



## David L. Smith

January 20, 1974 - June 16, 2005

David L. Smith, 31, of Middletown, died Thursday June 16, 2005 at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born in New Britain, he lived in the New Britain area most of his life and moved to Middletown three months ago. He was a graduate of New Britain High School, Class of 1992 and was a member of the NBHS Baseball Team. David was employed at Pitney-Bowes Management in Windsor for the past three years. He will be remembered as an avid Yankees fan; for his contagious sense of humor and his love for his family and friends.

Surviving is David's father, Donald L. Smith and his wife Deborah of Colchester; his mother, Margaret Buchas Oliver and her husband Don of Kensington; his best friend and loving companion Katie Pentore of Middletown; his paternal grandparents, Grover and Vivian Ladeau Smith of Ormond Beach, FL; a brother, Daniel Smith and his fiancée Julie Zamojski of Kensington; two step brothers, Joseph Gorczyca of Marina Del Ray, CA and Steven Oliver of New Britain; two step sisters, Nancy Gorczyca of Colchester, and Katie Lamar and her husband Brian of Germany; several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services will be private. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations may be made to the Fagan Baseball League c/o Phil Pepin V.P., 74 Emily Drive, New Britain, CT 06053. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting the family with arrangements.

Please share a memory of David with his family on our online guestbook by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of this page.

# Tribute Wall

PP

“ Hey David, Think of you often and love you❤️  
Love, Auntie Paula

Paula Plocharczyk - June 16, 2024 at 10:32 AM

PP

“ Happy 49th Birthday David! One more and you hit the big one!  
Always remembered❤️  
Love you, Auntie Paula

Paula Smith Plocharczyk - January 21, 2023 at 09:49 AM

PP

“ Happy 46th Birthday! Few more days and your Yankees will be  
hitting homers!! Love you and miss you always❤️

paula plocharczyk - January 20, 2020 at 07:54 PM

AP

“ Happy 40th David. Miss you and thinking of you always.

Love you,  
Auntie Paula

Auntie Paula - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ Happy 40th birthday, Dave. Miss u everyday. See u when i get  
there...

Tom murratti - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

PP

“ Dave, You were always thought about and still are.....I can still see that grin on your face.....keep grinning and keep smiling. Love you, Auntie Paula

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**Paula Smith Plocharczyk** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ Happy 38th birthday Dave. Miss u so much man ! I drove by ur old house where ur mom and stepdad, Don lived, by NBHS ! Had some fun times playin 1 on 1 hoops against u in the driveway over there ! I remember when I beat u for the 1st time EVER in a game of horse there, back in '93 ! I hit the game-winner from the side porch area ! It was like a 40 foot shot ! Great memories man !

---

**tom murratti** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ Hey dave, unfortunately for me, you got some really great company now in Joe Garofalo- ur partner in crime for many yrs. From high school and so on. I'm jealous man. See ya when I see ya boys !

---

**tom murratti** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ Still miss u like crazy, Dave ! Its been 6 years now and I think about u everyday ! Rest easy my brother ! You are missed by many here on Earth. Life w/o you is so painful at times. But we all must go on ! That's life ! Till we meet again...

---

**tom murratti** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ Just thinking of u, my man. Can't believe you've been gone almost 6 yrs now. Say what up to my brother, Ed for me ! Miss u man. Till we meet again...

---

**tom murratti** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

PP

“ Hey David,  
Just wanted to let you know that I am thinking of you! Sorry I missed your birthday. I bet Gramma made you a special cake! Love you,  
Auntie Paula

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**Paula Plocharczyk** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

AP

“ Hey Dave!  
Hope your birthday was a "grand slammer!"  
Love and thinking of you often,  
Auntie Paula

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**Auntie Paula** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

AP

“ Hi Dave,  
It's been four years and since then, Gram Smith has joined you. If you like to play cards then you and she will have some great times together. She just might bake something special for you too!

Love you,  
Auntie Paula

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**Auntie Paula** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

LI

“ Hey Dave. Miss you a lot. Wish you were still here. Things aren't the same without you. You have two new baby cousins. Daphne and Keili. I bet you would have loved them. I know I do.

Love your cousin,  
Lindsey

---

**Lindsey** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

AP

“ Happy 35th Birthday Dave!  
Maybe Gram will surprise you with a Birthday cake!!

Love ya,  
Auntie Paula

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**Auntie Paula** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

AP

“ Hey Dave,  
Thinking of you often and hope that you and Gram Smith have gotten together. She always thought so much of you.

Love ya,  
Auntie Paula

---

**Auntie Paula** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

AP

“ Hey Dave,  
Thinking of you on your birthday and always.

