



David "Dave" Joseph Dempsey

February 6, 1939 - July 19, 2025

David (Dave) Joseph Dempsey passed away on July 19, 2025, in Virginia.

Dave was born on February 6th, 1939, in Sioux City, IA, the second child of Edward and Sally (O'Furey) Dempsey. Dave attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and Heelan High School in Sioux City, IA. Dave received an undergraduate degree from St. Benedict's College (now Benedictine) in Atchison, KS.

Dave was proud to have served as an officer in the United State Air Force from 6/26/1962 to August 29, 1966. Following his honorable discharge from McCord Air Force Base in Detroit, MI, Dave attended Wayne State University where he received his Master of Social Work degree (MSW).

Dave began his social work career in the Detroit area and later served in Seattle, WA, Columbia, MO, Harrisburg, PA and lastly for National Association of Social Workers (NASW) headquarters in Washington DC. He lived in Silver Spring, MD until moving to Gainesville, VA in the last few years.

Dave married Samsoon Lee in 2011. Dave is survived by his wife Samsoon, his stepsons Eric (Melinda) Lee and James (Shila) Lee and grandchildren Samuel and Jonathon Lee. He leaves behind six siblings: Mary Cotter, Racine WI, George (Maria), Heath TX, Timothy (Barbara), Des Moines IA, Anne (Jim)

Borland, South Milwaukee WI, Terry (Bonnie), Racine WI and Monsignor Patrick Dempsey, Springfield VA and sister-in-law, Barbel Dempsey of Mount Clemens, MI. He also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Neil.

A funeral Mass will be held at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, VA on Friday, July 25, 2025, at 10:30AM. The burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JUL **25**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd
Manassas, VA 20110-2566
(703) 368-4500

Tribute Wall

JD

“ WOW, this news blows me away. I met Dave at Benedictine College in 1957. We were in adjacent rooms in the dorm during our Sophomore and Junior years. We both graduated in 1961 and I lost track of Dave. We were both from Iowa and had that connection. I see from some of the other folks stories that Dave still loved words. I remember he liked my hometown newspaper name: The Council Bluffs Iowa "Nonpariel" -- he just thought it was an awesome name.

Rest in peace, Dave. You and I will meet again. If any of his friends or family wish to reach out to me my email is: JIMDARGIN@gmail.com

James Dargin - December 20, 2025 at 03:21 PM

RV

“ I met Dave in the early 1980s when he was Missouri Chapter Exec and I was a young Hawaii Chapter President who didn't know much. He took time to tell me who folks were and what was happening at national meetings. Later he was my first boss at NASW National Office, again schooling me in the who's and what's. I also loved his wit and insights on politics. He had a curmudgeon style but with a heart of gold. Rest at last

Rita Vandivort-Warren - July 24, 2025 at 04:32 PM

RT

“ Roger Thompson - Thank you for the details on Dave's service. Dave was my best man at my wedding in 1959. He was a great guy and we remained in contact all these years. I will miss talking to him on his birthday. Prayers to the family.

Roger Thompson - July 24, 2025 at 12:10 PM

CC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. ❤️*
Christine, Hannah and Zachary



Christine Cotter - July 24, 2025 at 11:19 AM

GM

“ *I have known David since the late 60's where we met in graduate school in pursuit of our MSW. He worked for me, and we have kept in touch since. One of my most loyal, long-lasting really good friend.*

Gerald and Dolores Maxey
Farmington Hills. Mi

Gerald Maxey - July 24, 2025 at 10:11 AM

JL

“ *Topic: Live Stream: Funeral Mass for David “Dave” Joseph Dempsey*

Time: Friday Jul 25, 2025 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

The service will be streamed via Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5492643425?pwd=YKwr0ljrypQXuZH1KAPRh5p3TfOcuW.1&omn=87225963236>

Copy link above and paste into your browser

Meeting ID: 549 264 3425

Passcode: 1234

As we come together to honor and celebrate Dave’s life, we kindly ask that all participants keep their microphones muted during the service.

We hope you will join us in prayer, remembrance, and gratitude for Dave’s life.

David Dempsey's Family

James J Lee - July 24, 2025 at 09:23 AM

RV

“ Rita Vandivort-Warren purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of David "Dave" Joseph Dempsey.



Rita Vandivort-Warren - July 24, 2025 at 09:23 AM

BC

“ Bill, Beth, Olivia and Liam Cotter purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David "Dave" Joseph Dempsey.



Bill, Beth, Olivia and Liam Cotter - July 24, 2025 at 08:44 AM

BP

“ Bonnie Pearson lit a candle in memory of David "Dave" Joseph Dempsey



Bonnie Pearson - July 24, 2025 at 07:46 AM

TW

“ Dave and I worked together for many years at the National Association of Social Workers, sharing a commitment to encourage and train social workers to be more active in politics. He was a dedicated colleague and a good friend. Samsoon and her family have been a blessing in his life as have his brothers and sisters who he spoke fondly about many times. Condolences to all his family and long-time friends. Rest in Peace, Dave

Toby weismiller - July 23, 2025 at 07:32 PM

MS

“ Shortly after Dave left the Air Force he began working with my husband (Ron Snyder) as a social worker in Mount Clemens Michigan. The three of us spent our first Thanksgiving together in 1966. For the next 43 years Dave spent nearly every Christmas with our family as well as sharing many family vacations. Dave, and, my husband Ron, spent endless hours playing scrabble and discussing life and politics. Dave was an integral part of our family and a loving support to our children and the numerous children that lived on our 80 acre farm. We rejoiced with Dave when he met and married Sam and will remain ever thankful for their strong bond of caring love. Dave was a man of integrity and generosity and we were blessed to know and love him. Marty Snyder

Mart Snyder - July 23, 2025 at 05:37 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David "Dave" Joseph Dempsey.*



July 23, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David "Dave" Joseph Dempsey.*



July 23, 2025 at 04:29 PM

JM

“ I met David at Manassas mall. He used to come in the morning on week days. He also used to bring cookies for his friends. He was a soft spoken gentleman who had a kind heart for those in need of social services. David kept up with the latest news and participated in many discussions always displaying respect and dignity. His passing was unexpected. Our condolences to his beloved family. May God give them peace and comfort to accept his passing.

Jacob Mathai - July 23, 2025 at 12:12 PM