



Hon. E. David Duncan

November 9, 1934 - November 1, 2021

Albany-Albany - E. David Duncan passed away November 1, 2021. He was born on November 9, 1934, in Albany, the son of Edward J. and Mary N. Duncan.

He attended and graduated from Blessed Sacrament School, Vincentian Institute, Siena College and Albany Law School. After passing the New York State Bar Exam, he attended Naval Officers Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and was then assigned as a legal officer to the USS Hancock, an Aircraft Carrier, in the Pacific Theatre, serving on it and also in shore duty, at North Island Naval Station in Coronado, California, during the Cold War, from 1960-1962. It was in Coronado that he met Kay Kennedy, from Coon Rapids, Iowa, who was teaching school there. They were married on February 24, 1962 at Sacred Heart Church in Coronado, and later that year moved to Albany where they began their family. Upon returning to Albany, he entered into the practice of law with his uncle Charles "Chick" Duncan, at which he made his living for the next fifty years at offices on Albany's State Street.

A lifelong member of the Democratic Party, he soon joined the Albany County Democratic Committee as a committeeman. In 1967, he was elected to the first Albany County Legislature, serving with distinction in that body through 1979. In 1982 he served as the President of the Albany County Bar Association. In 1983 he was appointed to the Albany City Court bench where he presided until 2004. As a part-time City Court Judge he was able to continue with his private law practice. He spent the last 10 years of his legal career practicing law with his daughter Sara. Dave was the plaintiffs' attorney in *Boomer v. Atlantic Cement Company* which according to the Albany County Bar Association was one of the most significant civil cases originating in Albany County in the 20th century. *Boomer* is taught in law schools throughout the country and holds the distinction of being the only case routinely taught to first-year law students in three separate courses-property, torts and civil procedure.

Dave was known for his sense of humor and outgoing personality. He treated everyone the same regardless of job title. He had an incredibly optimistic attitude towards life, he always saw the glass as half-full. Dave enjoyed a good time, telling stories and singing songs, especially Irish songs-It's a Long Way to Tipperary was one of his favorites. He enjoyed spending time with his family and watching "the New York Football Giants" as he called them, as well as reading history, literature, playing squash (at the University Club of Albany- of which he was an active member for many years) and trout fishing (with dry flies) in the AuSable River in the Adirondacks and in Kinderhook Creek. Other favorite vacation spots over the years included Chatham, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod. He also enjoyed his daily 3-mile walks on New Scotland Avenue which he was well known for. He was proud of his Irish roots, visiting Ireland in 1972 and 2005 with his wife Kay, and avidly following news from there over the years. Every year he marched in the North Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade until his health prevented him from doing so.

Dave was a devout catholic. He was a parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena/Mater Christi parish since 1962. For years he served as an usher at the 11:30 am Mass on Sunday mornings.

He is survived by his wife Kay, his children Jason, Mark, Ed and Sara Duncan, his daughters-in-law Amy, Pam, and Maryann Duncan and son-in-law Daniel Bergin. He is also survived by his grandchildren Heather and Kaelin Duncan, Patrick and Brendan Bergin, Nicholas and Emily Duncan and Leo and Jack Duncan.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Dave's family Friday, November 5, 2021 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206. Please only enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot entrance.

The Duncan family respectively request everyone wear a mask attending the visitation and the Funeral Mass.

Funeral services Saturday, November 6, 2021 at 11:00 am at the Parish of Mater Christi, Albany where his Funeral Mass will be celebrated. Masks are required. The Funeral Mass can be viewed at [YouTube.com/C.ParishofMaterChristi](https://www.youtube.com/C.ParishofMaterChristi)

The Rite of Committal will follow at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY immediately following the Mass.

To leave the family a special message please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com

Service

NOV 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi
40 Hopewell St
Albany, NY 12208-1505

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Hon. E. David Duncan*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - November 04, 2021 at 05:25 PM

CG

“ *mark-i'm sorry about your dad. my condolences to you and your family.*

tina giagni

christina giagni - November 29, 2021 at 10:51 PM

RC

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I have nothing but fond memories of Judge Duncan. He always brought a smile to my face when we would meet.*

Roy Conrad - November 05, 2021 at 01:20 PM

BL

“ *Kay and family my sincere condolences on Dave's passing. I first met Dave when I just returned to Albany from military service and he knocked on my door and introduced himself as the Democratic committeeman for my district. In time we became co-committeemen and an enduring friendship ensued. In addition we both had the distinction and good sense to marry Iowa girls. RIP Dave.*

Bob Lyman.

Bob Lyman - November 05, 2021 at 11:51 AM

RB

“ Kay, we are so sorry to learn of David’s passing. We always enjoyed seeing you and your family at the restaurant and of course seeing Dave on his walks on New Scotland Ave. He was a world class story teller, and his unique personality, booming voice and humorous perspective always added to his stories. Sadly, we will not be able to attend the services as we are out of town, but please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Warmest regards,

Rosanna and Felix Bongiorno.

Rosanna Bongiorno - November 04, 2021 at 10:49 PM

DH

“ David and I were lifelong friends, having been born in the same year. We will keep him in our prayers. He will be missed. Dick & Joan Healy, Clifton Park. NY

Dick & Joan Healy - November 04, 2021 at 09:15 PM

CK

“ Megan and I send our sincere prayers for peace and comfort. 🙏🙏 Colleen Keating

Colleen Keating - November 04, 2021 at 07:31 PM

MCVEIGH
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
(518) 489-0188

“ 50 files added to the album LifeTributes



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - November 04, 2021 at 05:23 PM

PB

“ Duncan family , so sorry to hear of the passing of the Judge. Fond memories of him professionally and socially. Loved his interactions with my father at Beff's. My thoughts and prayers are with you.. I'm sorry I can't attend the services but I am in Florida

PJ Blanchfield

pj blanchfield - November 04, 2021 at 04:42 PM

MK

“ Jason and Family,
So sorry to hear about your dad. I remember him from his visits at St. Lawrence. He always was so friendly and genuinely interested in what we (your friends) were doing. I suppose i was predisposed to a positive opinion because I know how much he meant to you, Jason, and that you looked up to him. My thoughts are with you and your family.

Mark Kennedy

Mark Kennedy - November 04, 2021 at 04:33 PM

EF

“ Mrs. Duncan, Jason, Mark, Ed, Sara and families, please accept my deepest condolences for your loss. I have many wonderful memories growing up with the Duncan clan, St. Catherine's, picnics, and even babysitting you all as kids. Judge Duncan was a wonderful man who I always admired. God bless.

Eileen Finn-LeMatty

Eileen Finn-LeMatty - November 04, 2021 at 08:55 AM

MC

“ Sara and the Duncan family - we're so sorry for your loss. We know it has been an incredibly difficult time, and please know you are in our prayers. We will see you at the services. With love and sympathy. Marie & John Curley

Marie & John Curley - November 03, 2021 at 03:14 PM

GH

Mark & the Duncan Family - I'm sorry to hear of your loss. The Judge was one heck of a man. He always had an upbeat personality & humor. I always felt better after seeing him & I've heard many people say his singing always filled them with happy feelings. My sympathy. George Hakimian

George Hakimian - November 03, 2021 at 04:45 PM

WP

Sara and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Please accept my heartfelt sympathies.

Wendy Phillips - November 04, 2021 at 10:55 AM



*Dear Kay and Family, we send our deep sympathies for your great loss.
Eleanor and Tom Corban*

eleanor and tom corban - November 05, 2021 at 08:22 PM