Love ya,  
Auntie Paula

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**Auntie Paula** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

AP

“ *Happy Birthday....January 19th, Dave!  
Just want you to know that I think of you often.  
Love,  
Auntie Paula*

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**Auntie Paula** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

PA

“ *David,  
Remembering you in my thoughts and in my heart.*

*Love,  
Auntie Paula*

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**Paula** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ *to cousin' frankie. i know and have seen people hatin' on you, but they fail to recognize how much you changed my and dave's life forever. you were an outstanding influence in our lives as we morphed from boys to men. you taught us in a way that our parents could not. i am a wiser and better man because of your influence. i will never forget our special times together. no one can do it better! coolidge st. represent. love, tom murratti. we must never forget big D's legacy. one-six represent. miss you too much, already.*

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**tom murratti** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ just re- read tracy karas's tribute. wow! hope everybody can find time to wish dave a happy birthday and continue his legacy. i miss him real bad right now, don't you? i need to talk sports with him right now. this is so unfair right now. why does god have to make us endure and live through this pain? does it really make us stronger and appreciate our precious time here on earth? i don't know about ya'll but i'd i'd give my life to talk to my father and dave, one more time. am i crazy? am i selfish? why do we have to suffer like this. i'm only 31 and i've lost my father and several of my best friends already. i'm 31 goin' on 60. what kind of life is this? well, i thank god for the friends and family i still have left, i guess. with these losses i am stronger, mentally, i suppose, but how much can we shoulder? sorry to rant and rave but i feel much better. d, miss your laughs and moments away from reality. happy birthday, 40oz.

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tom murratti - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ dave, P.S. thanks for saturday june, 18th 2005. jeter's 1st career grand slam! versus the cub's, of all team's. i think i speak for pat and katie. your spirit was within us and derek that day. thank you! i now own a framed photo of his swing on that day of his granny, courtesy of steiner sports.com. absolutely priceless. you da man d, forever and always, always and forever. love, tom.

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tom murratti - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

TM

“ smitty, big big big up's to you man. happy 32nd birthday. i've been looking forward to and thinkin' about this day for 7 month's kid. the yanks didn't fare as well as we had hoped this fall but i know you're gonna make it happen in '06. it's our year, son. we got capt. caveman in johnny damon. can you please tell joe. D and the "mick" to bless this dude with an arm? jeter has to catch his cutoff in deep center. isn't it trippy that within the year you left us the red sox and the white sox win the the world series?! in the immortal words of the greatest n.f.l. coach ever, " what the hell's goin' on out here? VINCE LOMBARDI. well dave, today is friday jan. 20th, '06. happy 32nd b'day. shots, beers and our favorite in '92, purple passion, on me. good luck with denver and yer boy plummer this weekend, kid. big "T", aka 40oz. one love.

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**tom murratti** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

VS

“ *Don & Margaret and family:*  
*I am so sorry for your loss. I read the wonderful tributes to David. I am sorry that I never knew him as an adult. He had a lot of wonderful loving friends. You can feel their love as your read their comments.He will be missed by all.*  
*Love to you all, be strong for each other.*

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**Viane Stromberg** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

JF

“ I knew Dave as a friend of my brother Tom's. Dave even lived with us for a few months years ago. He was one grade ahead of me at St. Joe's and I will remember him for his contagious laugh, his sparkling blue eyes, as the first boy I danced with at my first school dance, for our long talks about life and for his big toe!

*I was so sad to hear of his passing and my thoughts and prayers are with his entire family and all of his loved ones.*

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**Jenifer Favreau** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

CL

“ David,  
I've always known you to put a a smile on everyone's face. I first met you freshman year in Bartlewski's class and you made me laugh like the first day of school. Every day I would wonder what kinds of jokes you would make in class. I got to know you again as an adult and your sense of humor hadn't changed a bit. But most of all, you always treated me with kindness, always making me feel comfortable. I remember us doing things together like Six Flags, going there just to ride the Superman ride 6 times and then coming home. I remember being at lots of events in which you and Frank were the life of the party--always. I can honestly say that I have never met anyone as funny as you two. Life is such a struggle at times, and now you have peace. You are in a wonderful place. Your beautiful family will always be in my prayers, now and forever. God bless all of you through these difficult times.

---

**Candida Lowe** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

CL

“ David,

*I've always known you to put a a smile on everyone's face. I first met you freshman year in Bartlewski's class and you made me laugh like the first day of school. Every day I would wonder what kinds of jokes you would make in class. I got to know you again as an adult and your sense of humor hadn't changed a bit. But most of all, you always treated me with kindness, always making me feel comfortable. I remember us doing things together like Six Flags, going there just to ride the Superman ride 6 times and then coming home. I remember being at lots of events in which you and Frank were the life of the party--always. I can honestly say that I have never met anyone as funny as you two. Life is such a struggle at times, and now you have peace. You are in a wonderful place. Your beautiful family will always be in my prayers, now and forever. God bless all of you through these difficult times.*

---

**Candida Lowe** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

MC

“ what is there to say about dave that has not been said already? i know that when i think of him i always did and i always will smile. that's not just because of all the times he made me laugh, but also because i can see all the joy he brought to those around him. even though i hadn't seen him for quite some time, i spoke to him on the phone a few times recently when trying to reach katie. the conversation was always easy and he was always so thoughtful, asking how i was doing, how my family was, asking me to visit, etc. katie i am so very sorry... i know you and dave had unbelievable love and chemistry since you were very young.

dan, seeing you at the memorial service made me realize just what a wonderful man you have become and i am praying for you and the rest of the family.

with deepest sympathy,  
meg cannella

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meg cannella - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

