



David J. Lingyak

October 10, 1956 - August 31, 2025

David James Lingyak

10/10/1956---08/20/1978

08/20/1978---08/31/2025

The amazing life of David James Lingyak. At the age of 68, David was freed from his wheelchair and is walking again in heaven. David was born on October 10, 1956 to James and Dorothy Jean Lingyak of Camillus, NY. He graduated from West Genesee Senior High School Class of '74 and Cayuga County Community College Class of '76. He was Department Manager of the Men's and Shoe Departments at J.C. Penny in Camillus until August of 1978.

His world turned upside down and took on a new meaning on August 20, 1978. David had a swimming accident on Oneida Lake that left him a Quadriplegic. Don't cry, he would say a "whole new life is out there" and absolutely took advantage of it. After many months of rehabilitation in Boston, MA, David returned to Camillus and learned what true, honest friendship and community meant. When David came home there were banners across the road and many true childhood friends were standing in the driveway, waiting with a coat in one hand and a beer in the other. They said, "David, you are going out for a beer, with or without a coat". He was wheeled over to the Green Gate Inn and from that day forward David was never a handicapped person. After a short period of adjustment at home, David rolled down to

Ithaca, NY and graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Labor Relations in 1983. Even though he just missed graduating Summa Cum Laude, he was very proud of this achievement (remember, he could not write any notes).

After graduating, he built a house in the Village of Camillus and started doing his artwork. Wheeled up to an easel with a pencil or paint brush in mouth, David created beautiful artwork. If an object was able to be anchored to his easel, he would draw/paint on it. While attending the wedding of a very good friend in Vermont, he met his wife, Linda Sue. They were soon married, and both started a greeting card business D & L Designs. Due to harsh northern winters, David and Linda moved to Greenwood, SC. They traveled and conquered the world together; 22 cruises, 25+ countries and many trips up and down the Eastern and Southern shoreline including Hawaii. With David's personality and smile, he soon made dear friends in the Greenwood area and taught them what true friendship meant. He loved being around them. He was the guy you felt comfortable around, cool to hang around with, and extremely knowledgeable about many, many subjects. He was the guy you wanted on your trivia team. He tutored many young people in schoolwork, to just relax and be sociable, he was kind to everyone and always was up for a conversation and loved to make you laugh, he taught us all numerous life lessons. You learned fast, don't just think about "yourself". If you wanted a snack, drink, etc., you always got two - one for him and one for you - that was the way of life around David. He would never say no to fresh seafood (oysters were his favorite) and a cold beer. If you listened to him and did exactly what he said, he could have you open an oyster on your first try. David was tied down to a chair for 47 years with many hospital visits and operations. BUT never complained about being a quad. He represented the meaning of spirit and true grit, never did he look back over his shoulder and complain about his accident, the chair was just an extension of his body. His last 38 years were truly amazing, and it is all due to one person, his wife of 38 years, Linda Sue.

She is an amazing, outstanding saint, and God will save a special place just for Linda. If you see Linda, please hug her and make her smile. Our family would never have been able to enjoy David this long if it was not for her. From the Lingyak Family, we truly appreciate and love everything you did for our brother/uncle.

David was preceded in death by his mother Dorothy Jean Lingyak in 2004 and his father, James Lingyak in 2018.

David is survived by his loving wife Linda, his sister Donna (Lingyak) Lewis of Camillus, his brother Robert (Cindy) Lingyak of Camillus and nieces and nephews Justin, David, Jessica, Jaclyn, Gretchen and Mark.

Family will greet friends on Sunday, September 21st from 1 to 2 pm at Camillus Elks Lodge, 6117 Newport Rd, Camillus, with a celebration of his life to follow from 2 to 4 pm.

If you saw or talked to David in the last few years, you knew he was on YouTube posting short videos and would ask anyone and everyone to subscribe, even in the ICU room, he made a nurse subscribe only by communicating with eye gestures. On his last day with us, he had 135 subscribers.

In lieu of flowers, please fulfill David's biggest dream and hobby by subscribing to his channel at www.youtube.com/@santaclam Let him look down and say, "WOW" as we did at him for 47 yrs. "WOW"!

