



# David John Ludlum

MAY 11, 1965 - MAR 31, 2025



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# David John Ludlum

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**O**n March 31, David “Dave” John Ludlum passed peacefully at home in his sleep.

Dave was a big man with an even bigger heart, and the empty space he leaves behind is far, far too vast to measure. His friends and family will miss his fierce intelligence and unflinching integrity. They’ll miss how much he cared for the people he loved, and the many ways he found to take care of them.

Born in Bronxville, New York, on May 11, 1965, Dave lived in Westchester County, NY, until early adulthood. After graduating high school, he brought his steady work ethic to a handful of unusual endeavors, from hawking stereo equipment to making deliveries for an undertaker. For several years, Dave worked as a carrier for the US Postal Service before deciding to pursue higher education. He completed an undergraduate degree in economics at Marist College, followed by a Master of Business Administration at Iona College.

In 1995, Dave accepted a job as an economist with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, DC. He spent the better part of three decades conducting and leading applied research that made the income tax system fairer and easier to understand. Though he received numerous awards throughout his career, what mattered most to Dave was helping his colleagues and doing work that made a difference. He retired in 2022, proud of his many years of service to the American people. It was while working at the IRS that Dave met his wife, Melissa “Missy” Ludlum. They married in 2002.

Ever a New Yorker at heart, Dave couldn’t pass up a good slice or a well-made bagel. He loved the Yankees and never tired of seeing Springsteen live. He never met a problem that couldn’t be solved or a person who wasn’t worth helping. He loved cooking. But more than that, he loved cooking for the people that he loved. Dave had a deep-rooted faith in justice and a soft spot for underdogs. When



## Obituary

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somebody needed him, he didn't say "no." Over the years, he rescued five cats and two dogs, including a misanthropic orange tabby named Loo, who made trouble for 22 years before eventually passing in 2023. Loo was Dave's kindred spirit.

Dave loved to feel the sunlight on his face. It never burned him, even after hours on the beach or in the pool. He could smell salt air from a mile away, and the scent never once lost its novelty. In 2020, he and Missy moved to Milton, DE, just up the street from Lewes and Rehoboth beaches. In his new hometown, Dave continued perfecting his cooking, looking out for his family and friends, and began serving as Treasurer on the Community ESL Advisory Board.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Edward Ludlum and Margaret Mary Ludlum (née Holler) of Cortlandt Manor, NY. He is survived by his brother, Charles Ludlum Jr., and wife Martha of Moscow, PA, and their family. Dave is also survived by aunts, uncles, in-laws, and cousins.

He also leaves behind his wife, Missy, whom he loved and looked after every minute of their nearly 23-year marriage. His two heartbroken black lab mixes, Cash and Carter, already miss his home-cooked meals and reckless roughhousing.

Dave was the best sort of man.

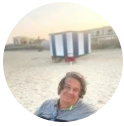
A memorial service will be held on May 3, 2025, at 11:00 am at Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 7 Bay Vista Rd, Rehoboth Beach, DE. Visitation will be held from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, prior to the service.

Invitations are forthcoming for a May 11 bonfire on Lewes Beach to celebrate Dave's 60th birthday.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Brandywine Valley SPCA in Georgetown, DE or the Community ESL Program hosted by LCOS in Rehoboth Beach.

Please sign the tribute wall located on this website.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLOWERS DELIVERED ON FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025 BY 3PM. TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



# Events


**David John Ludlum**

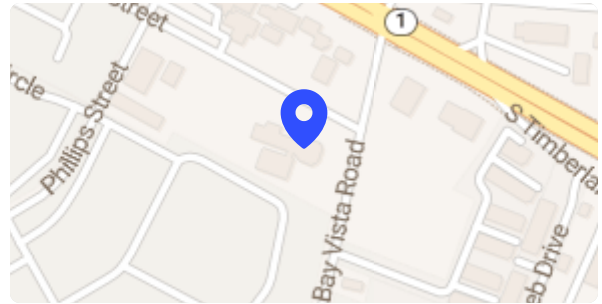
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## Visitation

 **Saturday**, May 3, 2025


 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET


 **Lutheran Church of Our Savior**  
20276 Bay Vista Road, Rehoboth Beach DE

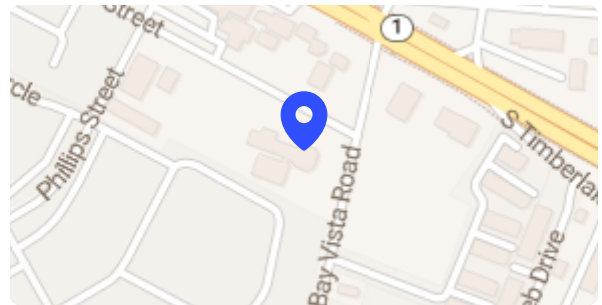


## Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, May 3, 2025

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

 **Lutheran Church of Our Savior**  
20276 Bay Vista Road , Rehoboth Beach DE 19971





## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Fiery Lily and Rose to the Ludlum family.



April 30 at 9:03 AM



**Joanne** posted:

David was my aunt's son. I remember him as a kid, maybe 10 years old, playing out back on the grandparents' porch with his brother Charlie. They were great kids and so active and fun. They lived in New York city and my family in Pa. It was fun to see them when they visited. David was a really good, likeable man, too. I sorry he died so young.

April 27 at 9:54 AM



**Suzanne Segarra** lit a candle in honor of David.



April 11 at 9:43 AM



**Karen Manson** lit a candle in honor of David.



April 9 at 3:44 PM



**Gina Mitchell** lit a candle in honor of David.



April 9 at 3:44 PM



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KM

**Karen Manson** posted:

Dave came into our family so many years ago and accepted us just the way we were. Even though all the years, of all of his pain, he never missed anything. He showed up for everything for our family. You could always depend on him and he never complained. I will miss texting him and talking to him on the phone. We surely did not get to keep him long enough. There was always a special place in my heart for Dave. I love you Missy. Aunt Karen

April 9 at 3:36 PM

MB

**Mary Beth Lee** lit a candle in honor of David.



April 9 at 1:54 PM

ML

**Mary Beth Lee** April 9 at 1:59 PM

David and I are cousins. I knew him when he was a child as our families got together during the summer. Our grandmother rented two houses right on the beach each summer. He was a quiet and gentle boy. I so wish that we had kept in touch in adulthood. I learned so many wonderful things about David through his beautifully written obituary, and I know I missed the opportunity to really know an extraordinary man. I will regret that always.

KC

**Katherine Cauley** posted:

Dave is my accountant hero and taught me everything I might still remember. I miss him already. Kate Cauley

April 9 at 5:40 AM



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GM

**Gina Mitchell** posted:

Dear Missy, Thank you for bringing Dave into our family. He will truly be missed. He sure could make a person laugh. He loved you deeply. We are all here for whatever you need. Greg and I love you very much. Love, Aunt Gina & Greg

April 9 at 5:13 AM

DM

**Dianne Morrow** April 9 at 4:25 PM

Missy, you and Dave welcomed me in this community. I really appreciate it and enjoyed going to the high school football games. Dave always offered to help me if I needed anything. A truly good man inside and out. He will be dearly missed. My heart goes out to you and your family. If you need anything let me know.

JS

**John Steinmetz** posted:

The world needs more people like David. He was a kind and gentle man with a wonderful sense of humor. We are all poorer without him, but I will always keep him alive in my mind and in my heart.

April 9 at 4:19 AM

DJ

**Denise Jacono** posted:

He was the greatest Yankee fan, I ever met.

April 8 at 4:56 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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