



## David E. Vermilya

October 1, 1948 - March 24, 2017

David E. Vermilya, 68, of Seneca River, Baldwinsville passed away suddenly after a short illness. Born in McGraw, NY to Robert and Margaret Vermilya, David grew up in Manlius NY attending the First Baptist Church.

He traveled widely across the country with his family, from New York State to California, falling in love with national parks and people from all kinds of diverse backgrounds in order to maintain relationships with his parents' extended family on both coasts. He became best friends with his younger sister Lois early in life, the two of them maintaining a very special relationship throughout adulthood until today. The Vermilya family has always been known for welcoming hospitality, generosity, a true love of people, respect for the earth, and devotion to civic service.

He is a graduate of Fayetteville-Manlius High School in 1966 and Hobart College in 1970. He took a position on March 7, 1971 at Town Shop Youth Center as a youth worker extraordinaire. He was consistently patient, respectful, and warm to all teens. He often said "it is an honor and privilege to serve the youth of Camillus." He received numerous awards and recognitions over his career. In 2000 he and Cheryl received the Syracuse Post Standard Achievement Award.

He enjoyed hiking, bird watching, kayaking, and cross-country skiing. He was a practical joker, photographer, lover of music and festivals, and true buddy with Smokey Bear his Maine Coon Cat. He also loved homemade food from Cheryl which he never forgot to thank her for.

Survived by his wife Cheryl, his college sweetheart he married in their college chapel in 1970; a sister who was his soul-mate Lois Vermilya and husband Leonard Weslowski; a niece Alana Bryant and husband Derek Bryant; a nephew Owen Weslowski who will marry his beloved Lorri Lanning on June 3, 2017; and a sister-in-law L. Brooke Johnson.

A celebration of David's life and work with the Town Shop will be held on Saturday, May

6th from 3 to 7 pm at Shove Park, 1 Shove Park Drive, Camillus, NY, 13031. Friends are invited to come at any point during those hours and stay as long as you want. Casual attire PLEASE. All Music will be from David's famous mixes.

Food and Refreshments will be available at the facility by outside vendors.

Arrangements are by the B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, Camillus.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Camillus Town Shop, 4600 W. Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13219.

Please visit <http://www.BLBUSH.com> to write a tribute, post photos and videos.

Town Shop

A Shrine to the children,  
open arms welcoming all inside  
to a place of relaxation,  
Not to worry of the rising tide.  
The clouds recede overhead  
and the rain ceases.  
The roof protects all that is said  
Everything anyone release.  
No secrets kept,  
But promises held true  
A place for only honesty,  
of friendships that grow and bloom.

By Becky DePalma

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POEM BY TOWN SHOP PARTICIPANT

AM I THERE...  
IN THE DEPTHS OF THESE BOOKS  
THAT OPEN AND SEEP OUT OCEANS  
OF WORDS IN THE FORM OF FACES  
THAT ARE RESERVED OVER TIME

MOTIONLESS YET THEY BECKON YOU  
TO OPEN UP YOUR MIND AND TRACE  
THE TRAILS THAT LEAD TO THIS MOMENT  
MEMORY LANE...  
WHOEVER KNEW IT WOULD COME IN  
THE FORM OF A PILE ...  
STACKS OF BOOKS THAT REACH THROUGH  
THEIR COVER AND FLOOD YOU  
WITH THE CLEANING WATERS  
THAT WASH AWAY THE LOSS  
TO REMIND YOU ...  
WE STILL REMAIN HERE  
WITHIN THE PILE, WHICH,  
CLIMBS THE WALLS LIKE  
VINES AND SEEPS INTO THE WOOD  
THEN DRIPS FROM THE CEILING  
TO SATURATE THE FLOORS  
AND FIL THE SOULS OF THOSE TO COME ...  
WE ... AND AS WE DO WE CREATE ... THE MEMORIES  
WHICH YOU KEEP AND STORE AWAY ... AM I THERE? ... I NEVER LEFT.

# Events

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**MAY** **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM - 07:00PM

**6**

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Shove Park

1 Shove Park Drive, Camillus, NY, US, 13031

# Comments

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“ Very sorry to hear about Dave. We played in a band together at Hobart. I never forgot his kindness toward me during my brief time there.

**Paul Anderson** - April 21, 2020 at 09:37 PM

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“ Housing at least 400 teens during a 22-year period may be the most rewarding experience I'll ever have in my life. David put in at least a 6-hour-day's drive to arrive at my house for the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival.

A caravan of youth was in tow. How expansive and nurturing it was for these teens to travel that distance and be exposed to some of the best folk music in our country and beyond! At these 3- to 4-day forays folks connected and shared an enriching comradery. Those who brushed shoulders with David were guided toward a more gentle, loving, and compassionate way of being. Our views of the world were broadened and we were encouraged to be true to our selves. How I have witnessed this many times with the teens and myself. I have much gratitude for Cheryl and David from the bottom of my heart!

Town Shop teens: Thank you so much for your enthusiastic energy, insights, openness, great manners, helpful deeds around my house. I so loved your visits and so benefited from them. My heart goes out to you for your loss with David's passing. The world is not the same without him. Much love, Laurel Tewes

**Richard Kuehn** - July 01, 2017 at 06:28 PM



“ I posted the above tribute to David for Laurel Tewes

**Richard** - July 01, 2017 at 06:29 PM

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“ Cheryl, my deepest sympathy goes out to you, growing up in the village of Camillus, I was at the Townshop all the time, you and David reached out to all of us village kids and poured your heart and soul into giving back to the community. I will always remember the words of wisdom David and yourself taught everyone about life., I had soo much fun going to Filmore Glenn Hiking and gosh we went some where camping, I just can"t remember where that was now, but had tons of fun. My days of the Townshop brought me much happiness and very fond memories. Back in the day I hung out with Mike & nanci Parker, Sue Degnan, Sue & Leslie Farrington, The Dirrados, Mike O'hara, Tom & Cindy Jacobsen, Patty Orcutt you know the crew. I remember all the softball games, playing pool, cards, David will always be remembered for his kind soul and Love for people, My brother Patrick also hung out at the Townshop in his day, He always Loved your company as well. It is with great sadness that my brother Pat passed away 4 days before Dave did on March 20th, 2017 I just know the two of them are talking about the good old days now. Much Love to you Cheryl, and Thankyou for sharing David and your life with all of us. xoxoxo Brenda (Cushman) Casson

Brenda Casson - May 07, 2017 at 08:02 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album Service



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - May 06, 2017 at 06:15 PM

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“ This is Michael Murphy. My brother Doug and I are cousins of Lois and David and played together many times in Pasadena. My mother, Lorna Murphy, nee Staat, was a niece of Margaret Vermilya, David's mother. We heard about what Lois and David were up to mostly through Lorna's contacts with Mickey over the years. We are so saddened to hear of David's passing. I recently retired so that we could devote some time to visiting our relatives on the mainland that we had not seen for so many years. I am sorry we couldn't make it to New York to see David again! We are inspired by David's civic dedication and the many selfless years he spent on behalf of his beloved youth group. In his honor we are making a dedication to it! We are proud of him and offer our condolences to his wife Cheryl, his sister, Lois, her husband, Lenny, and to the broader family he loved so well! Thank you, David, for all you have meant to us! Rest In Peace!

