

# David J Salik

May 14, 1955 - December 24, 2014





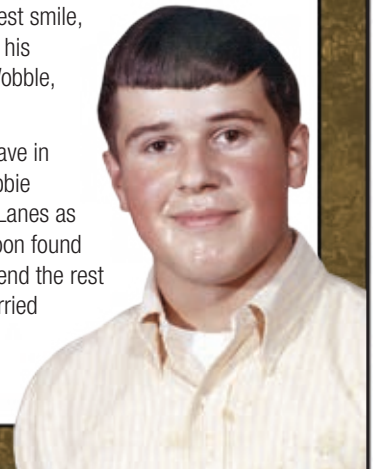
## David's Life Story

When reflecting on the life of David Salik, it is impossible to miss how much fun he made the world around him. Whether he was pulling pranks, belting out his Tarzan call, or flashing his never-ending smile and rosy cheeks, there was never a dull moment when he was around. Completely devoted to his wife and children, Dave lived to care for his family both emotionally and physically. He was organized, maybe even a bit too organized as his wife referred to him as "Mr. O". Dave was strong, courageous, and positive in everything even when diagnosed with challenging health conditions. He leaves behind a priceless collection of memories that his friends and loved ones will cherish forever.

The 1950s were an exciting time in history filled with countless noteworthy events. Rock 'n roll took the world by storm, the civil rights movement gained momentum, and the space race got underway. Amidst this eventful time was the year 1955 that was met with great anticipation for Joseph V. Salik and Dorothy M. (Tuttle) Allen as they were awaiting the arrival of their new baby in Grand Blanc, Michigan. Their wait was over on May 14th when a healthy baby boy made his grand entrance. David Joseph was the second of four children raised alongside his siblings, Linda, Stephen, and Susan. His father worked as a dairy farmer while his mother worked at various factories and the state hospital. The Salik family moved around and Dave called Galesburg, Richland, and Alamo home during his formative years. The Salik kids were close and enjoyed playing on the farms where they lived. It has been said that Dave knew how to find mischief. He was the ringleader in countless antics and usually took his siblings along for the ride even jumping off the barn into piles of hay.

Dave attended local schools including Otsego High School where he played football. Dave was full of antics at school, too, and of course he was the instigator among his classmates. As part of the graduating class of 1974, Dave was voted class clown, best smile, and most spirited. This past June he attended his 40th class reunion where he danced to The Wobble, laughed, and reminisced with his classmates.

New and exciting changes were in store for Dave in 1977 when he met the girl of his dreams, Debbie Ainsworth, while he was working at Plainwell Lanes as a bouncer. Dave and Deb began dating and soon found themselves deeply in love. With a desire to spend the rest of their lives together, Dave and Deb were married on July 31, 1981 at St. Margaret's Church in Otsego. Together they welcomed two







daughters, Sarah Elizabeth and Katherine Ann, into their hearts and home. For the rest of his life Dave viewed the days each of his girls were born to be among the best days of his life. Some of their favorite memories as a family were made on their vacation to Charlotte, North Carolina, in celebration of Dave and Deb's 30th wedding anniversary. A huge NASCAR fan, it was an honor when Dave shook Dale Earnhardt, Jr.'s hand. Dave had good luck winning radio station drawings. In October of 2000 he won a PT Cruiser and was the winner of a Harley-Davidson in 2006.

Throughout his life Dave was a hard worker. He made a profession in the carpet cleaning industry with the majority of his career spent as the mechanic for Rug Doctor of Michigan. Dave retired when his Parkinson's disease limited his ability to work.