AP

“ Dave-E-Dino: I'm so happy that I saw you on Tuesday night and got two big David hugs and told you that you smelled so good! I wish I told you again that I loved you, but I know that you always knew that. Watch down on all of us from heaven, especially on your Mom and Danny. My memories of you will always be good ones. I love you. Your Aunty Patty

---

Aunty Patty - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

SE

“ *The first curveball I ever saw hit me, and Dave Smith was on the mound. That was the first time I met Dave. With the ability to make everyone laugh with a joke, or an imitation Dave made baseball a fun get-a-way from everyday life.*

*To Dave's friends and family I send my deepest sympathy.*

*To Dave godbless, and may you rest in peace.*

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**Stephen Earley** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

MM

“ *Katie,*

*All of our thoughts are with you. I know you were able to touch his heart, as you have many others, including myself. Be strong, and know that all your family & friends are by your side.*

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**M.Todd Murray** - September 20, 2016 at 12:01 AM

JM

“ Dan and family,

*I was deeply saddened to hear of Dave's passing. I only knew Dave for a short period of time but he grew on me. He was always quick with the sarcasm and even quicker with a smile. Our deepest condolences on your loss hear on Earth. Rest assured, Dave is in Heaven watching down on everyone from his front row box seats, laughing at our daily routines and looking out for those in need. Dave you will be truly missed. Dan, I hope you and your family feel all of the love and prayers for you during this time.*

*"Life does not cease to be funny when people die any more than it ceases to be serious when people laugh."*

*-George Bernard Shaw*

*I think Dave would still like us to laugh...and keep laughing. That's what he was about.*

*Love,  
Josh and Liz*

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**Josh & Liz Miller** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ To the family and loved ones,

*Dave was one of nicest people I have ever known. After spending a day with Dave my jaw would always hurt from the non stop comedy that he brought everywhere he went. I will miss our mid-afternoon basketball games during the work week. Dave was always there for a friend in need no matter what was going on in his life.*

*Nobody else but my sisters could pull off calling me chuckie the way you did. I remember meeting you and Frank at Circuit City and when you saw me you screamed "Chuckie" from across the store, then ran up to clutch me in that bear hug that only you could do. You are one of the few that I would call a friend. Thank you for touching my life. I will miss you greatly.*

*To Margaret, Frank, and the rest of the family, my heart goes out to you and I am deeply sorry for your loss.*

*Chuckie*

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**Chuck Prophter** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ *It's been 2 days since I heard the news of Dave's passing please know my thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this most difficult time. Katie, I am so very sorry.*

*I will always remember Dave's sense of humor and his ability to make everyone around him smile...*

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**Betsy Ostapchuk Lowe** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *To Katie, Danny, and family,*

*We were so sorry to hear about your loss. There are no words to explain how badly we feel for you. Our only hope is that Dave is in a better place and that you find peace in that. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Pat & Peter Bartlewski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *It has been 5 days today since Dave has left us. The pain is unimaginable. I wanted to write everyone and thank them so so much for all of their caring words and support. It truly means so much to me as well as Dave's family. Today is the first day that I have read all the tributes and I can't stop crying. The memories are so meaningful and they help.*

*Dave....Jeter hit a grand slam on the day of your memorial service....is that a sign from you to all of us?*

*I love you Dave....I love you so much! I wish I could list all of the memories that we have made together in this guestbook. They will always be with me as will you Dave.*

*You will always be the love of my life!*

---

**katie pentore** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *Even though it has been so many years, I was shocked to hear this sad news. Dave, you were always a great friend. I will always remember the summer days on the ball fields at Martha Hart Park and the good times at NBHS.*

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**Brian Rivera** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *To the Family of David,*

*My hearts feels for you all, for the lose your son, your bother, your best friend. I am deeply sorry..*

*Mike*

---

**michael Pasquaretta** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. May happier memories with David sustain you during this difficult time. He will never be forgotten for he is in your heart always. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Love - Norma and Tony Fasano*

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**norma fasano** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Don and Margaret--  
My thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time, God Bless*

*Christina West and family*

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**Christina West** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *To David's Family and Friends,*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time.*

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**Dennis Bruyette** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Dear Danny,

*Oh the deep pain at the loss of your precious brother. I know how much you hurt inside because When my brother Buddy died I thought my heart would never stop hurting. The best gift you have at a time like this is to know the love you both have for eachother that will carry you for all eternity.*

*From reading all the wonderful letters from friends and family I got a real sense of who Dave was and though I didnt know him like I knew you I do remember when he stopped by our home on Linwood to see Sean he would always give me the " warmest smile".*

*I know what a big loss this is for Sean too. Your love for Dave and eachother will be a great part of your healing. Someone wrote in one of the letters that your brothers compassion and caring for those he loved and his huge heart outweighed his struggle here on earth.*

*What great insight into the special person he is.*

*My love and prayers go out to you Danny and your fiancée Julie, Katie, Your mom and dad and all the family and friends who were touched by Dave's life.*

*PS. I work with Andy W and a few weeks ago when we got into the van I noticed a picture of Andy's favorite people that he carries with him. As I was looking at it I saw you Dave and your Dad and I told Andy I knew you and that you were my sons best friend.*

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**Nancy Conlan** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ Dave was the one of the closest people to me in my life. I cannot even begin to explain what a huge void has been left, that can never be replaced. I loved him like a brother. Without saying a word, we knew what the other was thinking or feeling. He always had such a big, caring heart and hated to see anyone upset, especially the ones he loved.