Arrangements by B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, Camillus. Please sign his guestbook at www.BLBUSH.com

<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2025/09/todays-obituary-david-lingyak-68-lea>

rned-to-draw-with-his-mouth-after-accident.html?utm_campaign=syracusedotcom_sf&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawM8MkxleHRuA2FIbQIxMQBicmlkETFkTklvSzRhWXZKYU8wdVQ5AR5ew__5UCRwfwcfZ0T5CoAWqI6AwEF0i5UQRid1Edk5e6SpAFEA4QRBBIKRDw_aem_sle0fi7QO8Rt8GWtl8jJ8w

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Camillus Elks Lodge #0031
6117 Newport Rd
Camillus, NY 13031
(315) 672-3106
camilluselks@gmail.com

Celebration of Life

SEP 21. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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6117 Newport Rd
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Tribute Wall



“ *B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments created a Tribute Video in memory of David J. Lingyak*



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - September 21, 2025 at 09:22 AM

RW

“ David and I met in 1978 at B. U rehab. I broke my back in a car accident and because of it, a plaster cast was put on my torso to stabilize me. When the cast was removed a infected pressure sore was discovered. Because my current roommate just had surgery I had to be moved to another room for safety reasons. I was very lucky that this room was David's. From day one we hit it off greatly. Our taste in music was the same, our taste in movies and most everything else we talked about was to to be on keel.

My parents would come and visit on the weekends and soon they too liked him very much. When my Mom would bring me a home cooked meal, she brought him one too. When they would call to see if there was anything I wanted, they would ask David too. David was very touched that they thought of him the way they did. To show his appreciation one of David's first paintings he did, was for my parents. My parents were over the top with appreciation that David thought enough of them to do that for them. So was I!

We stayed in touch throughout the years. Not often, maybe 2 or 3 times a year. We would talk about the cruises they would go on, how his stomach was a constant issue that made him uncomfortable and other daily life conversations.

We grew older together in our same connection with our spinal cord injuries.

My life has been richened by our long term relationship. One that I thank the Lord for.

So David today walks in the glory of our Lord and one day I will see him again. Both walking, both pain free and both happy to see each other once again.

Raymond Waite

Raymond waite - March 07 at 08:00 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - September 22, 2025 at 07:56 AM

PR

“ I was fortunate enough to know this man from our teens and remember very well all the things he had to deal with after his unfortunate accident. Every time I had the fortune to see Dave I was always amazed at his spirit and his love for life. I remember one time I ran into him at the Black Horse with our other classmate Dan O'Hara who was always there for David, I was drowning my sorrows over a lost love when I spotted the chair and my friend enjoying himself being out in the world. I hadn't seen him in a few years since visiting him in the hospital after his accident and his wide smile and demeanor lightened the mood immediately. I asked him how he was doing and being David I got the typical response, "I'm actually doing great Phil, how have you been?" Something about his facial expression and his optimistic remark suddenly made me realize my problems were miniscule compared to what my friend had to deal with everyday and I knew I couldn't live with the self-pity any longer. We all meet someone in our lives who touch us in ways they probably never intended but their circumstances eventually change them in better ways through their adversities. Dave Lingyak was one of those people, and I for one feel blessed to have been fortunate enough to have called him a friend.

Dave, may God Bless your wonderful soul after testing your spirit for so long.

My Deepest Condolences to your wife and all the others who loved and cared for you. Take care my friend, I hope we can catch up again someday.

PHIL RUFFINI - September 09, 2025 at 12:26 PM

WD

“ I liked David the moment I met him in the early 80s. He had just finished college and was back in Camillus at his family home while his new house was constructed. I was a novice home aid and David taught me the ropes while I worked for him. He was always upbeat and funny, and eager to live life. As I went on to other work I always remembered him and all I had learned from knowing him.
Willard Doswell

Willard Doswell - September 09, 2025 at 09:21 AM

CW

“ We met David at a campground. So full of life. A true inspiration to us all. I played Words with Friends with David for the last 10 years.
Will miss you buddy!

Peace and love to Linda and all the Lingyak family.

cindy and Barney Winger - September 08, 2025 at 10:03 PM

RS

“ I knew David when we both worked together at J C Pennys He was such a nice young man I was devastated when he had his accident He had his whole life ahead of him I went to visit him at his home when he came home My friend and I brought him a wreath made of tennis balls for we both played at the time He gave me a picture that he drew and it has hung on my kitchen wall all these years I will treasure it always when he met Linda his life became wonderful just as the obituary stated

*My condolences to Linda and the family of such a wonderful man.
God Bless You All*

Rose Marie Surace - September 08, 2025 at 03:39 PM

BO

“ 1 file added to the album David Lingyak



Bob - September 06, 2025 at 07:55 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of David J. Lingyak.



September 05, 2025 at 11:08 PM

JP

“ Linda, Donna, Bobby So sorry for your loss. I remember David when we were kids, always having fun together, our families were always together and so close, going to miss chatting with him (((HUGS)))

Judith Palumbo - September 05, 2025 at 10:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - September 05, 2025 at 11:34 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - September 04, 2025 at 09:53 PM