Michael Murphy - April 12, 2017 at 07:07 PM



“ It was such a short period of time I could join Dave's and Cheryl's company still has given me so much. Much love, care new perspective of life, self knowing that accompanied me since then. His care and personality, willingness affected lives inside and outside the USA as well. Me surely. Took it with me home shared if I could wherever life took me. I consider it a present of life, God. I carry the pieces of mindset the memories, the feeling of clean air, nature, friendship. Thank you for it. It was not always easy for sure. doing such a work and life such a life. I was so happy for the posts we shared, exchanged during the years and felt a bit closer, still connected more than the strong string of remembering. I was thankful for it. You could make a year worth with one little mail filled with news from you and Town Shop life, programme even I had no chance to join any time soon at all. I was happy to receive also to remember and share the memories and the mindset. I was hoping to meet again in this life. Now I only can be happy we met. May your mortal frame rest in peace and soul find eternal bliss. My condolences to you dear loving Cheryl and to you all who were family and friend or knew him. May you find balance and peace as soon as possible. Melinda Császár from Hungary

**Melinda Császár** - April 11, 2017 at 05:24 AM

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“ It is impossible to fully grasp David's impact on the teens of the Camillus area for over 40 years. He truly was a one of one man. His love and care for everyone was immense. Both he and Cheryl have made such a huge difference in the lives of the young people they encountered. He will never be forgotten. I am saddened by his loss, but also can't help but celebrate his life. I consider myself lucky to have spent time with him.



**Bill Baldwin** - April 04, 2017 at 01:42 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments** - April 01, 2017 at 01:08 PM

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“ Sadness haiku

missing you badly  
Buoyancy lust for life, Om  
(Extra line) can't replace  
Dave Vermilya

**kimberly sherman** - March 31, 2017 at 06:46 PM

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“ Cheryl, I am so sorry.. Both of you have touched so many lives, including mine, and I am so grateful to have such fond memories to cherish. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Michele Strickland** - March 31, 2017 at 10:20 AM

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“ We will long remember David & Cheryl's kindness & compassion for the youth of Camillus. The "clownshop" was a valuable, accepting haven for all.  
Condolences, the Wagner family

**jm wagner** - March 31, 2017 at 08:31 AM

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“ Faith Riker lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



Faith Riker - March 30, 2017 at 06:50 PM

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“ On behalf of the skateboarding community of Camillus our thoughts and prayers go out Cheryl and David's family. In a town that has been neglectful towards its skateboarding citizens of all ages David found time to say yes to our needs. His willingness to take time to transport skateboarders to local areas like the city of Syracuse skate parks and their Everson Museum to far away areas like Love Park in Philadelphia will always be remembered with great fondness for it was a place and time of great happiness. David gave proof that local governments can and do make the right choice when hiring. As they did over forty years ago when they hired David shortly after he graduated college. Thank you David for allowing our community to grow with you, your college sweetheart Cheryl. Godspeed

Joseph Reed - March 30, 2017 at 04:31 PM

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“ My high school friend dedicated his life to others, what more can you say about a fellow like that, just a wonderful guy. Jamieson Steele

Jamieson R.R Steele - March 30, 2017 at 07:27 AM

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“ Growing up in the village and going to the township those days were priceless! Dave was a tremendous person and friend ! He had many qualities , must of all he had a very competitive side especially when it came to playing basketball at east hill ! Dave will be missed but never forgotten! What he taught us and took to some many places we will cherish ! Thank you ! Dave and Cheryl for the lasting memories!! Our thoughts and prayers go out to and your family ! Love always, Tim & Kristine Gallivan

tim gallivan - March 29, 2017 at 07:25 PM

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“ To Cheryl,

I remember you and David from many years ago. You both came for insurance when I worked with George Smits. I think it was the first policy I wrote for vehicle insurance. Know that thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Rose Marie Train, Syracuse, NY

**Rose Marie Train** - March 29, 2017 at 03:31 PM

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“ Jessica Mathewson lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Jessica Mathewson** - March 29, 2017 at 10:40 AM

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“ If I am remembered as half the man as Dave was upon my death, I will know that I lived an extraordinary life....

**Dan** - March 29, 2017 at 08:03 AM

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“ I have many fond memories of the Vermilya family. Bob and Margaret were pillars in the Manlius Baptist Church and I always enjoyed when David would visit and share stories of his work. Rest in peace.

**Peter Mapstone** - March 29, 2017 at 06:23 AM

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“ I have had several opportunities to work with Dave through the Camillus Coalition on Substance Abuse, as well as with the Town Shop. He was passionate about the youth of Camillus, and all the pressures that teens face today, He was a father figure, counselor, guide, and most of all a wonderful role model for them as he was a compassionate, kind, and loving person. This world has lost a great person, and heaven is better for his presence.

Pastor Marcia Wickert  
Camillus First United Methodist Church

**Marcia J. Wickert** - March 28, 2017 at 08:28 PM

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“ I didn't know David well, but was best friends with Lois, his little sister. I loved the Vermilya family and learned kindness and caring from them. Lois loved and admired David so. He was a remarkable man, and I now realize this after reading these countless tributes to him. I see how powerful his friendship and guidance was to so many at the Town Shop. David was truly a hero.

Laura McCullough  
Brewster, MA

**Laura Beidleman McCullough** - March 28, 2017 at 08:10 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Lorraine Huffaker** - March 28, 2017 at 02:20 PM

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“ Diane Castro lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Diane Castro** - March 28, 2017 at 12:10 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers reach out to Cheryl and Dave's family. I am forever grateful to have had Dave and Cheryl as pillars in our community. The foundation has been set and is strong. Dave's influence will forever be remembered and will continue to influence and touch our community. Let us return the love.

**Diane Castro** - March 28, 2017 at 12:09 PM

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“ Kim Kipp lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Kim Kipp** - March 28, 2017 at 10:10 AM

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“ Dave and Cheryl have done so much for the youth of Camillus; without their help and encouragement so many teens would not have gone as far as they have. It was a pleasure to work with Dave on local projects affecting our teens, Dave will be sorely missed. I just know that the good he has done will echo on into the future through the Town Shop teens.

