



David Alan Drow

March 7, 1967 - February 23, 2026

David Drow, 58, of Urbana, Ohio, formerly of Ypsilanti and Britton, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, February 23rd, 2026.

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to Donald and Joanne (Farchione) Drow, David entered the world exactly as he would live in it — ready to take charge. His mother often said he was “born an adult,” busy even in the womb, and he never stopped moving from that day forward. Though nearly six feet tall, towering in a family where most stood well under that — he carried more than physical height. He naturally became the one we all looked up to.

He was preceded in death by his loving father, Donald Drow, and his beloved nephew, Alexander Drow. David is survived by his devoted wife, Martha; his daughter, Carrie (Michael) Nance; and his son, Anthony Drow. He is also survived by his mother, Joanne Drow; his sister, Katie (Matt) Heddle; and his brother, John (Charlene) Drow. He leaves behind his brothers- and sisters-in-law: Lynn (Cheryl) Luckhardt and Mary (Jeff) Thompson, and his mother-in-law Elsie Luckhardt. He was a proud and deeply loving uncle to Miles, Desmond, Leia, Emmett, and Morrison Heddle; Spencer and Evan (Jes) Drow; Glen and Lee Luckhardt; and Annie Thompson.

David grew up in Ypsilanti, Michigan, revealing his leadership skills at a young age. He demonstrated this when he boldly told his mother at age four that he

would take care of her when she had fallen ill, a role he took great care of until his death.

As a child, he was always surrounded by cousins, family gatherings, and especially his beloved brother John, who was his partner in adventure long before their baby sister Katie arrived. Together with cousins they spent endless days swimming in their grandpa's pool, riding dirt bikes, fishing, driving before having a license and finding all kinds of ways to get into mischief. In his teenage years, David was notorious for skipping school sometimes with his brother, but mostly with his friends, to go have fun. They once even skipped town to Chicago.

Those same friendships forged in Ypsilanti endured from childhood through every season of life. The close-knit group of friends remained one of the great anchors of his world, and they too are heartbroken at his passing.

He was also very active in his faith from a young age, serving as altar boy at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Whittaker, MI. He later served alongside his father in the Knights of Columbus, planning many gatherings and celebrations. David started the Friday Lenten Fish Fry at the parish, a tradition that continues to this day.

David loved music and was very active in band during his formative years becoming the Drum Major of the Ypsilanti High School Marching band. He would later pass on his love of music to his children and as they grew, he took great joy in being very active in the Graham Bands that they were a part of. And true to David, he formed strong connections and friendships there as well, helping to plan and organize as much as he could even serving as Treasurer of Graham Band Boosters.

David's love of music also extended to the dance floor where he could always

be found clapping and singing loudly, dancing with pure joy. Every party memory is filled with images of David dancing the night away.

When David was a teenager his strong work ethic began at Snappy's pizza, a foreshadow of his later years owning his pizza shop. He loved the independence and control that working gave him, and he really began to shine as he stepped into the working world.

David's professional achievements continued to demonstrate his gift for leadership. He began working at the Saline Evangelical Home where he met the love of his life, Martha (Luckhardt). While there, he also obtained his Certified Dietary Managers Certificate and became Food Service Director. After David and Martha were married, a promotion moved them to Urbana, OH where David became the Food Service Director of Urbana hospital. His success as a leader helped him obtain a Regional Director role for HDS Services, a company he stayed with for many years.

David and Martha built a life centered on love, family, and steadfast commitment. They made a beautiful life in Ohio raising their children, Carrie and Anthony, whom he was endlessly proud of. He and Martha were looking forward to welcoming their first grandchild and celebrated Carrie's pregnancy announcement over the holidays with great joy.

Despite their busy lives in Ohio raising their children, David and Martha made it a point to travel back to Michigan regularly to visit and be an active part of their extended family's lives as well. David never wanted to miss a thing. He also never wanted to fully commit to being an Ohio resident, a fact that became very clear to the Ohio community whenever Michigan and Ohio State would play each other in football. David loved to tease his coworkers, decorating cafeterias in Maize and Blue.

David's later years would see his company bought out, prompting him to split his time between his homes in Urbana, Ohio, and Britton, Michigan, where he opened Uncle Davey's Ice Cream Shoppe—a perfect reflection of his joy and his love of bringing people together. Everything he did—he did well, and as the ice cream shop gained a loyal following David started to plan an expansion. He moved the ice cream shop down the street, expanding the building space, the menu, the staff, and his community. He loved to serve people and found joy in his loyal customers. Even on days when he was closed, if someone called in for an order, he would fire up the ovens and make it for them, never wanting someone to go away disappointed. He had a true servant heart and was a pillar in every community he touched. He took great pride in being a place for people to gather, where he could feed them and connect. He employed three of his nieces and nephews and supported many local schools, sports teams, and clubs as sponsors.