We first met in Mr. Carlson's geometry class when we were 15 and have been friends ever since. I cannot count how many times we used to make fools out of ourselves in Westfarms Mall when you worked at JC Penny and I worked at G.Wizz. All the hours we used to talk about everything or nothing when you worked third shift and I was an insomniac. How you used to throw Duck Pin bowling balls like a baseball or lob regular bowling balls down the alley while the gate was still down just to make everyone laugh. How at McDonald's in high school you stuck an entire cheeseburger in your mouth on a dare. How I used to say everyone in this world is nuts and you would say 'I'm not. I'm not nuts Trace!' and start grabbing for imaginary floating objects in front of your face. Or how you would imitate Tony Soprano's 'Oh!' in the loudest voice, in the most public places.

When you moved to Southington, I was so happy to have my best friend as a neighbor. How many times did we watch the Sopranos, the Yankees, Swingers and Dave Chappelle over and over again? Or when we got lost for three hours on a walk and it started raining, thunder and lightening?

Dave has been a constant in my life, in good times and in bad. I don't know what I'll do without your smile, your laugh or hearing you on the phone saying "Trace? Hi Trace!" No matter how bad of a day you were having Dave could make it brighter. His care and compassion for others was huge. His big heart outshines his struggle here on Earth.

To Dave's parents and family ~ Thank you for raising such a

*beautiful son. He was a precious gem. May God be with you at this time and in the years to come. I am so sorry.*

*To Danny and Julie ~ He loved you both so much and was so happy for you. I hope you find comfort and peace. Danny, he was so proud to have you as a younger brother.*

*To Katie ~ Stay strong sweetie. You will get through this. I'm always here for you. Dave loved you very much.*

*To Frank ~ I never saw a funnier pair when you two were together. It's like you had your own language. Thinking of you.*

*To Dave, You are missed, you are loved, you are at peace. I will never forget you. I love you.*

*Your friend, Tracy.*

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**Tracy Karas** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *Don't be sorry to hear of the passing of your son. My prayers are for you and your family.* ”

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**Roland Andrews** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ I was very young when we had our frequent family get togethers, but the pictures I have captured some truly wonderful memories. Lindley and I loved our time growing up with our cousins and though I was young, I will never forget our time at the stables with the horses. David and Danny sure had fun with me that day! It was always for brief times that I got to see David, like at my sisters wedding. That weekend was a blur, but I am so happy that I got to see him recently. I will always remember him with a smile on his face and always so much energy and laughter surrounding him. Auntie Mar, Don, Danny, Julie, and Katie...I know each of you are getting through this in your own way. You are all in my thoughts, prayers, and in my heart. Know that everybody is thinking of you and sending love your way.

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**Mary Buchas** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Unfortunately, the last time I saw my cousin David was at my wedding almost 5 years ago. I didn't have a whole lot of time to spend with family then, but it meant so much to me that he was there. I will always remember though, when we were kids and were able to spend more time together as family. I thought it was so cool to hang out with David and Danny when they came to visit us in Memphis. I remember going to Mud Island and playing along the riverwalk. We had lots of fun! I also remember being slightly jealous when my little sister was a baby and David and Danny were much more interested in her than me. I wanted all of their attention, because they were boys and my cousins and the coolest people!! We always had so much fun going to visits aunts and cousins in CT when we were younger and I will always have those memories of David--baseball games, pizza joints, movies, family games at the house, etc.

Auntie Mar, Don and Danny---I am so sorry and wish I could be there with you now. Please know how much I love you and how much we will all miss David. Chad and I are both praying for you all daily.

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**Lindley Jackson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ I enjoyed working with Dave for 5 years. Not only because he was very good at his job but really because he was such a smart, kind, genuine, sincere and funny person. You just couldn't help but to like Dave.

I still can see him wearing his swishy sweatpants and go: "Hey, Nat! We'd start teasing each other and we'd talk about all different things.

Dave, I will miss those chats and your smile. I am sure you have already found someone up there to pick on and who will enjoy it as much as I did!

Thank you for all the good memories and laughter.

My deepest sympathy to your family and friends.

---

**Nathalie Hautin-Hosmer** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy in the loss of your Son, Brother, Companion and Friend. May memories of all the good times sustain you throughout this trying period. Our prayers and thoughts are with all of you.

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**Joe and Donna Barbieri** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Smitty--my main man on the mound--You would hit those corners with precision and that curve would snap peoples necks. There was one time though you almost got me killed--I got the pitchout sign from old man kezer and threw down the signal--the windup-the pitch--the runner was off to second--I stepped to the right to catch the pitchout--when to my surprise the pitch was right down the middle of the plateletter highI stuck my hand back to catch it and the batter swung--my hand looked like a pancake--I looked out to the mound with a look of murder on my face only to find Dave laughing at me--he said "Sorry T" and that was it--I wasnt mad anymore--that laugh and smile could cure anything--Peace out Smitty--Youi will be sorely missed

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**Todd Rydecki** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy in the loss of your Son, Brother, Compannion and Friend. May your loving memories sustain you throughout this trying time. Our prayers and thoughts are with all of you.