**Rose A Burdick** - March 28, 2017 at 09:34 AM

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“ Cynthia Morabito lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



Cynthia Morabito - March 28, 2017 at 08:55 AM

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“ It's been said, and sung about. David's passing proves that only the good die young. This amazing man, captured the hearts of an entire community. I was there in the beginning, when many neighbors of the Town Shop launched several attempts to shut it down. David and Cheryl met those challenges with kindness, and love. Before long, the Town Shop became a strong, and loved part of the community. David and Cheryl taught all how to be caring, compassionate lovers of life, and what's possible. I was amazed at most of the posts here. They're all true. Nobody has ever had a bad thing to say about David. I am saddened that I just moved back to CNY, and had planned to stop and see David and Cheryl. Now, I write this with tears in my eyes. Cheryl, my love for the both of you will be forever, as is the case with thousands of friends of the Town Shop. Ken Beaulieu

Ken Beaulieu - March 28, 2017 at 07:50 AM

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“ I met Dave through the Camillus-Solvay-Geddes Rotary club and was impressed by his enthusiasm for life and outreach. I am saddened that he was taken away too soon. He was a light in the darkness.

Blair Frödelius - March 28, 2017 at 07:50 AM

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“ Dave and Cheryl were always giving the kids opportunities they could have only dreamed of having; from whale watching to paddling down Nine Mile Creek. They also learned to care about others and visited places like Samaritan House to work. He will be missed. Our prayers are with all of you  
Ray and Belle Brown

Ray and Belle Brown - March 27, 2017 at 08:04 PM

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“ Cheryl I am so sad to hear of Daves passing, he was such a good man. I remember fondly him letting us use the town shop to rehearse and you and he really helped us get our act together. I hope you can take comfort in knowing you have helped so many people. Hang in there we are pulling for you. Terry Mulhauser THE KINGSNAKES

**terry mulhauser** - March 27, 2017 at 07:51 PM

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“ Dear Cheryl, my heart aches for you and your families, and your "other" family that the two of you loved and grew. I am forever grateful to you both. A lot of really fun memories, through the tears. Much love,  
Jane Shawcross

**Jane Shawcross** - March 27, 2017 at 07:30 PM

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“ I share my most heartfelt sympathy with Cheryl and the Vermilya family and the vast community of people touched by David's life and death. He was a most remarkable man and I am honored to have known him as a friend. I will forever carry him in my heart and follow his inspiration in both actions and words. Sincerely, Dan Casler

**Dan Casler** - March 27, 2017 at 06:31 PM

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“ Cheryl I am so sorry for your loss. You and David were such a positive influence on me and countless others when we were growing into adults. I'll never forget the Town Shop and road trips and music and everything that made life fun in the good old days. Thank you both for everything.

**Vince Cardinal** - March 27, 2017 at 06:22 PM

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“ Cheryl, Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. I am sad and in shock. Dave came into my "History of the Sixties" class twice a semester for over twelve years. We shared a love of sixties music, but it was his story telling that had the kids spellbound. He was simply the best story teller I have ever known. And what an incredible gift he had for connecting with teenagers. Some of the students knew him already, of course, but some did not. But he had an amazing way of relating to all. I can't even imagine your pain, but please be comforted in knowing the profound and positive effect Dave had on so many. I will miss him. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Sam Dance

**Samuel Dance** - March 27, 2017 at 05:54 PM

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“ I can't even begin to say how much David touched all our lives. Cheryl, I am so sorry for your loss. Both of you were a big influence in my life and he will be greatly missed. Sincerely, Jim Petralito

**Jim Petralito** - March 27, 2017 at 05:21 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sheila Smith Quinell** - March 27, 2017 at 04:51 PM



“ David working for the kids Feb 2017

**Sheila Smith Quinell** - March 27, 2017 at 05:11 PM

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“ Marybeth Smith-Giromini lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



Marybeth Smith-Giromini - March 27, 2017 at 04:51 PM

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“ Cheryl,  
My deepest condolences to you and Lois. I was shocked to read this the other night. David and you are larger than life! What you both have done for the youth of Camillus is beyond words. I have wonderful memories of going to the town shop in its very early years. There are no right words to say at this time but I am sure you will find your way and I also believe David will be there to help you along. Rip, David.

Marybeth Smith-Giromini - March 27, 2017 at 04:50 PM

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“ Cheryl and family,  
I am so very sorry for your loss. Words cannot truly capture the depth of loss we all feel. David was a rare and true spirit, an angel while on earth. His beautiful soul radiated outward and captured anyone who met him. He was genuine- he listened when people spoke to him, then entwined his soul around yours and it became one. His smile, sometime a bit crooked, his silly jokes, his way. He never forgot a face. He valued each and everyone he met and retained his friendships, no matter the time that had passed. Always positive and optimistic. Always that smile to greet you, a hug. The beauty of him. The passionate love for the young adults he guided over and mentored for 46 years. His life was a true testament to his sacrifice to others and he loved every moment of it. I feel blessed to have known him for those 46 years and will miss him greatly. I expect I will never meet another soul that could hold a candle to his goodness again in my lifetime. God speed to you David on your new journey. I know you will be watching over everyone that you cared about so you will not be far away. To the thousands you touched you will never be forgotten. My love to the family always.

Sheila Smith Quinell

Sheila Smith Quinell - March 27, 2017 at 04:43 PM

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“ I will always remember the great times at church and going to babysit David and Lois with my grandmother Fanny Noyes. Wonderful family, great kids , treasured memories!

My deepest sympathy  
Patricia Noyes Wall



Patricia Noyes Wall - March 27, 2017 at 03:02 PM

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“ The couple times we met, what stood out most to me was his positivity, enjoyment of life and how he made an effort to make me feel at ease. If he did that to others, wow, what a gift he was to this world.

God Bless Cheryl <3

Brian Song - March 27, 2017 at 01:35 PM

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“ Very sad to hear the news about David. To be such a positive influence on so many people is impressive, inspiring, and everlasting. Our Town Shop days were good days, indeed. So sorry, Cheryl. RIP, David.

Craig Cunningham

Craig Cunningham - March 27, 2017 at 01:13 PM

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“ Cheryl, my deepest sympathy for your loss. David was so much to so many and the void in my heart will never be filled. Know you both mean the world to me and I can never repay the gifts of love and guidance you have both given us all. God rest his soul, till we meet again David. I love you both.

Anglia - March 27, 2017 at 11:43 AM

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“ Cheryl, there are no words to express the sympathy that I have for you and for the amount of admiration that I had for David. He was truly the face of Youth Development. He never passed judgment on anyone and was always accepting to all regardless of what they had been though in school or with their family, a true Christian that spoke the Gospel every day, sometimes with words. May God Bless you at this difficult time.  
Your Friend,

Joe King, Baldwinsville

Joseph King - March 27, 2017 at 10:55 AM

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“ Heather Frese-Lisk lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



Heather Frese-Lisk - March 27, 2017 at 09:19 AM

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“ Elizabeth Wadleigh sent a virtual gift in memory of David E. Vermilya



Elizabeth Wadleigh - March 27, 2017 at 09:00 AM

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“ Angela Manning lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



angela manning - March 27, 2017 at 08:35 AM

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“ Dear Cheryl, I can't believe...  
These hours I'm realizing how much harder is dealing with death when you are so far geographically, especially when you loose a person who is still in your heart, even if we haven t met for many years.  
David and you have been great models and guides for my adult life, and I love you profoundly.  
My heart is really broken...  
David,fortunately, will always remain close to each of us, with his extraordinary example.  
A great hug, Cheryl....  
Be strong!

chiara mannucci - March 27, 2017 at 07:36 AM

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“ My Dad & Mom and four youngest brothers & sisters moved to Camillus in 1973 purchasing the old rectory on the main street - just up the hill from the Town Shop. David and Cheryl were household names in my parents home. David had a profound influence on my siblings - Michael, Eileen, Susan & Jerry Degnan. Whenever the older siblings came to visit (which was often) it wasn't uncommon for me to go to the Town Shop with one or all of them or David would stop into our house at 100 Genesse St. David was a true Christian in every sense of the word - he devoted his entire life in service to others. Although I was older than my brothers & sisters I could see immediately how he worked with them, helped them and truly loved them. His early passing puts a strong ache in my heart. The Lord must need him for great things. He was a truly loving and honorable man and my heart and love go out to Cheryl and the remainder of his family.

