January 17, 2021 at 09:38 PM



“ Dear Anne and family,
We are saddened to hear of Dave's passing. We had the pleasure of meeting you both when you attended St. Paul's in Stafford. We remember coffee hours, laughter and cooking big pots of soup at the Fall Fair. You both were so gracious with your time and talents and continued to offer assistance even after you moved on. Your warmth and passion for life touched the lives of everyone you met and Dave's memory will live on in all of our hearts. Wishing you and your family strength and peace in the days ahead.

Fondly,
Shelly Waterman and family

Shelly Waterman - January 10, 2021 at 06:10 PM



“ Dave was very involved in everything musical in my hometown in Minnesota. Dave was my choir director in 1962. He greeted Bob when Bob came to that Air Force station in Baudette. He invited Bob to church . After church Bob, Dave and I talked during coffee time. After a few of those visits Bob invited me on our first date- to go rat hunting at the city dump with him and Dave Funston! Since then we had many fun times together and Bob and Dave went on many adventures together. Everyone in town loved Dave and his stories. One story was about sailing his boat named the Nautilus. We met up with Dave in New York in about 1990. He was a great sailor by then. Bob and Dave are having adventures together again. This time, they are in Heaven and my precious Bob was there to greet your precious Dave.

Love in Christ,
Joanne Pontius

Joanne Pontius - January 10, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ Memories of Dave relate mainly to music. He was delightful to watch while performing in Genesee Symphony. Playing in Batavia Concert Band was also enhanced when Dave was there on percussion. He can be commended for raising, with his wife, a wonderful family.

Mary Ellen Ames - January 08, 2021 at 01:40 PM



“ Sorry for the loss. Dave and I went to Mich Tech as Freshman. We drove together in my 1949 Ford, stay overnight in town not to far from Tech. We roomed together for a time in Douglas Houghton Hall. Our paths took us in different ways. We went into ROTC, Dave went USAF. I went ARMY. I studied to be a "rock knocker " He went Elec. Engr as I recall. Nice gentleman. I tried to contact Dave recently. I see way I did not connect with Dave again, but you can see he was on my mind. I enjoyed the times I went to the Funston home on 20th St. where I had to mind my manners with the bulldogs the family loved. Prayers go out to all Family members. Tom Love Tech grad-DEC 1960.

Thomas G Love - January 05, 2021 at 06:56 PM



“ Although I have many memories of my cousin, David, two stand out right now:

1. I remember my Aunt Margaret telling me of when Dave was born, she and Uncle Herbert were living in a very small apartment in Syracuse, where my uncle was in school for his advanced degree in Chemistry. Whether they didn't have room for a crib, or whether they didn't have the money to buy one - probably both reasons - at any rate, Aunt Margaret said she didn't have a crib for the baby, so she emptied out a dresser drawer and turned it into a bassinet for Dave. I was very young at the time of her story, but I was able to imagine a beautiful bassinet for her baby. I'm sure it was.

2. When I was almost twelve, my parents took me and my two younger brothers with them to Wyandotte, Michigan to visit Mother's younger sister, Margaret, and family. David was younger than I, closer to my brother Dick's age; Eileen and Bruce were younger yet, but at the time I believed those three cousins to be my only first cousins. (I learned a little later I had many cousins on my father's side of the family.) While in Michigan, we took an afternoon to drive over to Canada and Uncle Herbert took us to see Lake Huron, where I remember wading close to shore. Our car was really full with the six children and four adults - David rode in the front seat with our fathers and he sat in the middle. Our mothers rode in the back with me and the younger children. Aunt Margaret, looking at the back of Dave's head, remarked about "how brown he's become this summer!" My mother, having raised seven sons, responded blandly, "His neck might be dirty." Amused and aghast, Aunt Margaret took her handkerchief, spit into it (that's what mothers did in those days) and brushed his neck a little as he writhed with "What are you doing, Mother?" And - the brown came off! It was dirt! Everyone in the car laughed about that.