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**Joe and Donna Barbieri** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Dan, Julie and Family:

*My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

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**Kristen Barbieri** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ that sense of humor! boy, anyone who was lucky enough to know dave knew how unique he was. the cliché " one in a million" doesn't do him justice. once in a lifetime is more accurate to describe how often you meet someone like dave. we all knew we were in for a good time when dave was around.

*to the babe, mick, iron horse... get ready for some fun because theres a new pitcher taking the mound!*

*my deepest sympathy to the entire family  
our loss is heavens gain... rest easy dave*

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**bruce thompson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *The first baby I ever remember meeting was David. I was six years old. David as a baby was like a little prince, a golden boy--blond and smiling.*

*I babysat for David and Danny enough times that the experience is a blur. I know I probably wasn't the best babysitter in the world. I didn't like to listen to the kids bickering. I made up scary stories about the hideous Zimbabwe regime to keep them in line. David was old enough to doubt me, but when a lady came to the door with a clipboard one day, and I told the kids she was from Zimbabwe and obviously checking up on their behavior, even David was clearly awed and inspired to toe the line.*

*Once he and Danny chased me around the house with a bees nest stuck on a stick. I locked myself in the bathroom and they laughed and laughed on the other side of the door.*

*David stops growing for me when I went away to college. He was about 11. Still golden and smiling. I didn't know him as an adult. Saw him here and there on return visits to CT. Once when my own golden boy, my Ben, was a baby, I remember playing with him in Auntie Jan's front yard. David was talking with me. He looked like he was going to cry. He said that I was a good mother to Ben and that Ben seemed very happy. I just laughed. Why wouldn't he be happy? I told David. I don't remember what David said.*

*David was the first baby I remember knowing. I will miss not knowing him better. And I truly hope that smiling golden boy is now at peace.*

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**Jody Casella** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ When I think back to high school, memories of Dave always bring a smile to my face. I can picture him walking the halls in a Yankees hat and a walkman...turning around at my locker and finding Dave standing four inches from my face, pretending he was about to kiss me, or more startling, rapping in my face. We worked at The Elm and JC Penny together....his antics made the time fly...Playing Truth or Dare was the most fun if Dave was involved.

*Dave and I didn't keep in touch after high school. Evenso, I will always remember his infectious laugh and smile and I will miss him. He was a good friend and I feel lucky to have spent time with him.*

*My most heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Katie, I'm glad that the two of you were still friends. I'm thinking of you too.*

*Sarah Phillips Luetjen*

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**Sarah Luetjen Phillips** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ I only knew Dave through Dan up until the short time that we were neighbors... I was able to get to know Dave as Dave and man was I lucky! Laughs, laughs, and more laughs! Thank you Dave for those good times and all that you shared with your family and friends. My love and thoughts are with you and your family.  
-Marissa

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**Marissa Taylor** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Don & Margaret,  
So sorry to hear about your loss.  
Sue

---

**Sue Oliver** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Dan, Julie, Katie, and Family,  
We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Johnny and Michelle Mayette** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *The first time myself or my brother met Dave he made a joke about us, which is what was typical of Dave. We grew apart from Dave over the years, but the memories of him will always live in our hearts and minds. Dave could make the most horrible person laugh which was what was his greatest quality. He always cared about making other people laugh and he really enjoyed that. I'll never forget all the times I spent with you and the memories that I have of you. You were one of the most genuine people we have ever met, and you have the heart of a lion. We know you are happier now, but you always left us wanting more. Just know that you will always be in our hearts and mind. May God take care of you now, and just know you will always be welcome in our family.*

*With great sincerity,  
Todd & Scott Kaminski*

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**Todd & Scott Kaminski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

FC

“ Dave, My heart is broken now. You are my little brother & I am devastated. I will never be the same again. me & you grew up together. Remember batman & Robin where we wore yellow and blue towels on our backs and our mothers thought we looked like burhaunts. Me & you playing baseball every possible minute. Pitchers on the dodgers; you pitching the first half and me the second. Getting hubba bubba at Jakes. Gum chewing was our past time as kids. I lost you for awhile around 6th grade; but, reunited with you when you were a freshman at NBHS and we ended up in human growth together. Then Mrs. Netupskis art class. I could make you laugh so hard without sound and you did the same for me. The many Yankee games together where we would catch up including game 7, 2003. You know me better than anyone in this world. I know you are proud of me and have told me many times. I am glad you saw me with Chastity and gave us your blessing. We were connected in a way that no one knows. I know you love me. I love you so much! I know you are at peace now after a long battle. I never told you that I prayed to have God take my life and spare yours in 1994. He saved my life instead and helped me lead by example. Watching you struggle broke my heart for years; but, I always made sure you knew I loved you. I thought of you on my wedding day. You were the one person missing. I thought maybe you would have showed up to the church. The picture your family chose was perfect. Your beautiful happy face. I am praying for you Margaret, Don, & Danny. Katie, I am here for you if you need me.