With Love,  
Kathleen Degnan-Wiley

Kathleen Degnan-Wiley - March 27, 2017 at 06:42 AM



“ Dear dear cheryl, lois and family. There are not enough words in my heart to say how very, very sad that david has crossed over. Thanks to you and david i and thousands, and then the thousands they touch and so on across the universe, have been effected by your time and energy and love and trust and values and experiences you have shared with us. I wrap you in a warm hug and hope to see you again sooner than later.

Love, Lisa thier and my family

**Lisa Thier** - March 27, 2017 at 06:37 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name

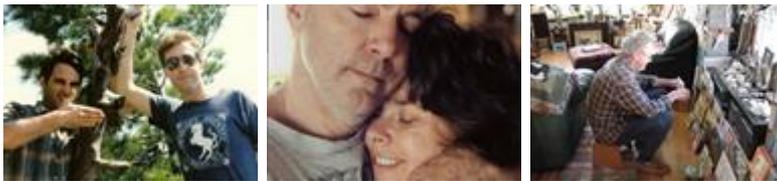


**Andy Matlow** - March 27, 2017 at 06:00 AM

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“ 8 files added to the album New Album Name



**Andy Matlow** - March 27, 2017 at 05:55 AM

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“ Here is a memory from way back. My mother is living up in Danvers now. When I told her about Dave, she remembered an episode from when we were kids. We were keeping a pet frog for him while he and his family were out of town - a large tropical one of some kind. Somehow it escaped in our basement and we couldn't find it, but several weeks later she was down in the basement doing the laundry and heard a strange sound - it was the frog, behind some things up on a shelf. So Dave got it back after all. That would have been in Manlius, in the very early 60's?  
Dave was a great guy back then, and clearly stayed a great guy. Love and blessings to all his family and friends. John Bergstrom

**John Bergstrom** - March 26, 2017 at 10:37 PM

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“ Dear Cheryl, I am so sorry for your loss. You and David gave us all such a welcoming and nurturing environment. You gave us all experiences most of us never would have had if it wasn't for you guys. You gave us life lessons in being selfless, adventurous, appreciation of all things, and living for the now. From my whole heart, I thank you both for being the very best thing to happen to my youth, and for having such kind hearts. Sincerely, Cheryl Pryor (you two knew me as "Little Cheryl" Wolfe



**Cheryl Pryor** - March 26, 2017 at 09:47 PM

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“ Dearest Cheryl, I am so so very sorry for losing your beloved David. The both of you have always been at the very top of my list of people who influenced my life in such positive ways. David taught and shared with me about meditation and yoga at a very young age, which set the direction for the rest of my life. I am forever grateful to him . . . to both of you. I can hardly believe he has left his body. He is still with us . . . in our hearts. Yes, I too, would call him a hero, an evolved being of compassion and wisdom who taught by his actions and example of how he lived. David, you will always live in my heart. Thank you for all you gave. May we meet again in the spirit world. May you have a safe and easeful journey back home.  
Love and Blessings to you Cheryl.

**Eileen Quinn** - March 26, 2017 at 09:16 PM



“ That is, Eileen Degnan Quinn

**Eileen Quinn** - March 26, 2017 at 09:18 PM



“ Very nicely said Eileen - your love for David & Cheryl is exactly how I remember it. How blessed was Camillus to have both of them!

**Kathleen Degnan-Wiley** - March 27, 2017 at 06:50 AM

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“ Few of us meet a hero of one in our lifetime but when your lucky enough to meet a hero of many your eternally grateful! Dave I've watched you be the hero of many from my youth, and you never asked for anything in return. May you be eternally rewarded in your next journey as we all are for just knowing you. My thoughts are with Cheryl and Daves family, my you find peace in this difficult time. Love Francesca



**Francesca Wissel** - March 26, 2017 at 08:36 PM

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“ Cheryl, I am so sorry for your loss. I can only speak for myself but I believe many if not all of the people whose lives you both touched were forever changed by knowing you and David. I have such wonderful memories of my teen years of field trips, concerts, volleyball, cleaning the village streets, and just hanging out at the Town Shop. It's hard to believe in a few months I will turn 60 years old and I walked through the doors of the Town Shop at 16. I believe in my heart that if it was not for you both, my life would have taken a different path. I was on the phone with David Szkotak for 3 hrs talking about our Town Shop years and how much they meant to us. Thank you for sharing your David and your lives with all you touched and my sincere hope is that you find comfort in the many memories you have and hold them close to your heart.

With great love and affection,

Deb Lawrence



**Debra Lawrence** - March 26, 2017 at 06:18 PM

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“ Cheryl, my deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to you and all those blessed to know and love David. He was a community changer and a life saver; a gentle, humble soul destined to save the lost, hurting and vulnerable in the Camillus and surrounding communities. What an immeasurable loss. ADAPEP won't be the same without you. People often say that "everyone is replaceable"--not true with Dave. There will never again be a man that accomplished what he (and Cheryl) have. Never. Rest easy Dave....

**Heather Meyer** - March 26, 2017 at 06:18 PM

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“ Dave, I am truly grateful for all the wonderful experiences and memories you so kindly made possible in my youth. Thoughts of you always bring a smile to my face and a warmth in my heart. Thank you for shining your light so brightly in this lifetime. Cheryl, my heart is with you. With great love and respect,  
Connie James-Schwarz

**connie** - March 26, 2017 at 06:03 PM



“ I am so, so sorry to hear this, what a loss for the entire Camillus NY community and the Town Shop Center. My heartfelt sympathy to Cheryl and all of the many, MANY friends and family Dave made over his many years of service working with teens. It's been over 20 years now that Dave made arrangements to bring a group of teen to the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, the never missed a year, many of those teens went on to be part of our festival community, they started their own contra dance series at the Town Shop, they learned to be responsible, caring, interesting and community-minded adults in large large part from Dave & Cheryl. I will miss my yearly correspondence and meetup at Falcon Ridge with him . He left behind a strong legacy in his community, building something fine that will go on hopefully for many, many years.

