



David A. Duda

October 3, 1951 - July 6, 2025

In Loving Memory of David A. Duda

October 3, 1951 – July 6, 2025

David Duda lived with authenticity, generosity, and a big-hearted presence that filled every room. Born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and raised on a farm along the Wisconsin River, Dave came from a family full of character. His father, Henry, was a pig farmer, county sheriff, Golden Gloves boxer, and owned local nightclubs with Dave's beloved mother, Kathryn. Hard work was his foundation, and even as a child, Dave was the planner and creative spark among his siblings, always organizing, always imagining.

He earned his Bachelor's of Nursing degree in Oshkosh, Wisconsin and his Masters of Science in Nursing from Rush Medical College, while working at Rush University Medical Center as team leader of the Mental Health Unit.

Dave carved his own path in the medical world and built a remarkable career in healthcare. At Riverside Healthcare he spent nearly 30 years, beginning as Director of Mental Health and becoming Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Operating Officer. He also previously directed the Azzarelli Medical Clinic. Dave supported patients, staff, and his community with both vision and compassion.

Work was only a part of Dave's story. He lived fully. Dave hosted big family gatherings, played 70s music loud, loved a good crime or reality show, cheered on the Bears, and enjoyed a delicious Polish meal. He made space for laughter even on the hardest days. He had a deep love for his dog Toby,

cared for chickens at home in Manteno, and grew cucumbers, tomatoes and flowers in his garden. Dave found joy in simple routines—coffee in the pool house, a phone call with family, time on the river with Kevin, or a Wisconsin Brandy Old Fashioned in hand as the sun set.

He moved easily between worlds: suits and strategy by day, tending his garden and animals at night. He brought fun into everything, even performing in benefit skits with his fellow executives—including once dressing as a member of The Partridge Family (a one-of-a-kind legacy!). He had a generous spirit, often giving quietly and without recognition. People have overwhelmingly shared how Dave supported their career paths and life decisions—not just family and friends, but even strangers—always ready with advice, encouragement, or a helping hand. He simply showed up—again and again—for the people he loved.

Dave passed away at his home in Manteno and is survived by his family he loved dearly: Kevin Bryant, sisters Suzanne (Jeff) Riegel, Sandy (Ron) Roth, and Paulette Duda; sister-in-law Cathy (Ronnie) Duda; brother Danny (Anne Marie) Duda; and many more family members and dear friends including Carole, Chris, Tom, Rose Marie, Erika and so many more. He is preceded in death by his mother Kathryn, whom he absolutely adored, his father Henry, brothers Ronnie and Kevin, and his beloved friend Susie Q.

Though his final season was marked by illness, Dave faced it with quiet courage. He didn't want to leave the life he built—full of people, purpose, and love. He leaves behind a legacy of care, generosity, and the reminder to always make room for celebration, connection, and community. If you know him, you know that. If you're reading this, you've probably been beautifully affected by Dave's kindness and generosity in some way. He touched so many hearts.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to River Valley Animal Rescue on Dave's behalf. Also, honor Dave in how you live life: enjoy a sunset, gather your people, turn up the music, give to others and toast to life; all of which we hope he is doing now with his loved ones in heaven.

I hope that someday we'll get to see him there, and we can sit together and reminisce among the flowers. Until then, he is still so loved and deeply missed.

With love, Katie Sue and family.

Service Details | Thursday, July 17th at United Church of Christ, Chebanse
Visitation and church service will be held on Thursday, July 17th at United Church of Christ, 187 W First S St, Chebanse, IL 60922. Visitation will be from 2:30pm - 4:00pm with service directly following from 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

Arrangements are by Schreffler Funeral Homes, Kankakee.

Please sign his guestbook at schrefflerfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Union Corners Cemetery

Grant Park, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 17. 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

United Church of Christ, Chebanse
187 West First Street
Chebanse, IL 60922

Funeral Service

JUL 17. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

United Church of Christ, Chebanse
187 West First Street
Chebanse, IL 60922

Tribute Wall

ER

“ Asca little girl i remember how much I loved your laugh and how fantaticly fabulous your smile was. Even on a dark cloudy day ,once you smiled the sun its self couldn't help but come out and enjoy it as much as I did. I couldn't have been prouder to have been called your sister. And my children were blessed to grow up having Uncle David in their lives. It goes with out saying your magnificent will myriadly,mountingly ,momentous forever be missed. Give sweet Nana Katie and Dad a super big as hug from me. Don't ever stop singing me some Elton and keep heaven lite with your smile. XOXO
E♡



Erika - February 26 at 08:05 AM

SK

“ On behalf of Iroquois Mental Health Center, I want to acknowledge what a very valuable asset David was as a member of our Board. His expertise of mental health and financial matters, as well as his compassion for all people were always present! David and I were on our personnel committee. On several occasions, we had to navigate several difficult situations. David had a firm, but compassionate way of taking care of each situation.

