



David James Herkelrath

March 24, 1978 - February 27, 2021

David James Herkelrath, died Saturday, February 27, after a bravely fought nine-month battle with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. David approached his diagnosis with grace and composure; never once complaining or wanting to put anyone out. He was a model patient who was kind until the end. He was only 42 years old.

David brightened all our lives when he was born in Traverse City, Michigan on March 24, 1978, the son of James Ferris Herkelrath and Lynette Kay Logan and beloved little brother of Lisa. He lived his youth in Onekama, Bear Lake, and Pierport, and adult years in the Detroit area. In 1996, like so many generations before him, David graduated from Onekama High School where he excelled at basketball and football.

The pride and joy of David's life was his beautiful daughter, Olivia. Born 17 years ago, she brought much joy to her devoted father who enjoyed trips up north with her, attending her dance recitals, cooking for her, and just hanging out with her. She will continue to be a bright light to all of us and a living legacy of her wonderful father.

A talented and self-taught musician, David took an interest in drumming when he was just a little guy after jamming on his cousin's drum set. He pursued his musical passion for several years after high school as the drummer in the

Detroit-area band, Today I Wait. Recording and touring created many memories, lots of fans, and life-long friendships.

David was an awesome chef! His extraordinary culinary skills combined with his laid-back people skills paved the way for a successful career in food and beverage at several Detroit-area restaurants/hotels. His most recent job was Executive Chef at Auburn Hills Marriott where he managed a full-service, upscale restaurant with a 750-person banquet facility. David's dedication, skill level, and practice of never asking anyone to do anything he would not do himself, earned him the respect of both his guests and employees. His culinary skills and laid-back manner were appreciated at home, too. Many family holiday dinners were prepared and served by him, with no worries or stress to anyone. But that was just who he was...That was just David.

David loved the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. He was a dedicated hunter and an excellent shot. With hunting in his blood, when October rolled around, he started ramping up for white-tail season! From the time he could talk he was always "getting the big buck", which he did every year while hunting with his dad. His patience helped to make him an excellent angler. As a young boy he enjoyed surf fishing from the shores of Lake Michigan with his dad and sister, Lisa. As an adult, one of his favorite pastimes was fishing the streams and rivers of Manistee County, either with his dad or by himself.

His go-with-the-flow nature, non-judgmental attitude, and good sense of humor made him fun to be around. David could often be found with friends and family enjoying a round of disc golf, shredding the slopes on his snowboard, playing video games, or watching an episode...or two of South Park. To know David, was to love him.

David was gentle natured, kind spirited, and an open communicator. Many of us never heard him raise his voice in anger or say an unkind word about

anyone. These qualities not only helped nurture a successful co-parenting relationship with Olivia's mother, Michelle Loding, but also made him the go-to guy for children and a favorite of cats and dogs...They all loved him.

David is survived by his daughter Olivia Loding, parents Jim (Cindy) Herkelrath and Lynette Logan (Dan Birchmeier), sisters Lisa Herkelrath (Aaron Beyette) and Marlee Gale (Cory), brother Ben Heinrich (Jenny), and girlfriend Sarah Winkelman and her daughter Adrianna.

He is also fondly remembered as a dear uncle, beloved nephew, and special cousin. He will be so very missed.

David was preceded in death by his infant brother Jamie, paternal grandparents Ferris and Ann Herkelrath, maternal grandparents John and Joan Logan, and uncles Dennis Herkelrath and Ed Emmons.

David was a giver...His warm, generous, loving hugs being one example. His last gift was the selfless act of donating his organs.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall



“ *David James Herkelrath*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM

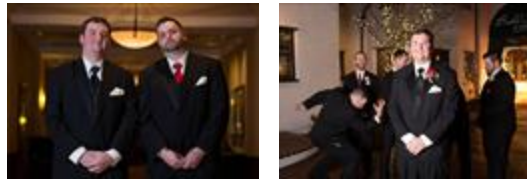


“ *David James Herkelrath*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *I have so many great memories in the short time Dave and I worked together. From cooking side by side or grabbing a late night beer. He and I shared an enthusiasm for the outdoors and food. We would chat about kitchens and talk about new food or menu items we had been working on. Dave was a great chef and an amazing friend. Cheers to you buddy, till we meet again.*



