



## David E. Burtis

October 3, 1941 - May 9, 2022

Delmar-David Edwin Burtis... "He doesn't have an enemy in the world" is the way everyone would describe him. Born on October 3, 1941, David died peacefully at home on May 8, 2022, from ALS, surrounded by his family: his soulmate and wife of fifty years, Linda Anne, and his daughters, Rachael Carson Carricaburu from Alaska and Sarah Anne Kellogg from Colorado. He is also survived by his five adoring grandchildren, Elijah, Simon, Sebastian, Henry and Mattie. They cherished everything their grandfather taught them from sailing and chess, to watching the stars at night and listening to birdsongs. He was a treasured brother-in-law and uncle in his wife's large family, where his insights about global events and environmental issues were highly valued. Throughout college at Middlebury, the University of Pennsylvania and RPI, he was a student of history, political science, international relations and econometrics.

David had an indefatigable passion for politics and activism—campaigning for good government candidates on the local and national levels throughout the United States. He protested the testing of nuclear weapons in the Utah desert and led the peace movement in the town of Bethlehem that resulted in Bethlehem declaring the town a nuclear-free zone. He was an early adopter of electric vehicles, all of which used his signature license plate "Less Gas." Recently, he was a key advisor for the Bethlehem's School District's purchase of five electric school buses, the largest green purchase in New York State.

David has always had a strong bond with nature and the outdoors. He climbed to the high point of 22 states, as well as Machu Picchu and numerous Alpine peaks. His favorite trek was the classic Tour du Mt. Blanc, where he could walk unguided using his French and Italian language skills. His passion was sailing: he was an accomplished Laser sailor, who also raced in the nationals of the Sunfish class. He continued to compete on the water, even after he was diagnosed with ALS.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with David's family Thursday, May 12, 2022 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at St. Vincent De Paul Church, Albany, NY.

Funeral services Friday at 11:00 am St. Vincent De Paul Church, Albany, NY where his Funeral Mass will be celebrated.

The family requests all attendees wear masks for the visitation and Funeral Mass.

The Rite of Committal will be held at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery Kateri Meadow Natural Burial Preserve immediately following the Mass.

To leave a message for the family please visit [www.McveighFuneralHome.com](http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com)

The family would like to extend a warm thank you to all of David's caregivers. We could not have survived these past months without his "A-team."

Donations can be made to: <https://www.massgeneral.org/neurology/als/support>

# Cemetery Details

## Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery

2501 Troy Road  
Niskayuna, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 12. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Church of St. Vincent De Paul Church  
900 Madison Ave.  
Albany, NY 12208

## Service

MAY 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Vincent De Paul Church  
900 Madison Ave.  
Albany, NY 12208

# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Linda, thinking of you and the special love you and your husband shared. Sending lots of love. - Daniela K. Filmer

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**Daniela Filmer** - May 08 at 02:19 PM



“ Daniela K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David E. Burtis.

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**Daniela K.** - May 08 at 02:15 PM



“ David E. Burtis

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October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM

DC

“David and I served two years together as junior officers in the Army Security Agency in Herzogenaurach Germany about 15 miles from Nurnberg from 1963-65. We lived in the same BOQ and became close friends. I too was a History/Poli Sci major and interested in international affairs and languages. We were tennis partners and each day we had lunch in the same tiny Gasthaus in Herzo. I had a VW beetle and David was always anxious to travel. As I recall his father worked for the UN (FAO) in Roma and Paris. Every weekend we made local trips as Bavaria is a treasure house of history. Our trips extended beyond the weekends and we drove to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. Finally one winter we signed up for a 15 day tour to Ancient Egypt with a German tour group. As the only two Americans our German coordinator arranged local guides for us as she led the other German speaking members. We were treated to special access to tombs and temples few tourists were allowed to visit including a dig sponsored by Yale. The coordinator arranged a supper meal with an Egyptian family for us. On the return flight from Cairo to Frankfurt the airport was snowed in so the flight went on to Paris where we enjoyed a three day mini-vacation. David was in language heaven in Paris.

At the end of his Army tour in 1965, David returned to the US for graduate studies while I remained in Germany for 6 years working as a newspaper editor and teaching history. We lost touch with each other during my work in the UK and spent 8 years in Asia. Upon my return I inquired about this status and location to no avail. Online I discovered an article about Linda and David climbing and there they were in Delmar while my wife and I were living in Connecticut. We enjoyed phone conversations and a regular exchange of emails. We never met F2F but the bond was as strong as our days and good times in Germany.

So sorry for your loss. I cherish our times together at Herzo Base.

Dr. John Caruso

*Southbury, CT*

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**Dr. John Caruso** - June 19, 2022 at 06:54 PM

DD

“ *Dear Linda, I was sorry to read of David's death. He sure lived a full life with all his adventures. I will always remember how smart and kind he was. He was always a pleasure to be around with his positive attitude. May he Rest in eternal peace.*

*Denise D'Angelico*

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**Denise D'Angelico** - May 11, 2022 at 06:07 PM

AJ

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Aysegul Jezewski** - May 11, 2022 at 11:19 AM

AJ

*I worked with David at the NYS Budget Division for nearly two decades and learnt a lot from him during that time. Although he was much more than his job, he was also well respected and adored by his colleagues. His love of learning was truly inspirational. I remember him reading Hamilton's entire "Time Series" book, which was brand new at the time and taught at the PhD programs. He always wanted to challenge himself, learn new things whether it be a spoken language (French!) or programming. Even after retirement, he helped the Economics Group with our report writing and forecasting, and continued to learn coding in new software too! But most importantly, I will never forget his love of nature and fight for social justice. I recall the day he took us to see his brand-new Hybrid, many stories of him hiking different peaks, biking in France, sailing... When I met him in person last was in 2019; he filled me in his latest adventures and stories of his grandkids. I will cherish all these memories and his big smile...*

*The picture above is from his retirement party. During his speech he started taking his clothes off, transitioning from a suit wearing public servant to a biker! The little we knew when this picture was taken that he was wearing a full biking outfit under his suit.*

Aysegul Jezewski - May 11, 2022 at 12:36 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David E. Burtis.



May 10, 2022 at 10:42 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of David E. Burtis.



May 10, 2022 at 04:10 PM