



David J. Grabczak

February 23, 1950 - February 17, 2026

David J. Grabczak, age 75, of Hobart, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, six days shy of his 76th birthday. He was a devoted father, partner, grandfather, uncle, and friend to countless people in our community. David was known around the region as the “HVAC Guy” and “The Nicest Guy with the Biggest Heart.” He began his career in 1971 at Area Sheet Metal, where he worked alongside his brother-in-law and many great colleagues, servicing residential and commercial HVAC systems until his retirement in 2009. He was the original “I Got A Guy,” always ready to lend a helping hand at any hour.

He cherished his large, loving family including his four children, David K. Grabczak, Amy Murphy, Christy Brown, and Angela Grabczak; more than 100 foster children and daycare kids who touched his heart; and his longtime partner of 20 years, Mary LaBuda, and her family—Bernadette (Doug Hazzard) Bray, Ann (Scott) Shaginaw, Carrie Bellamy, and Jerome (Brienne) LaBuda—who blended so beautifully with his own family. His grandchildren - Cara Button, Katelyn Murphy, Kylie Murphy, Calvin and Nolan Shaginaw, Coner Bray and Preston Grabczak, made his world complete. Dave is also survived by his sisters, Diane Heller, Joann Knapp and Joyce Grabczyk (Chuck Simchak).

From Pop Warner and Little League fields to basketball courts and softball diamonds, David was the biggest supporter of his “little brickies,” showing up in force and leaving a lasting impact. A social butterfly in the stands, his

friendships grew into lifelong memories, filled with laughter and adventure. He was the “Conversion Van” and “Vacation King,” always up for a road trip—from Florida to the Wisconsin Dells, beaches to roller coasters, and even white-water rafting. Our Very Own “Sparky” He loved cruising to Beach Boys, Beatles, and Elvis, and he could turn any gathering—hog roasts and parties—into an unforgettable, over-the-top celebration with his generous spirit.

David loved his family and friends deeply, and holidays brought his brightest light. Christmas was never dull when he was around, as he delighted in spoiling loved ones with thoughtful gifts. Even in his final days, his smile lit up the room whenever a familiar face walked in. His generosity and humility will be cherished, remembered, and carried forward by all who knew him.

David was preceded in death by his father Raymond Grabczak, mother Irene Grabczak, brother Larry Grabczak, sister Gloria Sullivan, brothers-in-law, Michael Sullivan, Mark Heller and Dale Knapp, nephew Brain Heller and niece Erin Cinko and his stepdaughter Juliet LaBuda.

A celebration of David’s life will be held Friday February 20, 2026 at Burns Funeral Home 701 East 7th Street Hobart, IN from 2pm until a time of sharing beginning at 6:30pm.

www.BurnsFuneral.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Visitation

FEB 20. 2:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Time of Sharing

FEB 20. 6:30 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Rest in peace dave dave storey*

David Lyle Storey - February 24 at 07:26 PM

KT

“ *Sending you our condolences and love. Dave, was an INCREDIBLE friend and we will miss him. Whenever my family had any HVAC issues, he was our first and only call. He always had a smile and kind words for everyone. May he rest in peace and he'll be forever in our hearts.*

Katie Stone Trezak - February 22 at 08:57 PM

AN

“ *My condolences to the whole family.*



anonymous - February 20 at 02:57 PM

JC

“ *Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Grabczak family. Being a neighbor for over 40 years was truly a pleasure. He was always there if you needed anything and a true gentleman. Along with our children, we were able to watch Dave, Amy, Angela and Christy grow up to follow their dad's legacy. He will be missed by all.*

Jerry & Edie Chudzicki - February 20 at 01:14 PM

HJ

“ My condolences and prayers to Dave, Angela, and the family and friends of Mr. Grabczak. He always had a smile, and was such a good man.

Howie Jones - February 20 at 11:57 AM

LS

“ Love Nicole & Shawn Roark- ROGERS SUPPLY purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of David J. Grabczak.



Love Nicole & Shawn Roark- ROGERS SUPPLY - February 20 at 09:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David J. Grabczak.