Josh Arnold - March 13, 2021 at 07:30 AM



“ *I met Dave at Marriott he was the Chef for our conferences. Always enjoyed chatting with him, hearing about hunting, stories of his daughter, along with all his work. He had a passion for food & showed thru in his cooking. Dave will be missed. Rest easy Chef Dave ☆*

Janny Wojdylak - March 09, 2021 at 01:08 PM

JL

“ I was blessed to have had Dave as a friend since childhood. He was my big brother's best friend and my other big brother. One of the things I've always admired about Dave is that he was so genuine. He was never one to follow the pack. He was so down to earth and all heart. Whenever I saw Dave, no matter how long it had been, I knew I was always in for a warm, loving big brother bear hug. And, his radiant smile and enthusiastic stories always brought out a smile in me too. As time passes, I hope we're all able to look back on all those good memories of Dave and smile. I'd like to send my deepest sympathy and condolences to Dave's family. Someone as wonderful as Dave will never be forgotten but will live on in our hearts forever.

Jessica (Shrum) Leidinger - March 09, 2021 at 09:20 AM

AC

“ Dave and I worked together at the Marriott for over 12 years. Not only was he an amazing chef, he was an extremely good friend. Every time Dave cooked for one of my events I had full confidence that my event would be a success! I will miss our Event order meetings, his spectacular vegetarian soups, our menu planning and our conversations from his daughter's dance competitions to his band gigs. The Marriott will not be the same without you. I will miss you greatly!

Angela Ciminelli - March 06, 2021 at 11:43 AM

TN

“ This is the picture that was taken of Chef Dave when he won Manager of the Quarter for Q3 in 2019. Dave was a great guy and will be missed by family, friends, and co-workers. Rest Easy Chef Dave.



Ted Nicodemus - March 05, 2021 at 10:28 PM

DB

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Dan Birchmeier - March 05, 2021 at 05:37 PM

SG

“ Dave you were an amazing person, Chef, mentor, and father. You taught me so much working with you at the Marriott. I will cherish those memories of you ❤️

Sharon Gammey - March 05, 2021 at 08:36 AM

Chris
Mulka

“ *Dave was so easy going and calm, but man his eyes would light up if you got to talking about deer hunting, fishing, disc golf, 80's hair bands, food...and of course his family.
He was a man I am glad to have called my friend and he will be missed dearly.*



Chris Mulka - March 04, 2021 at 08:43 PM

DB

“ *1 file added to the album Sharp Shooter*



Dan Birchmeier - March 04, 2021 at 07:39 PM

CA

“ *When my mom died Dave was there when I needed him.*



Caine - March 04, 2021 at 06:48 PM

KD

“ Dave a very good coworker, he love his work, music , family etc. We use too talk about catering and how when we retire we want to open our own place and keep on cooking the food we like. He always glow when we talk about his daughter. I m gonna miss him so much . I will forever trésor his friendship and guidance at the Marriott were we work for 12years.



kadidja diallo - March 04, 2021 at 11:53 AM

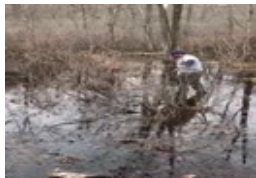
JM

“ My name is Jeremy worked with dave at the Marriott. He was a great chef and even beter man. He was always there for me and his staff.Gone way to soon RIP brother.

Jeremy mulcahy - March 03, 2021 at 08:31 PM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Dave at the Addison Oaks disc golf course and played many rounds with him and our group of swamp splashing duffers. I found a video showing Dave rescuing a couple of discs from the swamp... at his own peril.
He was taken way too soon and will be missed greatly.



Michael Connolly - March 03, 2021 at 08:17 PM

DB

Thanks for sharing. David loved to rescue stray discs!

Dan Birchmeier - March 04, 2021 at 07:36 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dan Birchmeier - March 03, 2021 at 07:56 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dan Birchmeier - March 03, 2021 at 07:36 PM

DB

“ 47 files added to the album Memories Album



Dan Birchmeier - March 03, 2021 at 07:01 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

Dan Birchmeier - March 03, 2021 at 07:00 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

Dan Birchmeier - March 03, 2021 at 06:59 PM

SE

“ *I wish we could have finished GOT together honey...you so wanted to be “in the know”. Gonna miss you....you were such a joy, and I am so happy I was able to be a part of your life. Love, Auntie Sheila*

Sheila Emmons - March 03, 2021 at 06:29 PM