David also absolutely loved to travel and despite his busy life he always made time for exciting trips. Every picture he saw of a place he hadn't visited before he would say 'oh I've gotta go there!' He loved to plan vacations, relishing the details of timing everything just right so he could squeeze in as much fun as possible. He was able to visit Italy twice, took many fun trips to celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans, endless visits to Disney, Florida, California, cruises, so many places. David thought nothing of going on adventures. He was always ready to go.

More than anything, David loved having his family together and he loved having a party. He was the party orchestrator, because to him, gathering was everything. He threw the parties, did the cooking, and made sure everyone had what they needed. He was known for his barn parties, 4th of July parties, massive firework displays he put on at his lake house that the entire lake watched as the main event, and so much more. His family often felt that even

the parties he didn't organize didn't really start until he walked in. Every Christmas Eve would find him walking through his mother's door saying 'okay, what are we doing' meaning he was ready to take over. He laughed loudly and easily, filled rooms with energy and joy, and had a way of making each person feel seen and cared for. His favorite exclamations — "Jesus Murphy!" and "Momma mia!" — were usually delivered with enthusiasm and a grin. Other favorite phrases were often used while driving at high speeds behind slow people, which we won't share here.

When his father passed away unexpectedly years ago, David quietly and steadfastly stepped into the role of family leader. It was something he would do again and again whenever loss came — taking charge, making arrangements, holding everyone steady. He was a doer with the most giving heart, and he carried that responsibility not as a burden, but as an act of love. It was his honor to care for all of us, and he made sure we knew that.

David drove faster than the speed of light — the same way he lived. Fully. Urgently. Intentionally. Squeezing every possible moment from the days he was given.

We will gather as a family to celebrate his life and to comfort each other, just as David would have wanted.

Friends may join the family for a time of visitation on Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 3:00-7:00 P.M. at Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home, Saline.

Visitation will continue on Friday, February 27, 2026 from 10:30-11:30 A.M. at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Saline. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11:30 A.M. with Fr. Josh Luttig Celebrant. Following the Mass, a luncheon will be held at the Church.

Memorial contributions in David's name may be made to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 stjude.org or to a charity of one's choice. Envelopes will be available at the gathering.

To leave a memory you have of David, to sign his guestbook or for directions, please visit www.rbfhsaline.com

The Mass will be livestreamed and can be viewed by visiting:

Primary: <https://youtube.com/live/fjhEjypDaq4?feature=share>

Backup: <https://youtube.com/live/DcVkskmtLhE?feature=share>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **26**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 E Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-9760
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Visitation

FEB **27**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
910 Austin Dr
Saline, MI 48176-1157
(734) 429-5210

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **27**. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
910 Austin Dr
Saline, MI 48176-1157
(734) 429-5210

Luncheon

FEB 27. 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
910 Austin Dr
Saline, MI 48176-1157
(734) 429-5210

Tribute Wall

AM

“ Every trip to Michigan I made and at every family gathering David my cousin was there or he was the one throwing the party! The last time I was in Michigan it was my Aunt Vicki’s 50th wedding anniversary party. David was there talking about his trips to Italy and the fun it was with his family. We talked about so many things and laughed. His laugh 😊! The next day we went to Davey’s ice cream parlor.. he had purchased the bank and was renovating it to be ice cream, pizza and more! He was so excited.. when he opened I was hoping to get back to Michigan. I wanted to try his pizza. I can’t even imagine my future Michigan trips not seeing him....David was a very special man and will be missed by so many!

Ann McBee - March 01 at 11:12 AM

GA

“ We were all so sad to hear the news of David passing away. It was so nice of him last year to bring his mother to Florida to see her cousins. We loved having lunch with them. I have some great picture of David and his wonderful smile. We send our deepest sympathy to his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all. This is from Gloria Marrocco Affeld and family.

GLORIA MARROCCO AFFELD - February 28 at 11:17 PM

LR

“ I had the honor of meeting my cousin later in life, because I moved to Florida at a young age. I was thrilled to meet him and his family in Florida when they visited. It was a honor and my privilege to meet him and my cousin Kate and her family also.my prayers are with his family as they mourn and remember him so proudly, and lovingly.

