



David G. Shepherd

August 6, 1937 - December 28, 2025

Cairo, NY -- It is with sadness that we announce the passing on December 28 of lifelong Cairo resident, David G. Shepherd, at the age of 88.

Born in Catskill, NY, August 6, 1937, the only child of Lorian G. Shepherd and Rose (Lamanec) Shepherd. David was a 1955 graduate of Cairo Central School. He was a muscular teenager and despite being the smallest kid in his class, he was an outstanding high school soccer player. He enjoyed hunting and shooting.

David had aspirations of a career in law enforcement but could not meet the height requirement. He was rejected by the regular military because of very poor vision in his right eye but served many years with The National Guard in Catskill. Being right-handed but left eye dominant did not keep him from being an expert marksman.

One of David's first jobs was at The Catskill Game Farm where he enjoyed working with the bears. He was later employed at Becker Durham where he met his wife, Janet Marshman. They were married on June 19, 1965. Janet died in 1977 of diabetes related kidney disease. They had no children.

David joined The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and worked as a millwright on several projects around the state. After an injury and a

desire to be close to home, he finished his career as a highway worker with New York State DOT. He suffered a fall from a truck that resulted in a lot of hardware in his leg.

He was a devoted caregiver, first to his wife and then to his mother. Having survived treatment for prostate cancer and a series of strokes, David had become reclusive since the covid pandemic. He spent most of his time reading and watching TV. He was a student of military history and an authority on firearms.

David was predeceased by his wife, Janet, his parents, and his longtime companion, Clara Roney. He is survived by members of the Lamanec family and several cousins on his father's side.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Friday January 2, 2026 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm at the Richards Funeral Home, 29 Bross Street.

A celebration of David's life will be celebrated at 12:45 at the funeral home.

Burial will take place in the Cairo Cemetery on June 2, 2026 at 11:00 am

To leave condolences for the family please visit the tribute wall above.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Richard's Funeral Home in Cairo.

Cemetery Details

Cairo Cemetery

County Route # 84
Cairo, NY 12413

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JAN 2. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Richards Funeral Home - Cairo
P.O. Box # 383
29 Bross Street
Cairo, NY 12413
(518) 622-9503
info@richardsbradysfh.com

Celebration of Life

JAN 2. 12:45 PM (ET)

Richards Funeral Home - Cairo
P.O. Box # 383
29 Bross Street
Cairo, NY 12413
(518) 622-9503
info@richardsbradysfh.com

Tribute Wall

BB

“ Barbara Busch lit a candle in memory of David G. Shepherd



Barbara Busch - January 10 at 02:13 PM

DT

“ The staff and volunteers of the Acra Senior Center extend our condolences to David's family. I, for one, delivered David his noontime lunch every week for 15 years. We always had a standing banter, with me admonishing him to "behave yourself", his reply a wide grin! He will be missed.

Debbi T - January 02 at 08:58 AM

NK

“ Dave was a kind and caring man. Loved working with him and enjoyed his dry sense of humor. RIP 🙏🕊️



Nancy Karklin - January 01 at 08:03 PM

MF

“ Mary F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David G. Shepherd.

Mary F. - December 31, 2025 at 04:36 PM

MF

“ Dave was a great neighbor and true friend to have ever since my husband Mark and I moved into the Phelps house across the street at 104 in 2005. He always had a warm smile and warning to me to be careful crossing Jerome when I was stopping to visit as speeders were more common than those who followed the limit. Both his garage and his next door neighbors' house were struck at different times by cars losing control on the turn, luckily his house, (his mom's Rose's) house was spared. For years Dave would send flowers to us for many holidays including Halloween; I know he sent flowers to many others and Karen's flower shop said they'd go out of business without him, hope that's not the case! Always when I left from visiting Dave he would tell me to "say hello" meaning to my husband. I can hear him saying "say hello" to the many who cared about him as I write. Deepest condolences to his family, Michael, Jill, Spencer, and all, and those who called him friend like we did. May you fly high in eternal light, Dave! Mary Finneran and Mark Larrison

Mary Finneran - December 31, 2025 at 04:34 PM

RP

“ Ruth Pelkey lit a candle in memory of David G. Shepherd



Ruth Pelkey - December 30, 2025 at 08:10 PM

RP

I will miss Davey. It was a pleasure being part of his Hospice Care Team.

Ruth Pelkey - December 30, 2025 at 08:11 PM

TL

David was my only first cousin and the last remaining person I have known all my life. His mother, my Aunt Rose was my father's little sister. As kids, we spent Sundays together at our grandparents house in Acra. He was like an older brother that I looked up to. I was the recipient of a lot of his hand-me-down clothes until I got to be bigger than he. Our growth was recorded and can still be seen on the door to the built-in ironing board in the kitchen of the Acra house. He seemed closer in age than the more than four years that separated us.

After moving from Purling to Main Street in Cairo in time to start school, the first place I was allowed to go by myself was to David's. Someone would see to it that I got across the street at the fountain and he would meet me part way on Jerome avenue. He had an electric train set up on the attic floor. Or, we played cops and robbers outdoors with cap guns. He was always the cop and we never actually pointed even a toy gun at another person.

Our fathers and their friends took us and their sons hunting with them. There was always target practice, rifles to be sighted in and competition at the Town Highway Department quarry that our Uncle Emil owned at the time. and rats to shoot at the town dump. We were in The Cairo Fish and Game Club, The Ground Observer Corps and The Cairo Fire Department.

After moving to Schenectady, I saw much less of David but we were always together for holidays, birthdays and special occasions. Having gone through it myself, five years earlier, I drove him to doctors and many of his radiation treatments when his prostate cancer was diagnosed.

I last saw David the day after Christmas and though it was apparent that he did not have much longer, I prefer to remember him as then as opposed to lying in a casket. I will not be attending the gathering at the funeral home.

I think it would be appropriate to have a gathering at the grave site at the time of his burial in the spring.

David kept Karen's Flower Shop in business by sending flowers to many people on many occasions. However, in lieu of flowers, one might consider a donation to either the local Hospice or meals on wheels who's volunteers contributed to David's final care.

Tracy Lamanec

TRACY LAMANEC - December 31, 2025 at 02:17 PM

GK

I worked with Dave for only a short time some years ago . He was the kind of person who took pride in his work and I found him to be a pleasant man to work with.

Gary Koopman - January 03 at 12:01 AM