

David B. Kielson

April 25, 1935 - December 31, 2020

Joyful, loving, kind, generous. Just a few of the words that describe David Kielson who died of COVID-19 on December 31, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Gail, his daughters and their spouses, Laurie (Jaime), Linda and Leslie (Liz). He has left a huge hole in our lives and in the lives of all who loved him. Dave made it so easy to love him because he exuded joy, warmth and love.

David spent his life dedicated to his family. He and Gail were married for over 62 years. As a couple, they were an inspiration because of their enormous love and respect for each other. Right up to very end, Dave could make Gail laugh! They loved being together and would choose it over most other things. David was also an amazing father. He gave his daughters unconditional pure love, taking pride in our accomplishments, helping out whenever needed, showing up for all of the important and not so important events in our lives. He was so playful and loved to make people laugh with his deadpan, good-natured sense of humor!

Dave loved being in nature – cross-country skiing, hiking, biking, gardening. He never stopped marveling at the beauty. Not a day went by without him raving about the beauty of the natural world – the blue sky, the sunrise, the birds, the autumn colors or any other small wonder. He always saw the beauty!

David lived his values – the values he learned from his Jewish heritage – love, humility, empathy, service. He was truly committed to making the world a better place and to promoting social justice. Even when he worked long hours as an accountant in New Rochelle, NY, he found time to volunteer for organizations he believed in and that continued throughout his life. The full list of organizations would be way too long to name, but a few to which he dedicated himself were the MLK Day Care Center in New Rochelle, the Hilltown CDC in Chesterfield and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. In every instance he gave his heart and soul, working tirelessly, usually in the realm of finance since that was his area of expertise, to help keep these crucial organizations solvent and able to accomplish their mission.

David also served as a selectperson in the town of Chesterfield for 24 years. (He made sure to always use the non-sexist term of selectperson rather than selectman!) He believed in the adage “Think globally, act locally” and saw local government as a place

where he could make a difference. He was on many town committees, including the finance committee, planning board, school building, senior housing, and green community committees. He also represented the town on the state level, serving on the board and as president of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, gaining respect from people throughout the state.

In all of this work Dave remained incredibly humble, never interested in accolades or thanks. He did it from a place of conviction and selflessness.

David spent his last 3 years as a resident of the Memory Care Unit at the Elaine Center at Hadley. And even there, afflicted by dementia, the essence of who he was as a person came through – singing, laughing, making funny faces to get others to laugh, gifting those around him with his beaming smile. It is not always easy to feel joy in a nursing home, but Dave made it happen! And consequently, he was loved by all! We are tremendously grateful to the staff there for the loving care that they gave him!

We will hold a celebration of his life this spring or summer when it is safe to gather.

Donations in his honor can be made to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, 97 N Hatfield Rd, Hatfield, MA 01038 or Hilltown CDC, 387 Main Rd, Chesterfield, MA 01012.

Comments



“ Dear Gail, We just learned about David's death. Our thoughts are with you in this time of loss for you and your family. - Strong Oak and Mary

Mary Wheelan - February 04 at 08:15 PM



“ Dear Gail and Kielson family members

David was a treasure to all of us that knew him in his years of living in the Hilltowns. I had the pleasure of working with David years ago through the Hilltown CDC at first as a member of the forming of the Hilltown Artisan Guild and then working more closely with him while serving on the CDC board of directors during my 11 years as a Huntington representative on the board. His thoughtfulness and leadership with respect for group dialogue, his cheerfulness and general joy was so infectious. What an honor to have known him and serve with him.

My thoughts are with you.
Peri Sossaman

Peri Sossaman - January 13 at 11:48 AM

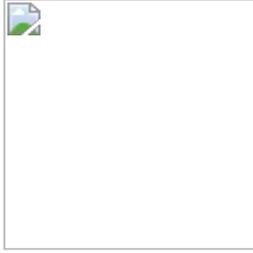


“ I am so very sad to learn of Dave's death. He was one of the kindest people I have ever known. It was an absolute pleasure to work with him here in Chesterfield. I send sincere condolences to Gail and all the family

Carol Jolly - January 09 at 05:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Linda Kielson - January 09 at 03:22 PM



“ Tribute from our cousin, Jamie. Please watch to the end to see my father and Jamie singing together.

Linda - January 09 at 03:23 PM



“ We are greatly saddened to read of David's passing and send our heartfelt condolences to you, Gail, and to your daughters. David was a lovely man who selflessly contributed his skills and services to countless area not-for-profit organizations. May the memories of David be as blessings to all who knew and loved him.