Lois Marrocco Rowell - February 27 at 05:42 PM

AM

“ David was my cousin and one never to be forgotten. I still remember the fun times we had at Grandpa's house playing games, swimming, go carts, etc. he was the life of the party. The last time I saw him he was so excited about his new ice cream adventure. He explained in detail how he chose just the right ice cream tasty and creamy. And it was! He will be so missed! With loving memories, Angie Mattera.

Angie Mattera - February 26 at 06:43 AM

D&

“ Don &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Alan Drow.

Don &. - February 25 at 06:07 PM

NL

“ When Neil and I got married, David and Martha jumped right in to bring decorations and help decorate for our reception, they didnt have to, it's just what they always did, whether it was for the family or for his friends. He had such a big heart and always had a smile for everyone. We would take the kids to Uncle Davey's and he made sure to come out and say hello, no matter how busy he was. We will miss him at all the family gatherings. He will always be in our heart and prayers. Love to Martha and all the family and always know we are here or anything. Love Neil and Jane Ludwig

Neil and Jane Ludwig - February 25 at 05:36 PM

MH

„Aunt vicki would call me and say want to go to David's for ice cream. He would give us a big ice cream sundae. He was a very friendly and happy guy and seem to enjoy working in the ice cream parlor. Sounds like there are many happy memories about David and he will live on in many hearts. My prayers go out to the family. So sorry. Love Mary Hospital-Enzenauer

Mary Hospital-Enzenauer - February 28 at 01:57 AM

TS

“ Dave and Martha were a part of our New Years Eve gang and we welcomed the New Year together these last ten years or so. The highlight of the evening was an annual trivial pursuit game, men vs women which the men won every year we played. Dave was a winner. He had the best and loudest laugh I've heard. His culinary expertise was outstanding and he brought that talent to bear throughout his life. We will always have a special place in our hearts for this man, his sense of humor and his joy for life. Rest easy old friend, you've made this a better place for us all.

Tom and Amy Smith - February 25 at 04:18 PM

LG

“ Linda, Al, Rik, Marisa, Gloria purchased the Truly Beloved Bouquet for the family of David Alan Drow.



Linda, Al, Rik, Marisa, Gloria - February 25 at 02:31 PM

TF

“ Uncle Davey, Thank you for all you've done for the Britton community. You always greeted us with a smile every time we came in for ice cream or pizza. You will be missed!

The Fraley Family - February 25 at 02:17 PM

SD

“ Martha and family, I am so sad to hear of f Dave's passing. He was so wonderful and kind to friends and neighbors in Macon Township. Loved going to the ice cream shop. May God bless you and comfort you.

Sharon and Ted Douglas

Sharon Douglas - February 25 at 02:02 PM



“ When I was 5 years old David woke me up on Christmas morning. Or he tried to, I pretended to still be asleep so he would carry me downstairs to see what Santa brought. I kept my eyes closed, but he leaned in and said 'Katie are you faking? Are you awake?' and he laughed. He knew I was pretending, but he carried me anyway. The memory of his voice is so clear.

Katie Drow-Heddle - February 25 at 01:52 PM

DP

“ I cannot say enough good things about David. He was a wonderful blessing to our community. Whenever he would see me and my husband, he would say, “where’s the kids?” he took time and made them all feel special.. Our family will miss him very much. The Price Family

Debra Price - February 25 at 01:43 PM

LW

Godspeed David. Always the life of the party. Always larger than life. Thank you for the memories and friendship. You will be missed by ma y. We'll see you on the other side. Lee Walker

Lee Walker - February 25 at 04:29 PM

LT

Our cousin David was a huge presence in our family and loved by all of us! His smile, his sweetness, and his calmness, will never be forgotten. We are so thankful for him bringing his sister Kate, her family, Carrie, and especially his Mom, to Florida a few years ago. We met at Disney and had the best time! I'm praying for his family during this very difficult time! We love you David! Rest in Peace in the arms of Jesus! We will miss you! Al, Linda, and all of your Florida family! ❤️🙏

Linda Tenaglia - February 27 at 06:36 AM

AV

My condolences to Davids family. David was a very welcoming and nice man that always was smiling when greeting you as you came through the door at his ice cream shop. He always aimed to please the customer and he will truly be missed. Such a huge loss to the Britton community. Rest in Peace, Uncle Davey.

Adelbert Vaughan - February 28 at 08:42 PM