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Frank Casella - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ *To the Family of David Smith,*

*We would like to express our deepest condolences to the family. May our Lord help you find comfort and strength from each other during this difficult time.*

*Coach Phil Pepin  
Fagan League Dodgers*

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**Phil & Shirley Pepin** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *David,*

*I'll never forget all those Summers I spent babysitting you, and Danny, and Jamie. You three made me nuts!!! So many of my childhood memories have you and Danny in them... David, you will be truly missed, little cousin...*

*Auntie Margaret, Don, Uncle Donald, Debbie, Danny, Nancy, and Joe- my thoughts, prayers, and love are with you and your families.*

*Sincerely,*

*Julie*

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**Julie Giantonio** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ When I think back to my childhood most of my memories include Dan and Dave. Whether it was Fagan league, dunk contests in my driveway or just hanging out, you could always count on Dave for a laugh, most of the time at Dan's expense. Dave was the kind of person that made any room he was in a better place. Dave, I always considered you another one of my family members and I will always remember the good times we had and the trouble we caused. I will miss you.

To the rest of Daves family , I am very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Remember that smile and all the good times.

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**Jamie Giantonio** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ I met "Cousin Dave" about 3 1/2 years ago. He was a friend of a friend. His smile and sense of humor will never be forgotten. He was way surprised when he saw me about 8 months ago wearing a Yankees hat. I said to him, just because I hang out with Steve and Joni, you automatically thought I was a Red Sox fan? He said no, I didn't know! I think he had a whole new perspective about me. Dave, you are in a safe place now. Rest in Peace "Cousin Dave".  
Robyn

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**Robyn Watrous** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ A quick smile  
an even quicker laugh  
summer picnics and birthday pizza parties  
a stack of Marb reds on the counter  
a Yankee hat  
a shout of Lou across the room  
a ride to get cigs during the Yankee-Sox game  
"D, the Prelude's still alive?"

You never failed to make me laugh. You had the Smith family humor,  
and I think you might have had it the best.  
My condolences to all those who loved Dave, especially his mother and father and brothers and sisters.

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**Dan Petrella** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Dave touched my life with laughter and friendship. I feel very blessed to have known him. He was like a brother looking out for me and giving me advice or his opinion even when I didn't ask for it. Katie, Dave's family and friends may you find comfort and strength from each other during this difficult time.

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**Sarah Luce Kowalski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Dear David,  
I am not going to think of you as being gone but instead that you have another place that you are needed.  
Your smile and caring along with many memories will last forever. We had not seen each other often but the times that we did were always met with a smile, a hug and conversations. I will always remember those times Dave, and will miss you. I wish I was there to wish you well on your new journey and be able to share a hug with your family. I am there with my many thoughts and prayers.  
Love you, Dave  
Auntie Paula

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**Paula Plocharczyk** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Some of my best High School memories include Dave- he had a contagious smile and a gift for making people laugh. My heart goes out to Katie and David's family, may god bless you and give you strength through this difficult time.

Love,  
Shannon Smith-Dobratz

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**Shannon Smith-Dobratz** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Dave and I couldn't be more different from each other. Sports being only one of those differences, but at the same time we were very alike. We both loved Katie, and knew how lucky we were to have her in our lives. I only truly got to know Dave when our paths crossed through Katie, and I will always be thankful for that.

Dave completed the four-some; me and Katie reading mags and gossiping about celebrities, Ed and Dave talking about the Yankees and forcing us to watch games. Every once in a while Dave would try to include us on the conversation, knowing that we could care less. Katie and I would nod and smile politely, then roll our eyes at each other and go back to talking about Britney or J-Lo. Dave loved to see our reaction. Also, he would purposely ask me a Yankees trivia question, making sure that the answer would always be Derek Jeter, knowing I would still get it wrong.

Dave gave me something that I never had in my life: a bond with someone that I could never connect with in high school- a jock. The door he opened for me is the same one I opened for him, and that made our friendship that much more special, and added immeasurable value to both of our lives.

I believe that everything in life happens for a reason. Some things are not meant for us to understand now, but to realize later. Dave was brought into my life to teach me lessons that I did not previously know. Those lessons are mine to keep, and will stay with me always. I am sure that Dave leaving my life will teach me other lessons that I have yet to learn. I am just thankful that I could be there to gain such precious knowledge.

You will live on in my memory forever, Dave.

Your friend,  
patrick

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Patrick Dezi - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Dan, we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of your brother. We will keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Kathleen and Jim Scalise** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ My deepest sympathy to Danny, Katie and his family. Dave was a great guy who always knew how to make you laugh. He will be missed by all of friends.

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**Tamara Bagdasarian** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ It is so true that when you were hanging out with dave things definitely became more fun. I remember going to the Y with Dave one day to play ball. We must have won 8 or 9 games in a row. The funny thing was, the team we were playing with was awful. Dave and I basically carried the team. I swear to god, Dave must have made 90% of his shots that day. He couldn't miss. Every time he made another jump shot, we would look at each other and just laugh. Dave was a great person who shared my love of sportsaside from the yanks, hip-hop, and just bugging out with friends. He will be truly missed and I was lucky to have known him. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dan, Katie, and his family.