Veda Driver Rogers

Veda Rogers - January 05, 2021 at 04:47 PM



“ I MISS MY PAL DAVE

It is so hard to believe that my pal Dave is gone from this world. Dave has been like a brother to me since around 1965 when he started work at Sylvania. We worked there together with our other Sylvania brothers and sisters until I left in 1980. During those years, and for many after, we hunted pheasants, turkeys and “partridge” together; canoed and fished for trout, bass, and panfish in lake, pond and stream; played hockey on ponds and rinks; cross country skied in the Genesee County Forest, Findley Lake, Klein’s Pines etc.; our families vacationed together on Conesus Lake; we visited them at their cottage in Speculator; we spent many New Years Days with them for Anne’s famous lasagna feast; we went to Sylvania Picnics and events; we went to IEEE and CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOWS in Chicago; we spent hundreds of hours with our engineer compadres detailing the faults of the Sylvania “management” and the personnel, marketing and cabinet styling and design departments, and what we had to do to change it or work around it! Sylvania was a wonderful place, and Dave was a major player. His great sense of humor, satire, and common sense really kept “the management” on their toes! We all had different niches thrust upon us, and Dave was often stuck with the most challenging assignments. He was “blessed” with the first Sylvania color TV remote control project, which led him to becoming one of the industry’s remote control and electronic tuning system pioneers and Guhru. He remained so for all Sylvania TV products until Sylvania was sold to Philips, and Dave went to Eastman Kodak. At Kodak, Dave became a pioneer and leader in the development of the Photo CD products at the beginning of the electronic imaging revolution. This also involved him deeply in the development of the CCD based electronic digital cameras. All of these products became a part of the digital imaging revolution that we now take for granted. Before Dave retired from Kodak, their direction in this field changed dramatically due to overwhelming world competition. After retirement, Dave was called upon by Tompson Consumer Electronics in Syracuse to use his experience in this field to help them solve a myriad of problems they were having with their digital imaging and video product line. For that time, Dave was staying in Syracuse a few days a week. I enjoyed this, because I was also consulting there working for Dennis McCarthy, who had previously worked for Dave at Sylvania. We were developing advanced digital cordless telephone systems. Once again Dave and I and Dennis were in the same a building, in the same city, and it was like “old times”!

I can’t imagine what would have filled the hole that would have been left in the lives of the Wheeler family, as well as the Sylvania family, if Dave and Anne, Brian and Barb had not been there for the last 55 years. It’s wonderful that the Funstons, the Wheelers, and the great Sylvania Family all had each other back in “the good ole days”, and that love has never changed, and I wouldn’t change it for the world! Do you suppose that we can watch “Rocky and Bullwinkle” and “Roger Ramjet” during praise breaks in Heaven?

p.s. Dave, say Hi to Bob Eckenbrecht for us!

Love: Bob & Vickie Wheeler, Tracy and Scott



“ Dave will always be remembered in my prayers. We were both fellow musicians in the local area for many years. Dave played drums for me in my group many times and his group played our wedding back in 1971. I'll never forget his kind face. Thank you Dave.

Steve P. Vernaccini - January 04, 2021 at 09:50 AM



“ Though it has been many, many years, I remember Dave's kind demeanor and support. He was a true friend. Condolences to you, Anne, and yours. John Torcello

John Torcello - January 02, 2021 at 06:59 PM



“ Anne, So sorry to hear of Dave's passing. My condolences to you and your family. Linda DeVito

Linda DeVito - January 02, 2021 at 01:41 PM



“ Hi Anne, so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. I knew him mostly through the Batavia Recorder Society. Some of my favorite memories are of our shared comments about people and their foibles at our meetings. That delighted me when I experienced dark days.



Joe Langen - January 01, 2021 at 05:19 PM



“ Dear Anne and Family,

Offering my deep condolences and prayers during this time of grief. I worked with Dave at Sylvania briefly during my first job out of college in 1980. I did not know of his amazing accomplishments until reading the obituary. Thank you for that and I am thankful for his service to our Country. A friend of mine who lost her husband found great comfort by reading a book on heaven, as a reminder that earth is not our home. When my brother-in-law was in his final days I sent her a book called “The Gift of Heaven” by Charles Stanley. Before I sent it I read it cover to cover in one sitting! Highly recommended to comfort you during this time. Will continue to pray for you.
Sincerely, Joe Mroz

Joe Mroz - January 01, 2021 at 07:13 AM



“ Dear Anne,

My memories of us being together for so many years in the St. James Choir are very vivid and meaningful. You both have been such a delightful couple to know and and worship together. I'm grateful for that and your long term devotion to Dave. May God comfort you always.

Sincerely,
Don Hawkins

Don Hawkins - December 31, 2020 at 01:03 PM