February 20 at 09:01 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of David J. Grabczak.



February 20 at 09:01 AM

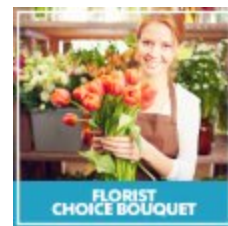
 Gail Myatt

“ Dave was a friendly, caring person but he was so much more. He was interested in people but also interested in learning everything he could. In High School he worked at the grocery store across from his home and saved to buy himself a car. He rebuilt the engine by reading manuals and asking questions of his car buddies. He graduated in 1968 and went into an electrical apprenticeship at U.S. Steel. He took every opportunity to pick up overtime because that was his work ethic. When his brother in law started his Sheet Metal business, Dave left the mill and joined on the new business and became a Sheet Metal apprentice. He completed that apprenticeship as well and over the years kept adding to his knowledge by taking classes that contributed to his career. He was one of the first in Indiana to be certified under new EPA regulations. Dave used his electrical and HVAC skills when building the family's first home. He did all of the wiring and HVAC installation himself. Five years later, he had absorbed even more construction knowledge and was able to build the home on Luther Drive. He worked during the day and would spend the evening and late into the night working on the house. A lot of friends and coworkers helped build the home too. It was an opportunity for them to learn from Dave. Over the years Dave returned that help by helping them build their homes or helping with their HVAC systems. He was a talented man who enjoyed people, He was smart, and an incredible hard worker. He was generous and always there for anyone who needed help.

Gail Myatt - February 20 at 08:50 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of David J. Grabczak.



February 19 at 09:43 PM

RF

“ RLE Post 100 Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of David J. Grabczak.



RLE Post 100 Family - February 19 at 06:25 PM

RS

“ Rose / Carl Sims purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David J. Grabczak.



Rose / Carl Sims - February 19 at 12:59 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of David J. Grabczak.



February 19 at 09:37 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of David J. Grabczak.



February 19 at 08:45 AM

LH

“ *What a beautiful legacy you have left Dave, you have one of the kindest hearts of anyone I have ever known You've always been there for others. May you fly with the angels God bless you Dave* ❤️

Linda Hanson - February 19 at 08:18 AM

DM

“ *Deborah M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David J. Grabczak.*

Deborah M. - February 19 at 08:08 AM

DM

“ *Deborah M. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David J. Grabczak.*



Deborah M. - February 19 at 08:08 AM

CM

“ *Chris Matie sent a virtual gift in memory of David J. Grabczak*



Chris Matie - February 19 at 01:36 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David J. Grabczak.*



February 19 at 12:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David J. Grabczak.

February 19 at 12:11 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of David J. Grabczak.*



February 19 at 12:11 AM



“ *Your cousins Jamie & Carrie and family's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David J. Grabczak.*

Your cousins Jamie & Carrie and family's - February 18 at 06:35 PM

YF

“ *Your cousins Jamie & Carrie and family's purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of David J. Grabczak.*



Your cousins Jamie & Carrie and family's - February 18 at 06:35 PM

GC

“ *David was my best friend in high school and after. I will always remember the great times we had, he was a true friend I could count on no matter what.*

Greg Chandler - February 18 at 05:52 PM

RM

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. I went to school with Joanne and Joyce since grade school. Although I haven't seen them in years I absolutely understand the loss of a sibling. Rhonda (Kirk) McManaway*

Rhonda McManaway - February 18 at 05:49 PM

SB

“ *Sheri bunch purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of David J. Grabczak.*



Sheri bunch - February 18 at 05:39 PM



“ Over several decades I became friends with Dave. I worked with him when he was a foster parent, I purchased my heating and AC system from him. I frequently referred to him because I was confident people would get excellent service and a reasonable cost. On a few situations he was willing to help people at little or no cost because I was able to talk with him about their situation. I will miss his friendship. Thank you Dave for all the work you did.
Mike and LouAnn Minogue.

Mike Minogue - February 18 at 04:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David J. Grabczak.

February 18 at 04:23 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David J. Grabczak.



February 18 at 04:23 PM