On a personal note, Dave became a valued friend. I was lucky enough to spend a summer day at his home enjoying the swimming pool and of course being the recipient of some of the fantastic farm produce.

My last visit with David was when he was a patient at Riverside. We discussed his health as well as IMHC topics. Before I left, I asked him if he would like me pray for him. Afterwards, he gave me a big hug. I will always treasure that time with him.

My sincere sympathy for Kevin and all of Dave's family!

Sharron Kreider

Sharron Kreider - July 21, 2025 at 07:30 PM

PL

I met Dave Duda when he was a Tech on the MHU that was on the 2nd Floor. I was a Brand New Nurse in the ICU which was Located Right Next Door to MHU...

Dave Often Came Into The ICU to Check out the Food in the Break Room..

Often, Dave came Over just to Say Hi, Tell a Story or Listen to one ... While I Was the Manager of the IV Team... Dave became the Director of MHU...

When we attended Monthly Meetings, Dave would Come into the Meeting & He would Come & Sit next to me...

Dave Always Told me What a Great Job I Did...

I retired from RMC...in Spring of 08....

Then on Dec 2nd, 1998...

I got a Call that Dave Duda, who at that time was the President of the Hospital..

Wanted me to Come Back To Work!!!!

What the F?????

I'm Retired!!!!

I Need you to Come Back...

Dave told me...

To Do What?????

Do What You Usually Do!!!

He Told Me...

You'll Figure it out...

Riverside Needs You....

I returned to Work within An Hour after Dave Called...

Dave Duda was a Great Friend!!!

I'm Proud to Remember Dave...

Peggy Lafond

Peggy LaFond - August 11, 2025 at 03:07 PM

CS

“ *I met Dave at Riverside Hospital-so kind and easy to talk to and also at the Azzarelli clinic. Prayers and hugs to Kevin-call if you anything. So sorry for your loss 🥺💧*

Cheryle Strother

Cheryle Strother - July 16, 2025 at 08:06 PM

JS

“ When i was in the grounds dept Dave always always said to me how good everything looked i told him it wasn't easy job but something i loved doing, one time i was in the cafeteria at Riverside Hospital and Dave was in front of me he bought my lunch that day and said to me you're doing great work the Hospital grounds looks Vantastic... he will be sadly missed especially by me Rest in Peace Dave and if you get a chance Hug my 3 dogs for me Ebony Rose, Jake Mann and Libby Ann...

Jeffrey A Soucie - July 16, 2025 at 07:45 PM

KD

“ I knew Dave from working at Riverside. On his last hospital stay, as weak as he was, he sat up and shook my hand when I walked in his room. A real gentleman.

Kathy Duby - July 16, 2025 at 04:59 PM

BJ

“ I worked with Dave for several years and he was always a kind and caring Man. I'm sorry for your loss. Betty Januski

Betty Januski - July 15, 2025 at 06:31 PM

DG

“ Diane Glodowski lit a candle in memory of David A. Duda



Diane Glodowski - July 14, 2025 at 01:47 PM



“ *My mother and I loved coming over to your house for pool parties and spending time with you and your family. You were always upbeat and an inspiration to be around. You made me understand what it was to be confident and proud to be who you are.*

Randall Krause-Vinson - July 12, 2025 at 10:29 AM

CR

“ *I am incredibly grateful to have worked as a nurse manager under his leadership as well as study under him in my Masters program. He genuinely cared about you and always wished to give his best to you for your own personal and professional development. He truly impacted countless persons both personally and professionally. He will be greatly missed and always fondly remembered. My sincere condolences to the whole family.*

Cheri Rogers - July 12, 2025 at 06:38 AM

DD

“ *It is not easy to lose a family member you loved so much! My prayers go out to you! I met Dave while I was interim head on the Riverside MHU until they could recruit a Director--when Dave interviewed and we talked, I knew he was it---and he WAS! We had a great working relationship during my remaining years at Riverside. He was dedicated to helping mental health patients and their families, a true nurse and leader.*

Doris Dippel - July 11, 2025 at 03:24 PM

MZ

“ Sorry for your loss,your family are in our thoughts and prayers. I worked with Dave at Riverside Medical Center,on the Mental Health Unit,I was introduced to Dave by my former boss and friend ,Christine Anthony,another great person.Dave was attentive,and listened to the patients and staff. If we needed something he would advocate for the team.He was a gentle giant,rugged exterior, but gentle soul. Rest now my friend your job on earth is done.Play that music loud ,toast family and friends,and feed those farm animals.

Madonna Zasada - July 11, 2025 at 02:55 PM

TA

“ Thank you for your years at Riverside, your grit, and all those Polish pastries. May you rest in peace.

Theresa Alberico - July 11, 2025 at 02:38 PM

NW

“ Nora Walker-Mehrer lit a candle in memory of David A. Duda



Nora Walker-Mehrer - July 11, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ RIP u were a great leader

Karen Kowalski - July 11, 2025 at 12:17 PM