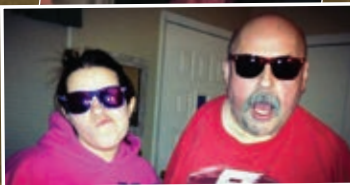
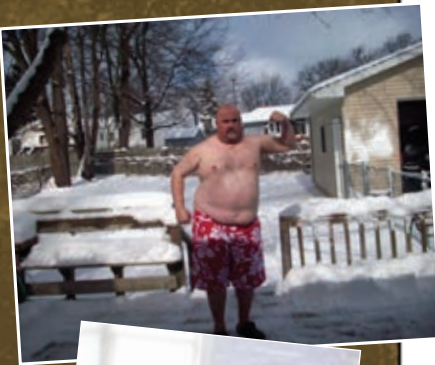
In his time away from work, Dave was always busy. He was mechanically gifted and loved working on race cars or fixing his daughters' cars. Dave frequented the races and watched Detroit Tigers baseball while sporting a team hat or shirt. He was also an avid bowler and loved his naps in his recliner. Dave liked cooking, but also enjoyed going out to eat often driving with Deb in their convertible to Das Essenhaus. In addition to his Tigers, Dave was an avid Michigan football fan. His favorite television shows were Dr. Phil, Criminal Minds, Wicked Tuna, and Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives; he was never seen without the remote in his hand. Dave loved watching movies including Secretariat, Twilight, and Pitch Perfect, which he recently went to the sing-a-long with his daughter, Katie.

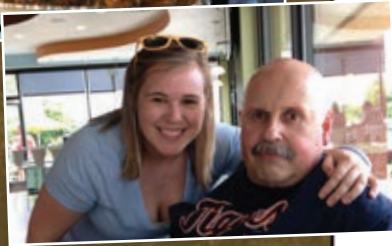
All who knew Dave would agree that there was truly no one like him.

The heartbeat of wherever he went, Dave was famous for his Tarzan call, which always generated a room full of laughter. For years Dave sang a special song to his girls, I Had a Bird on the Yonder Tree, where he made animal sounds. The hippo sound was a favorite at family gatherings. Generous and kindhearted, he spent several years volunteering with Lending Hands. It was impossible to miss Dave's unending strength, and with his positive outlook there was nothing that got him down. He remained steadfast when diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2007 and again in June of 2012 when diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Dave's strength and will to fight remained intact when his right arm needed to be amputated in November

of 2012 due to the spread of his cancer. This past fall Dave had the Superman logo tattooed in periwinkle on his chest as a symbol of hope.

Although David Salik will be remembered for his crazy antics and pranks, his lifelike animal calls, and his contagious zest for





life, it will be the way he was a real life Superman that will be his lasting legacy. He freely gave unconditional love to everyone he met and lived to help others love life. Dave was an inspiration to others, but when told this he would respond, "I'm not an inspiration, I'm just being Dave, an old farm boy," Dave will never be forgotten.

David J. Salik died on December 24, 2014 at Rose Arbor Hospice.

Dave's family includes his wife, Deborah (Ainsworth) Salik; daughters, Sarah (Kelli Olma) Salik of Portage, Katherine Salik of Kalamazoo; mother, Dorothy Allen of Kalamazoo; siblings, Linda (Joe) Coonrod of Clare, Steve Salik of Kalamazoo, Sue (Tom) Kubicek of Portage; brother and sister-in-laws, Jeff (Nan) Ainsworth, Ted (Sarah) Ainsworth, and Sue (Brian) Robinson all of Allegan; in-laws, Robert and Mary Fulton of Allegan and El Mirage AZ; nieces and nephews, Paul (Brittany Franklin) Coonrod, Kim (Dan) Clafton, Missy (Mike) Phillips, Andy Kubicek, Brooke (Dominique Ware) Ainsworth, Aaron Ainsworth, Lauren (Luke)



Olmstead, Taylor and Quinn Robinson; three great nephews with another one on the way; special aunt and uncle, Tom (Donna) Salik and Irene Salik; numerous cousins and many friends; very special friend who was like another daughter, Vicki (James) Hunsberger of Portage. Dave was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Salik; nephew, Ben Coonrod; and father-in-law, James Ainsworth. Visit with his family from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2015 at Life Story Funeral Homes, Portage; 5975 Lovers Lane (344-5600) where a Celebration of Dave's Life will be held at 6:30 p.m. Please visit Dave's memory page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com) where you can leave a favorite story or photo and sign his guest book. Memorial donations may be made to Rose Arbor Hospice or Lending Hands of Michigan.

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