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**Jim Barbieri** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ I will never forget my first day at NBHS. As a little freshman I walked into my first period keyboarding class and chose to sit next to Dave. I was so embarrassed because the chair was stuck to the floor and I couldn't move it. Dave just smiled at me and then pulled it out. From that day on, we were friends. Dave always had a way of making people laugh. Unfortunately, many of the laughs were had at my expense. I remember going sledding with Dave, Dan, Katie, and Sean and Dave jumping on top of me as I went down the hill. I was in pain but everyone else was laughing. Dave was a great person with a huge heart. He will be missed by all that knew him. My deepest sympathies go out to his family and Katie, in his eyes you were part of his family. I love you

---

**Patty Bartlewski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Katie---  
We would like for you to know that we are thinking about you and David's family from 3000 miles away. We understand your loss and are sending you loving prayers to help you during this time. We love you and we are sad that we can't be there for you. Kristin is to give you a hug from us.

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**angela & peter panagakos** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ I am a friend, and co-worker of Katie Pentore. I met David once, and I liked him very much. He was a sweet and friendly man. Katie, I am sorry for your loss, and wanted to let you know that it hurts to know that you have to go through this. I would like to tell David's family that I am also very sorry for your loss. You are all in my prayers.

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**Karen LaFleur** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I am terribly sorry for the loss of "Cousin Dave", as Stephen and I always referred to him. No one could talk more about the Yankees and the Red Sox better than these two. They would spend hours on the phone doing just that. I know that Dave adored his Mom as well as Kate, who he very frequently talked about. He will always be in our hearts and he will be missed. All of our love, Stephen and Joni McCusker

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**Mr. & Mrs. Stephen McCusker** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ I've always considered both Dave and Dan to be the brothers I never had. I've known them both closely since the days of St. Joseph's in New Britain. As Tom Muratti put it about NBHS, Dave ruled that school too.

*I will always remember Dave as an undeniable presence. He told me once that laughing was the best part about being alive. If that's true, Dave clearly made all of our lives much better.*

*When we were very young, Dave used to love to get under Dan's skin. Dave would hold Dan in an unbreakable bear hug and just laugh the more Dan pleaded for Dave to let him go. Of course, I just laughed too.*

*Dave is probably best known by many for being the "clown at all costs." But I also admired the serious side of him. He was such a passionate person about the things he loved: baseball, rap music, John Elway, and of course his family. Dave is the one who really got me to appreciate rap music as an art form, music that many people find offensive or annoying. Dave would make me really listen to the lyrics. He broke it down for the true art form it is. That had a great impact on me.*

*Growing up through high school I admired Dave so much. And it meant a lot to me to know that later in life, he admired me too.*

*I got to enjoy for many years the love shared between two brothers, to see first hand how much "Lou" loved "Lou." Love like that will never fade, no matter what happens.*

*Just two weeks ago, Dan told me how excited Dave was that I wanted him to come to my wedding this Fall. Dave, you're still on the guest list.*

*Love, Sean*

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**Sean Conlan** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ *I have worked with, and have know Dave for the past 13 years. During this time I have come to know three things about him: He was a good person, he was very intelligent, and he loved his Yankees.*

*Many a time I would give Dave a good ribbing when the Yanks would falter, knowing full well that, in the end, he would usually have the last laugh. This jousting went on for years, and I will sadly miss it.*

*I believe that Dave has been welcomed into Heaven with open arms. I know this because of what he did for me when I found myself out of work several years ago. I know that his thoughtfulness towards me then was just one example of the kind of person he truly was.*

*I also believe that, in Heaven, Dave has found his own personal "Field of Dreams". That on a glorious summer afternoon there are no night games in Heaven, decked out in his Yankee pinstripes, he is about to take the field with his new team mates: Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Thurman Munson...*

*It's the top of the first, Big D...*

*...have a good game.*

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**Lee Roski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *My condolence to the family.*

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**Debbie Rossitto** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Dearest Dave...I wish I could put into words the void that is in my heart. You were the greatest thing that ever happened to me and I can't imagine living my life without you. You are my heart, my soul, my best friend. It started out over 15 years ago when we met in Mr. Churchill's spanish class! We were clueless in that class! Then our love progressed from there.... T-Bowl nights, dinners at Hong Kong...hanging out in my room and me forcing you to listen to lite 100.5 pillow talk, going to the snowball dance and the senior prom... talking on the phone for hours! Then we lost touch for many years because our lives took us in different directions. I always thought about you throughout those years. Fate stepped in because we were brought back together in December of 2003 and throughout the last year and a half, I haven't been happier. I will never forget the first Yankee game you took me too, our Starbucks trips, mini-golf and arkanoid battles, trivia pursuit competitions, going for walks, playing basketball and you letting me win horse sometimes and you always calling me "my honey." Most of all...I will never forget just spending time with each other and talking and sharing our dreams and hopes. Dave...I know you are with me right now and I know that we will meet again and be together always in eternity.

*I love you honey...Katie*

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**Katie Pentore** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ We are friends of Paula & Pete, and are so sorry for your loss. If he was like his grandparents, Grover & Vivian, & his Aunt Paula ,the world is minus one TERRIFIC person.

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**Blaine & Nan Perry** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Please accept my deepest condolences. You and your family will be in my prayers, and may God give you the strength and peace to overcome your grief.