Anne Saunders  
Falcon Ridge Folk Festival

Anne Saunders - March 26, 2017 at 04:48 PM

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“ Dear Cheryl, I am so sorry for your loss. Together you and David opened the world for so many of us and helped us find the confidence to seek our place within it. Your relationship with each other helped us see what a loving life partnership looks like. You are in my prayers.  
-Karin (Turner) Kricorian

Karin Kricorian - March 26, 2017 at 03:36 PM

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“ Sorry to hear of Dave's passing. He was such a wonderful gentle man who did so much for youth. Gone too soon



Candee Wadsworth - March 26, 2017 at 03:10 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to the family, especially Cheryl. You both gave our children wonderful times at the Town Shop and the many field trips you offered to them. All this extended into their adulthood when they continued keeping in touch with both of you. Dave's memory will stay alive with all the teens he gave his time, kindness, understanding and generosity to. These memories are definitely a part of my children's lives. My special thanks for your kindness when we lost our precious Andrea to cancer, October 30th, 2001. You are both a part of our family and loved very dearly. Although Dave has moved on to a new life in a Paradise well deserved, he will always remain in the heart of our family wherever we may be. The Morelli Family.....

**Rocco Morelli** - March 26, 2017 at 03:04 PM

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“ im sorry cheryl, thank you david!

**Ron gryziec** - March 26, 2017 at 03:04 PM

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“ Many years ago, Dave gave my band probably too much freedom, but we didn't take advantage of his generosity. I think of those days an awful lot, probably too much. He will be missed. I hope that other kids run into adults that allow them the freedom to push the envelope, like we did with Dave.

**David Finney** - March 26, 2017 at 02:29 PM

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“ Thank you so much for all that you have done for me and my family. You really made Camillus a home. You really were the best of people. Love you always and forever!

**Hopie Ashby** - March 26, 2017 at 02:15 PM

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“ I am so lucky that my brief fledgling life of crime came to a happy stop in 1986. Shoplifting led to community service with the townshop, which changed my life forever. I had never felt so comfortable with or known anyone like Dave and Cheryl. I have been so fortunate to enjoy their friendship over years, but always felt the same when I was with them, more focused on the now, happy, peaceful. I am devastated. I feel the only way for me to feel ok is to think 'what would Dave do?' My heart is with Cheryl, and everyone touched by his amazing spirit, so expansive and encompassing, so gentle, determined, indomitable when needed, so loving and kind and funny. My heart is broken, but I will try to be better knowing Dave

**Kimberly Crum** - March 26, 2017 at 02:09 PM

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“ Dave I want to thank-you for teaching me about the small things in life not the material things. You were always so kind, funny, teachable I could go on and on how you have made a difference in my life. The trips we took, the hikes we hiked, the music everything. You made such an impact on my life and so many others. You will be missed. R.I.P Dave

Christine Clarke

**Christine E Holmes** - March 26, 2017 at 01:13 PM

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“ Pam Shuert lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Pam Shuert** - March 26, 2017 at 01:08 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Cheryl David will be dearly missed

**Pam Shuert** - March 26, 2017 at 01:11 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David E. Vermilya.



March 26, 2017 at 12:47 PM

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“ My sympathies to Cheryl.

I met Dave at Folwell House at Hobart and Wm. Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY in the Fall of 1969 when we both were visiting girlfriends there -- his being Cheryl. He was always soft spoken and sweet. He will be missed.

**Tom Howard** - March 26, 2017 at 12:42 PM

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“ Dear David,

This is the letter that I never wrote you, and it's not because I didn't try. You are so important to me that every time that I started to try to express how much meaning, love, and guidance you gave me, I just fell apart. It's too big. It can't be put into words, but now I have to try.

I am the person that I am today because of you. You, with Cheryl, opened up my world. You taught me... everything. There are so many experiences, so many memories. The first time I did yoga, you lead the class. The first time I went on a long hike, or cross country ski or canoe trip, was with you. You took us on countless adventures: music festivals , volunteering at the soup kitchen, NYC, The Berkshire Mountains, and whale watching, to name just a few. You welcomed us misfit teens into your home and your life, because the Town Shop wasn't just a job to you.

I decided to run a teen center because of you. You were my inspiration, but I could never come close to doing what you and Cheryl were able to do for thousands of people in our community.

My biggest regret is that I let too much time pass since I last saw you. I think about you and Cheryl constantly. When I am out skiing, I think about how you would say that you imagined you were sliding across butter. I think about the fun little practical jokes that you would play on us, like hiding in the woods until we passed and then sneaking up behind us. I think about all those wonderful tapes that you made for all of us. I think about how your head would bob up and down, as you listened to music in the van, as we were heading home from our latest outing. And as I think about all of those moments, there was never a moment when you weren't the loving, caring, accepting, kind person that we all know you to be.

On to the next great adventure, David. We all love you more than words could ever say.

~Jaime Armstrong

**Jaime Armstrong** - March 26, 2017 at 12:29 PM



“ Well said Jaime.

I think so fondly of my years at the Town Shop. I owe a lot to Dave and Cheryl and think of them often through the years.

I'm sending much love your way.

Mandy

**Mandy** - March 28, 2017 at 11:27 AM

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“ David was always a wonderful friend and fellow Hobart Alum. Also a great friend of the Coleman family and brother Bruce. Remember seeing David and Cheryl outside of Medbury Hall at Hobart enjoying the sun. He loved the Kinks back then. He is a wonderful gentle soul and will be missed by all that he touched.  
Dudley Larus and Sydney Coleman

**Dudley J Larus** - March 26, 2017 at 12:25 PM

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“ .....i am so very saddened to hear of dave's passing.....my deep condolences to all who knew and loved him.....how lucky we ALL were to have been in his orbit!!!.....he will be missed.....tommy allen/nyc

**tommy allen** - March 26, 2017 at 12:14 PM

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“ Thank you for always being a positive light in a confused/scared teens life. And thank you for teaching us all the power of kindness, acceptance and love. Your laugh will never be forgotten.

**Garrett** - March 26, 2017 at 11:47 AM

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“ David will be remembered as the kindest,sweet,generous,caring man with the voice of an angel.He made the Townshop a happy place for us all along with Cheryl.He will be forever the person who made so many positive changes for our youths.RIP beautiful David,my deepest sympathy to Cheryl and family.

**Sandy Panek** - March 26, 2017 at 11:03 AM



“ Cheryl, I am so sadden to hear of David passing. He helped so many countless people helping to better our world and our lives. Our loss is not just of all he helped, but a greater loss to all he had yet to know. Words cannot express.... Paul Lang

**Paul Lang** - March 26, 2017 at 11:19 AM



“ Thank you David for being you... you made the world a better place

**Paul warner** - March 26, 2017 at 11:50 AM

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“ Dave was a good man. May peace be with you and your family. My condolences

**jim payne** - March 26, 2017 at 11:00 AM

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“ CV my thoughts are with you and Lois. I am so sorry for the suddenness of DV's illness and the swift finality of his passing. He and you are wonderful people. He is missed. Take care of yourself.

Your friend

Debby

**deborah doolittle** - March 26, 2017 at 10:00 AM

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“ Cheryl, Lois and family, Mic and I send our love and condolences. Cheryl, you and David were there for so many of us. We now offer the same love and compassion to you. You are and will forever, be a part of our lives.

**Claudia and Mic Miceli** - March 26, 2017 at 09:48 AM

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“ I was so saddened when I heard the news, I remember the first days of the Town Shop and what David and Cheryl meant to us then and how they sincerely cared. There will never be another David, he was a such a positive force in so many lives over the years.

**Tim Wheeler** - March 26, 2017 at 09:43 AM

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“ David was my colleague in the ADAPEP program for 17 years. Our best conversations centered on music, for which we had a mutual love. David was one of the kindest, most dedicated people I have ever met, and his death leaves huge hole among the ranks of those who serve youth. My heart goes out to Cheryl, Lois, and all of his family and close friends.

**Kathy Miller** - March 26, 2017 at 09:37 AM

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“ Cheryl, I want you to know that chances are, I would not be half the man I am today without you and David in my life !! I am forever grateful to be a part of the Town Shop for life !! I love you both and I thank you for all the good you have instilled in me. Dave will live in my heart until I take my last breath. Words can't express how deeply sadden I feel for you. My thoughts and prayers are with you !!

**Mark Otis** - March 26, 2017 at 09:33 AM

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“ Dear Cheryl, I was so sorry to hear about David's death. I remember coming to the Town Shop when it first opened. The two of you were so kind and welcoming that it quickly became my second home. Making candles, going to see the Who in Montreal, learning TM, working at the recycling center and long talks are just a few of the things I remember from those days. Both of you made the Town Shop a safe place at a time in my life when I desperately needed a safe place. I will always keep both of you in my heart.  
Wendy (Baule) Whitman

**Wendy Whitman** - March 26, 2017 at 09:29 AM

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“ Cheryl, thoughts and prayers for you. You have both made Camillus NY a better place to be a teenager. The things you and David have taught us all through the years have been taken globally and with no doubt has made this world a better place. Thank you.



**Stephanie Duda** - March 26, 2017 at 09:24 AM

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“ My sincere condolences to Cheryl and family. David was a unique treasure. He will be missed.

**Jerry Maliwesky** - March 26, 2017 at 09:23 AM

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“ There's a saying in this world, that goes, treat others the way you want to be treated. No one really follow that rule. David was the exception. Every moment I think about this man, I realize that he is the person I really wanted to be in this world. I just hope that one day I'll have the strength to be the person that he was everyday.

**Adam Ikeda** - March 26, 2017 at 09:22 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David E. Vermilya.



March 26, 2017 at 08:33 AM

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“ Cheryl, my heart goes out to you. David and you are two of the best friends I've known over 40 yrs. David was a very giving person. He would always be there to help someone, before he did for himself. You both gave your heart, your life to the town shop. The first yrs were a struggle, but you stayed with it and made a great influence in the community. I will never forget when we first meant. All the days we spent together are some of my favorite memories. I pray for David. I send you all my love.

Friends forever,  
Joe Rinaldo  
the old crew

**Carmen Joseph Rinaldo** - March 26, 2017 at 08:24 AM

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“ Anytime I walked in the town shop Dave was smiling and you always felt welcomed. From the trips to just sitting outside the front door and hanging out. He was a truly good soul to be around and made such an impact on how to treat each other. He will be sorely missed.



**Shaun Houghmaster** - March 26, 2017 at 07:57 AM

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“ Cheryl, Rachel and I are so sorry for your loss. Dave was a sweet, caring, wonderful person and will be truly miss by all. Please know that you're in our thoughts and prayers. Sue and Rachel Lucio



**Sue Lucio** - March 26, 2017 at 07:46 AM

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“ Cheryl and Lois, and all of David's family, The love Cheryl, that you and David kindled in our hearts never to be matched. My heart goes out to all.. I go to sleep thinking of you all with tears, I wake thinking of you all with tears.. Your love has made us family...

Sherry & Larry Barnes - all 3 generations loved your home the Town Shop...

**sherry barnes** - March 26, 2017 at 06:55 AM

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“ Dave was the most kind hearted, generous, and caring person I had the pleasure to meet in my life. From the first time I walked into the Town Shop back when I was a young teen he gave me the a feeling of being welcome. He always had great stories to tell you and never ceased to have a smile on his face or a glowing mood. He is the person who gave me my first opportunity to play my music for people and without that who knows if music is something I would still be doing today. The world lost a beautiful person but his soul and the things he built in his life will live on forever through the Town Shop, all of the people whose lives he's impacted, and all the great memories everyone has of him. Rest in peace Dave, you truly will be missed.

**Justin Jarmacz** - March 26, 2017 at 06:22 AM

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“ Elisa KelloggShaffer lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Elisa KelloggShaffer** - March 26, 2017 at 03:26 AM



“ When my cousins were young and my brother Lance went to the Town Shop. I knew they were safe, they could still get into mischief but with Dave around they learned valuable lessons. I know they included him in their lives after they grew up too. Peace to his family and many friends.

**Elisa** - March 26, 2017 at 03:28 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Jolene DeLilys** - March 26, 2017 at 02:48 AM



“ Beautiful pic Jo!

**JoAnn Rao** - March 27, 2017 at 12:44 PM

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“ Love never goes away...your presence on this planet will be felt forever! Thank you for all you did to create a safe loving space for all to experience and grow! And thank you letting me play at the TS...it was a great beginning to my music and performing career...friends forever...love...Judy



**Judy Banky** - March 26, 2017 at 01:27 AM

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“ I was there in March of 1971 when David and Cheryl opened the life-changing Town Shop. And was along on many TS adventures as a young girl and 46 years of the twists and turns of life. David and Cheryl have been the rock of the lives of generations of Camillus youth and we have all suffered a tremendous loss. But the Vermilyas hold a special place in the heart of the Smits family and we mourn the loss of one of us.

**Katrina Smits** - March 26, 2017 at 12:36 AM



“ Lovely tribute Trina !. As I read these, and FB comments I am struck by the eloquence and love of all the comments. This speaks volumes to the impact D&C have had on so many lives

**Jan** - March 26, 2017 at 06:44 AM

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“ I first met David many,many years ago hung out at the Town shop every day love David and Cheryl they did so much for so many my thoughts and prayers go out to the family he will be terribly missed

**Jean O'Hara** - March 25, 2017 at 11:58 PM

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“ Mallorie Cesta lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Mallorie Cesta** - March 25, 2017 at 11:56 PM

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“ Erika Hall lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Erika Hall** - March 25, 2017 at 11:39 PM

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“ I spent a lot of time at the Town Shop in the early 90's. I have so many wonderful memories that took place there. Dave and Cheryl were so important to so many people. Prayers and fond memories are what we have to remember our dearly departed. I hope that the prayers and memories shared by all who were impacted by Dave comfort Cheryl & family during these difficult days. Sending my most heartfelt condolences. Thank you for making my teenage years a caring, safe, & happy time.



**Erika Burkhard Ruth** - March 25, 2017 at 10:44 PM

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“ We met the night you and Cheryl were moving in. We were among your first "customers". Spent many nights hanging out with you even though we were the same age. Enjoyed every minute. Grateful for you and Cheryl and all you taught me. Love you, Friends

**Barb Aureli** - March 25, 2017 at 10:36 PM

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“ Rae Lamanna Gassen lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Rae Lamanna Gassen** - March 25, 2017 at 10:21 PM

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“ Many great memories from way way back at the town shop with lance, Mike Tackman, playing guitar, listening to some great musicians thanks to Dave and Cheryl. Willy Kye, Martin Sexton, Jamie Notarthomas and more. Dave was an amazing person who cared about every kid and many many people owe him a thank you. SS

**Scott Schultz** - March 25, 2017 at 10:09 PM

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“ I knew Dave in high school and he was a kind and generous person then. Not surprised that he grew to be such a wonderful man. All of you who shared his life are fortunate indeed to have had him in you lives. Rest In Peace Dave. Melinda Mussi Lockwood.

**melinda** - March 25, 2017 at 09:57 PM

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“ Fly high my friend. Such a kind soul. You have shaped many of us kids into who we are today. May the four winds blow you safely home. God bless



**Matt Levy** - March 25, 2017 at 09:43 PM

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“ Tracy Marie lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Tracy Marie** - March 25, 2017 at 09:41 PM

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“ Janice Hannig lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Janice Hannig** - March 25, 2017 at 09:34 PM

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“ I was a teen who hung out at the Town Shop on a daily basis. David and Cheryl were role models. I experienced things I have taken with me as an adult. Hiking was my most favorite, and still is to this day. May God hold you in his arms David, and until we meet again, you will be forever in my heart.  
Love: Janice Peck

Janice Hannig - March 25, 2017 at 09:32 PM

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“ David is a great man and won't ever be forgotten he has touched so many children life's so many years Cheryl and David are the best family friend teacher all the above we will cherish your memories forever we love you always

Karen - March 25, 2017 at 09:32 PM

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“ Cheryl and DAVE you mean the world to so many, I am honored to be a township "kid"! I am forever humbled and grateful that I walked through your doors. I will treasure every memory made and will always try to pay it forward. Thanks for loving us kids unconditionally. Sending love to you Cheryl and all of the family! Dave you are my "Hurdy Gurdy Man" singing songs of love

Angee Giraldo - March 25, 2017 at 09:27 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Elizabeth Jane - March 25, 2017 at 09:26 PM

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“ I've only met Dave a handful of times but I feel like i have known him for years. My husband to this day still tells me stories of him and Dave..trips to NYC..canoeing..ping pong matches...the times he spent at the "the town shop" ...the memories flow each day about Dave. I'm so thankful of the role he played in shaping my husbands life. Thank you Dave for making such an impression on people who surround you. You will be missed by those who barely know you and those who have loved you from the moment they have met you. Your memory will live on for years to come. May you rest in peace.  
Love Aaron and Tanya Smith

**Tanya and Aaron Smith** - March 25, 2017 at 09:11 PM

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“ With all of my love to Cheryl and Deb <3  
Words are hardly sufficient-  
Dave, for everything you've done for me-for so, so many people. I'm so fortunate to have known you, you and beautiful Cheryl shaping my formative years with kindness and respect. You are so dearly missed, but you have truly created a legacy.  
You are forever my sunshine superman.  
Love,  
-Mo, who has still not gone to social skills class.

**mo** - March 25, 2017 at 09:02 PM

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“ Dave and Cheryl have always been such great people. I remember going to the town shop in the 90's. Dave was so nice and such a caring person. He will be greatly missed by many



**Kristi Lavonier-Ruggeri** - March 25, 2017 at 08:54 PM

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“ I first went to the Town Shop my freshman year in 1992 & was blown away by this 3 story haven. It was the get-a-way, a place for homework, food, friends & fun. Open mic nights where I was sure my high school friends would grow up to be rock stars ( some did), the art, Daves vinyl - getting new cassettes every week of music I'd ask for & extra gems that Dave would introduce you to. My paper calendar of events hung in my parents fridge, hiking, cross counrty skiing, views from hangliders point, volunteering at events, concerts, concerts, concerts, my first Dead Show. Still to this day, I've never came across two people who took nothing & gave so much. Dave you are the inspiration of a coummunity, you helped so many of us became the people we are today.

**Tiffany Fresina** - March 25, 2017 at 08:44 PM

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“ Angie Krueger lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Angie Krueger** - March 25, 2017 at 08:21 PM



“ Dave and Cheryl are amazing People. Very sorry to hear he has passed and hope he is Walking With God now.

**Michael Salansky** - March 25, 2017 at 09:00 PM

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“ Quite simply, the most wonderfully buoyant soul I will encounter across my days. You played a major role in who I have become, even though I didn't meet you until I was almost 30. I envy those who were molded by your hands as teens. You will be forever loved and never forgotten.

**J.C. Tsistinas** - March 25, 2017 at 08:05 PM



“ you couldn't of said it better thank you I had to share this, my thought exactly

**Jenny** - March 25, 2017 at 08:17 PM

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“ Dave and Cheryl came in to my life when i was 18 years old when a friend told me to come to this awesome place to hang out run by amazing people. I am now 24 years old and they opened my eyes so much in the past 7 years showing me how beautiful and laid back life can be and how to let go of stress and feel accepted all at the same time. He made myself and so many people feel safe. Hes my favorite person i have ever had the honor of meeting. He will never be forgotten but his legacy will live on through all of us.

**Sarah Kitts** - March 25, 2017 at 08:03 PM



“ Dearest Cheryl and family- I haven't seen you since college days but have been so moved over the years reading about the impact you both have had on so many. My favorite memory of Dave is his uncanny ability to score the first copy of whatever new release there was & blast it out of Medbury's window - Abbey Road comes to mind. I am so, so sorry and sad for you. As so many have said so well, his legacy will continue. Much love, Kate

**Kate Aldrich** - March 25, 2017 at 09:38 PM



“ I can't begin to tell you how much of an impact you had on my life dave. You were the most thoughtful, understanding and caring person i ever met! I told you once that you should wear sweatpants with a string that tied but never did until i pantsed you in front of the picture window but you didn't kick me out or even get mad...to this day i still don't understand why you let me stay, but i'm glad you did my friend and mentor. You are truly one of a kind and will be greatly missed



**malia brown** - March 25, 2017 at 08:03 PM



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**JoAnn Rao** - March 27, 2017 at 12:52 PM



“ I would not be the person I am today without you and Cheryl. I am at a loss for what to say and could write pages and pages and pages at the same time. I will carry on your legacy of your kindness, empathy, adventure, humor, compassion and openness on my future endeavors abroad. I know you will be there to guide me and the rest of us "kids" always and forever. Love you Dave.



**Christina Suchon** - March 25, 2017 at 07:55 PM

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“ Oh Cheryl and David's family, my heart is heavy with sadness for the loss of a remarkable man and your love. I am not surprised by the enormous amount of lives that were greatly affected by Dave. He had the utmost respect for all who inhabit this world and I am grateful for knowing him. Words will never, ever do justice to express the gratitude I have for Dave and Cheryl and the love and support you have given, and continue to give Debra. Each time I look at my daughter, I gratefully acknowledge the tremendous impact you have had on her life - I know, without a doubt, your influence saved her soul. For this, and so much more, we will forever be connected. I will miss you David. Thank you. Have a peaceful journey my friend.

**Donna Ancillotti** - March 25, 2017 at 07:43 PM

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“ Sean Shay lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**Sean Shay** - March 25, 2017 at 07:25 PM

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“ David you were a great man. Thank you for all the trips, skiing, whale watch, volleyball and much more. You will truly be missed and never forgotten. Your legend will live on. Thanks for everything you and Cheryl have done for our community.

**Joan Brown** - March 25, 2017 at 07:21 PM

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“ I met Dave and Cheryl when I was in high school at West Genesee. They used to let garage bands play upstairs, which i was a part of one. Dave a Cheryl both have dedicated their lives to working with youth and keeping them involved in activities and events, as well as giving countless kids a place to feel safe and at home. The impact they have had over 40 years at the Town Shop is almost immeasurable. Thousands of youth are far better off than they would have been without these two, They were mentors, confidants, counselors, parents to hundreds, and always an open ear to anyone. The world needs more Dave and Cheryls, and we are all saddened and torn by this loss. David, your legacy lives on in every person you helped, and we all thank you and love you for that. Heaven got a real angel this time, but this one started in Camillus. Rest in peace and Rock on Dave!

Sean Shay  
Class of 1996

**Sean Shay** - March 25, 2017 at 07:21 PM

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“ David, i am a classmate of Lois. You will live on in our hearts becuse we love the music of the 60's and are thankful you took the time to put together all the disks.

**jane Porter** - March 25, 2017 at 07:15 PM

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“ Dave you and Cheryl have ment so much to myself and my boys over the years. I'm so glad they got to meet the both of you and share the amazing experience I had as a teenager at the town shop. The most magical place on earth of peace, love and friendship. Will never ever forget you dave and the true lessons of life and the most amazing things I would never had seen without your influence. Till I see you again my friend peace and love.

**Brian Raichlin** - March 25, 2017 at 07:07 PM

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“ i only knew david for about 6 or 7 years. i will always be thankful for the time i knew him. it gave us each so much pleasure turning each other on to music we had not heard. i will missthat and the great conversation so very much. what a wonderful,caring person. what a great friend. bill curtis

**bill curtis** - March 25, 2017 at 07:06 PM

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“ Steve Reichert lit a candle in memory of David E. Vermilya



**steve reichert** - March 25, 2017 at 06:59 PM

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“ I remember going cross country skiing with you Dave and the rest of the people down there . It was at night i loved it.

**steve reichert** - March 25, 2017 at 06:58 PM

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“ Dave, where do I even begin to express to you the impact you made on my life? You were instrumental in the career path that I chose because you taught me empathy, patience and to help those less fortunate. I met my husband at the Townshop 28 years ago and we are still married today! Thanks so much for being a part of my life and blessing all of those whose paths you've crossed! Sending hugs and kisses to you in heaven!



**Mary Demperio** - March 25, 2017 at 06:41 PM

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“ I was shocked to hear this very sad news. David was an amazing man dedicating his entire life to teenagers as a beautiful mentor, supporter and living kind man. Cheryl may you find peace in knowing the love of thousands many of us in our 50's now surround you with much love and care. RIP David.

**Lori M. Clapper** - March 25, 2017 at 06:39 PM

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“ Every time I saw and spoke with Dave he was positive upbeat and had a smile. He always looked at life as a gift. He was kind and thoughtful. Giving and hopeful. Encouraging and sharing. His work will never be forgotten. I'm proud and honored to have known him.



**Michele Dubois Payne** - March 25, 2017 at 06:35 PM



“ He was an important part of my life since I met him when I was sixteen. I cared a great deal for him, the special and very big person he was. I was out of touch with him for many years due to life circumstances and moving out of state, but it has been an immense pleasure getting to know him again on facebook these last five years. My sympathies go out to Cheryl, Lois, and everyone who knew him much better than I and also for everyone who's life he ever impacted so greatly. I will miss you David.

**Jolene DeLilys** - March 26, 2017 at 02:46 AM



“ Our memories are many with what David & Cheryl gave to us. We will miss David and everything he lived, loved & shared. His love for Cheryl came 1st as they together showed us. His love for all of life, nature, & music were next, Be kind to one another and give of ourselves in Memory Of David.

**Bonnie & John Major** - March 26, 2017 at 12:14 PM



“ Cheryl, I am deeply saddened by the loss of Dave. This is a terrible loss for our community and the world as well. The life Dave lived spoke volumes of the person he was and he made a lasting impression on everyone who met him. When I think of Dave the following words come to my mind: humble, kind, selfless, compassionate, even tempered and loving. Cheryl, you and Dave devoted your lives to providing an environment that was a safe place for teens to gather, where they could grow emotionally, and be free to develop talents, all while having a great time. You showed them the beauty of nature and also the importance of serving those less fortunate than themselves. My son would not be the man he is today without you and Dave in his life. I always enjoyed so much, the photos Daryl shared with me after going on a town shop trip or outing. It brought so much joy to his life. Dave was a wonderful man. I don't think I know another human being like him. Cheryl, you are in my thoughts and prayers, and I ask God to hold you in his arms and give you the peace that only he can give.

Mary Olin

**Mary Olin** - March 26, 2017 at 03:41 PM



“ Fair winds . . . Dave  
Camp Tellman

**Campbell Tellman** - March 27, 2017 at 08:50 AM



“ Dave was a complete revelation to me as a Town Shop teen, and I want to echo the words of everyone here and all of us whose lives he changed, just by being the person he was. Gentle, kind, approachable, funny, unfailingly positive, uplifting, trustworthy, and every, every good thing. I can't imagine anyone who knew Dave even for a little while being able to name another person like him. If after this life we all go on to review the life we lived and see our impact and how far it goes, Dave is probably overwhelmed to see how much his love changed the world. I thank him and Cheryl forever for changing mine.

**Kathy Hill** - March 28, 2017 at 08:40 AM



“ Cheryl: I 'm terribly sorrow for your loss - but also for the loss to all of us who knew Dave. His legacy will live on via the tremendously positive influence he imparted to all the children (and adults) who had the great good fortune to have known him. He was genuinely among the most sincere and impressive men I have ever met. My prayers are with him and you.

Liam O'Bannion - Rory O'Bannion's father

**Liam O'Bannion** - March 28, 2017 at 10:47 AM