Bob and Janet Winston, Amherst

Bob Winston - January 09 at 10:03 AM



“ I learned of Dave's passing from Facebook, but I wanted to send condolences to the whole family. I remember Dave as one of the sweetest men and most loving father to his three daughters that I had ever met in New Rochelle. He was anti-sexist before most of us knew the term, a feminist ally through and through. I feel fortunate to have known him during those formative years. Though I've been out of touch for years, living in England and now sitting out the pandemic in Turkey, I send the entire Kielson clan my most heartfelt condolences. His memory is already a blessing.

Alisa (Lisi) Lebow - January 09 at 04:01 AM



“ As a frequent visitor to Elaine Manor, it was my good fortune and delight to meet David and his darling wife, Mrs. Kielson. At once, his smile seemed to light up the room. Although there were some difficulties at times with my oral communication with him, his kindness came through loudly and clearly, and consistently. Beyond his impressive exterior moreover was a beautiful heart of care for and service to others on several fronts. A life that makes the difference for the good of others can always be much appreciated. We appreciate you very much, David, and you leave behind a community of admirers who will miss you greatly. In a world overshadowed often enough by negativity and negative personalities, that you for being a steady, shining star. God's peace to your beautiful spirit.

Rev. Floyd L. Williams

Floyd Williams - January 08 at 10:35 PM



“ Dear Gail and family,
Before David's nursing home was closed due to Covid, I was the Ombudsman there for long-term care and the Memory Unit where he lived. I came about once a week, and I almost always had a chance to see him. He was cheerful most of the time. Sometimes he was singing. He had such a beautiful voice. I saw right away that he enjoyed the natural world because he always was so happy looking at books of animal pictures. I really enjoyed visiting with him. He really made my day, and made me realize that there are so many rewards in being an Ombudsman. I hope he liked seeing me as much as I liked seeing him. I was so sad when the nursing home closed and I was no longer able to see him and the other residents. I also liked seeing you, Gail, and the rest of David's family. I am so sorry that David is not with you any more. It must have been so hard on all of you when you were not able to visit him after the nursing home closed. Saying "I am so sorry for your loss" does not begin to express how sorry I am that a great light in your world has been extinguished. Even in the diminished state in which I saw him, I saw that David was indeed a great man. It was a real privilege to meet him, and my heart goes out to you.

Ruth Ann Orlansky

Ruth Ann Orlansky - January 08 at 12:33 AM



“ Dear Gail and family, I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved Dave. He was a great and kind man. I loved seeing him out on his skis at Notchview. May his memory be a blessing. Sincerely, Andrea Fox

andrea fox - January 07 at 07:43 PM



“ Dear Gail and Family,
I am so sorry for your loss, David was such a sweet and caring man. I had the so much pleasure with working with David for almost 20 yrs. for the Town of Southampton, he always made me smile and was always there to help me when I needed it. He will truly be missed.

Kristie Slattery

Kristie-Ann P. Slattery - January 07 at 03:55 PM



“ I met David almost 40 years ago in Chesterfield. He was already working to develop the Hilltown Community Development Corporation, and he drew me into that work. He was always a pleasure to be with, and he was always happy to contribute his skills and attitude to good causes. I remember him fondly, and offer my condolences to you all. Seth Isman

Seth Isman - January 07 at 01:48 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Dave as well as running into him on occasion at the cross country ski grounds. He was exactly as his obituary indicates, a humble, fun loving genuine man. I am glad I had the pleasure of having known him. My sincere condolences to his family.

Bobbie Jones

Bobbie Jones - January 07 at 11:52 AM



“ So sorry Gail to hear of David's passing. Sending love to you and family. May his memory be a blessing.

Carol Wallace - January 07 at 09:37 AM



“ From the first time I met him at the old Northampton Food Co-op on Market Street, Dave was a force of warmth and compassion teamed with passionate commitment to social justice. So sorry to learn of his passing and love to Gail and other family.
--Shel Horowitz

Shel Horowitz - January 07 at 08:40 AM



“ Dave was an inspiration and a light. May his memory be a blessing. Much love to the family. - dorian (also an accountant, inspired in part by Dave's example)

Dorian Gregory - January 07 at 08:37 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Leslie Kielson - January 06 at 05:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album family



Leslie Kielson - January 06 at 04:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album family



Leslie Kielson - January 06 at 03:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Canadian Rockies



Leslie Kielson - January 06 at 03:53 PM



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Leslie Kielson - January 06 at 03:52 PM