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**Jilayne Mitchell** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ My deepest heartfelt sympathy to all his family and friends. I had the pleasure of working with Dave for the last ten years and every day was a experience and adventure. I'm proud to say we were huge Yankee fans together and that is one way we always started our day about the game the night before. The other way we started our day was he new I loved to bake and he couldn't wait to see what there was to eat that day. He loved every thing !thanks, dave. For those of us that are lucky enough to call him a friend will miss him and continue loving him always. I will miss him calling me Philly a hundred times a day. I wish him peace that he deserves. Thank you for touching our lives. He was a true great companion to work with. I wish we had more time.....!!!!  
Love you,  
Phyllis Porcaro

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**Phyllis Porcaro** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ There are so many memories that it's hard to pick one, but I will always remember Dave for his sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers are with all who loved him. Remember, "Love, Peace & Hairgrease"!

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**Meg Korza Peterson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ I will always remember Dave for being one of those people who made the environment around him a better place to be, you would be laughing more, smiling more, things were just a little brighter. One morning he called me to see if I wanted to go to Yankee Stadium for a game against The Sox, as a Sox fan I was very excited, Frank Castillo Beat Mussina that day, but Dave still had a great time, he paid for my ticket provided I drove, which was a great deal for me, I can only guess the expense as they were the best seats I have ever had at Yankee stadium and the best of any venue at the time in my life, right between home plate and the dugout, field level, club seating, high roller type seats where they deliver food right to you. Dave was truly a unique person, my deepest sympathies to his entire family, and everyone whose life he touched.

*In the Bronx, "How do I get to the Connecticut highway?"*

*About Dave Matthews, "You know when he looks to the side....that guy's a genius!!"*

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**Rick Gasparini** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *To Dave's Family:  
My deepest sympathy and prayers are with all of you. Remember all the special moments you had with him.*

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**Jlm Balbi** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I can't believe that Dave is gone. He was so full of love and laughter. I can't remember a time when he didn't have a smile on his face. He always found a way to make you laugh no matter what kind of day you were having. Dave was an all around wonderful person and will be sadly missed by everyone that knew him. Katie and the rest of Dave's family, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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**Miriam Geraci** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ i promise this will be my last tribute. i'm sorry but i have so many fun memories to share i owe it to dave, dan and the rest of the family. growing up in new haven and n.b. my father and grandfather were huge yankee fans. my father, being a workaholic never had time to take me to a yankee game, so my 1st such experience occurred in may 1994. dave picked me up, out of the blue and we drove to sean conlon's house, dan's boy at the the time to drive to yankee stadium for a game against the hated red sox. we left after dan and sean got out of school that day. they were seniors at the high. we went to liquor depot, of course, picked up a case of newcastle and we were on our way, minus 3 pitstop's because of mine and sean's blatter. my 1st game ever at yankee stadium, jimmy key threw a gem and dave and i's friendship was sealed forever. somehow he got \$35 tickets, 5 rows behind home plate! i never asked where or how he got those tickets, but he made my 1st trip to the boogie down bronx one i'll never forget! so to all you yankee hater's out there, get behind the yanks for one last time this year; if not for me, do it for dave, for he shall smile down upon us one more time, this fall. that's my word and i am out. r.i.p. #16

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**tom murratti** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ to little dan-o. what was it that NAS preached? life's a b\*\*\*\* and then ya' die... those word's never felt stronger. we all must carry on dave's smile and sarcastic humor. life is too short and so unfair; but we all must carry on! stay strong, young gun. you're the man of the house, kid. carry that torch high and strong. much love, 40.

---

tom murratti - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ i don't know where to begin; so many memories in such a short time.i've had hundred's of friend's come and go since i met dave in 1988. dave was always a friend that no matter what was going on or how long it had been since i'd seen him last, i'd always bug someone to find out where he was and what he was up to. i remember my first day of high school in 1989;i had no idea where i was going after my 1st class,i saw dave in the stairwell,and he pointed me to where i was supposed to be at. n.b.h.s.it could be a very intimidating place for a 14 year old freshman, but dave showed me the way and i never looked back. 3 year's later i was the king of the school, picking up where dave and joe g. left off.i looked up to big "d" in so many ways,especially in baseball and how to dominate on the mound. he reminds me now of david wells. so nonchalant,out of shape,uniform so sloppy,yet he was fearless out on the mound and 100% dominant. he was just at peace with himself for those 2 hours out there. oblivious to his surrounding's. that's what i'll remember about dave. rest in peace, kid and i'll see you soon; i'll bring the sunflower seed's. brand DAVID.your friend, forever, T/ 40oz.

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tom murratti - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *To Dave's Family:  
My heartfelt sympathy and thoughts are with all of you. Remember  
all the wonderful memories you had with him.*

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**Jennifer Boucher** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *To Dave's entire family and friends,*

*We extend our heartfelt sympathies to you at this very sad time in  
your lives. May the void and sadness you feel be filled with many  
fond memories of Dave. We will cherish the memories starting in  
little league and continuing on over the years. Our deepest  
condolences and prayers are with you.  
P.S. Dodgers rule!*

*The Carlson Family.*

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**Erik Carlson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM