



David Glen Johnston

May 22, 1959 - September 23, 2021

DAVID GLEN JOHNSTON

1959-2021

David G. Johnston passed away unexpectedly on September 23, 2021 in Pittsburgh, PA at the age of 62. David will be remembered for his warmth, kind spirit and generous compassion for others, and his love of family. Although he didn't have a lot of material goods, he shared his time and energy with anyone in need.

David was born to Marion (Northup) and James R. Johnston in Sewickley, PA to where he developed an abiding love for Pittsburgh. He was an avid fan of all the Pittsburgh sports teams, starting with the Pirates and his admiration for Roberto Clemente. David then lived in Carlisle PA where he was a member of the Second Presbyterian Church. Following his father's footsteps, he participated in scouting and camping and developed his love of nature - including a trip to Mexico to see the solar eclipse. He graduated from the College of Wooster where he found life-long friends. David moved to the Boston area where he lived for over a decade, making many friends. Throughout that decade, he rarely missed a weekend volunteering at his local church food bank. Before leaving Boston, David graduated from Tufts University with a Master's in Urban Planning and worked as a procurement

specialist. In 1995, David returned to Pittsburgh where he continued this line of work for the county and the city and helped to raise his beloved twins, Martin and Emily.

Of all the qualities that David possessed, what has impacted those around him the most are his positive attitude and friendly disposition. He was amicable and easy-going; he could strike up a conversation with anyone - from the bus driver on his route to his work colleagues to the regular customers at the local diner. David was known for his strong tennis game with impossible serves. He was competitive in pingpong and volleyball, where he would dive into a creek to retrieve a wayward ball, all to make people laugh. He loved to tease his four sisters and was a good storyteller always finding the humor in human predicaments. He had a fierce love of dogs - even though his dogs were never well trained. He loved bluegrass music and enjoyed his nieces and nephews. As a man of faith, he found his involvement with the East Liberty Presbyterian Church meaningful, serving as Deacon and volunteer. Because of his faith, he anticipated a happy reunion with his loved ones. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by his twin children Emily (Ryan) Provolt and Martin (Haley) Sasso, siblings Jennifer McKenna, Gail Viscome, Ann Johnston and Lucy Johnston-Walsh, 11 nieces and nephews and four great nieces and nephews. A small service will be held starting at 11:30 Monday September 27 (including a zoom link on the website at the funeral home - D'Alessandro, 4522 Butler St., Pittsburgh PA) and another service later in the fall in Carlisle at Second Presbyterian Church.

Zoom Info:

Topic: Johnston Funeral

Time: Sep 27, 2021 11:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81615841927>

Meeting ID: 816 1584 1927

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kWmYUBgDH>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **27**. 11:30 AM (ET)

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.
4522 Butler St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Tribute Wall



“ *Still missing you, sweet DJ.*

ann johnston - September 15, 2025 at 05:09 PM



“ *David Glen Johnston*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *Wow Dave I can't believe your gone ive been calling your phone an the service was off so I called your job after about a week or two because you have always had the same number an would never let it get turned off mainly because of the twins! I loved Dave very very much HE WAS AN IS AN AWESOME HUMAN BEING!!on my birthday one year he gift rapped his self as a gift for me(his friendship) we always had fun together he always made me smile his twins an Luke meant the world to him he was so so proud of his kids an Luke they were like nothing I've ever seen they loved each other so much(Luke ate Dave's WHOLE couch) lmao an Dave just laughed! When he first got Luke I couldn't even hug Dave cause Luke would come after me he was so protective of Dave until one day Dave went to work and left me there with Luke and me and Luke bonded!! I can't believe your gone I can't believe I'll never see your smile again I love u so much an it hurts so very bad u were a great friend an I'll always remember you ALWAYS U SHINE BRIGHT UP THERE DAVE AN ILL SEE U WHEN I GET THERE LOVE U WILL BE GREATLY MISSED!!GOD I CANT EVEN RAP MY HEAD AROUND THIS! I LOVE YOU DAVE!*

Rebecca tokich - November 18, 2021 at 08:34 AM

MD

“ Dave was a central player in our “cast of characters” at College of Wooster: he was at the heart of innumerable fun and memorable times over our four years there—so many great little house parties at the various dorms and on- and off- campus houses where we lived 1978-82. There was a rarely a dull weekend—or weeknight for that matter—with Dave in the house!

Dave was my roommate Sophomore year and housemate in Junior and Senior years. We had Sol (short for Solidarity), Dave’s Wooster dog, living with us part of that time too—one of those “loved but not well trained” pups that Dave had a big heart for! One memory that frequently pops into my mind—and always makes me laugh—was Sol jumping up to greet campus security, seeing how dogs were not allowed... Another from the crazy Spink street house days: Dave with a microphone plugged into a “phase shifter,” doing his own take on Laurie Anderson’s “Oh Superman...” you had to hear it to believe it!

Others have mentioned Dave’s love for Blue Grass, but Dave’s tribute page would not be complete without noting his passion for RUSH! He turned many of us on to this epic Rock trio! He and I had planned a reunion outing to see RUSH over the course of the Facebook era, though for one reason or the other our plans never came to fruition. A regret, but the goal kept us in touch as we watched the tour schedules and made tentative plans for where we might catch his revered rock band. I always remember too Dave’s proclamation that Rush’s multi-disc live record “Exit...Stage Left” was “the best investment I ever made.”

Rest in Peace Dave. You are loved and missed by many from your C.O.W. days. I will carry those fun memories of you with me forever. With deepest condolences to Dave’s family,
Mark David

Mark David - November 16, 2021 at 01:41 AM

EF

“ *Elise Foxworth*

Dave was one of my favourite people in college. He was always nice to me. I'm sad we lost contact and sas he passed. My deepest condolences.

Elise Foxworth - October 08, 2021 at 04:53 AM

JF

“ *Martin, Emily, Anne, Jenny, and Lucy,*

Please accept my deepest sympathies and condolences. What a wonderful obituary! It captured so much of who Dave was and the impact he made on the rest of us. I first met Dave on a College of Wooster-sponsored trip to the Adirondacks just before the start of our freshmen year. Dave was messing around and tipped our canoe over in the middle of a lake and my belongings sunk to the bottom. He felt really bad and I quickly learned that you could never be mad at him. We became close friends over those 6 weeks in the wilderness and we became roommates when we got to college. We both loved our sports teams and somehow we lived through the '79 World Series between the Orioles and the Pirates although one TV got thrown out a window after a frustrating loss. Even after I transferred to another college, we stayed in touch. Lots of smack talking and goading one another whenever Baltimore and Pittsburgh squared off. I never forget bringing my boys up to a baseball game and Dave proudly showing us around his beloved city. Several times over the years, Dave and his kids came down to see ball games in Baltimore. We both worked in housing and urban redevelopment in our respective cities and we would often talk of the challenges of the post-industrial city. I could go on about all of the things Dave taught me, including a love of bluegrass and the Seldom Scene, but suffice it to say, I will truly miss my dear friend. My heart goes out to the family and I would love to learn how I might contact some of you.

Jim French

Jim French - October 06, 2021 at 11:55 AM

FR

“ Many good memories of playing basketball, camping and canoeing with DJ when we were growing up. He was a good and fun friend. Been awhile since I last saw DJ, but just knowing he is not here, I miss him.

Fred Rumpf - September 28, 2021 at 05:47 PM

 Amy Goggins

“ Dave was a dear friend over the years. The last time I saw him was when I went to visit him in Pittsburgh three years ago. He went to see Falling Water with me and I watched football with him. Deal!

Amy Goggins - September 28, 2021 at 12:19 PM

NV

“ David and I worked together at Port Authority. I will remember David as a very friendly and fun person with a great love for his family, especially his children. May his faith carry his family forward until you meet again. My condolences and sympathy.

Nancy Vandling

Nancy Vandling - September 28, 2021 at 11:02 AM

HC

“ I had never met David and I had just been discharged from the hospital and was starting to recuperate. Marion called David to her home, made a wonderful dinner for me and sent David off to my house with dinner in tow! He came up to my bedroom, gave me the dinner, sat down in my arm chair and we had the best discussion for over an hour and a half! He was delightful! Full of joy and caring!❤️



Hope Comeau - September 27, 2021 at 07:02 PM

RL

“ Allen Shank wanted to light a candle today.



Rita /Al's sis in law - September 27, 2021 at 04:02 PM

RW

“ Rita (Dete) Widmann lit a candle in memory of David Glen Johnston



Rita (Dete) Widmann - September 27, 2021 at 02:44 PM

RW

*I remember meeting David when Jenny was in high school and I was touched by his kind and caring spirit even then.
We will all be united again in Eternal life through Jesus Christ and we will have peace forever!*

Rita (Dete) Widmann - September 27, 2021 at 02:48 PM

MS

I also grew up with David, a.k.a. DJ. We knew each other from school and through the 2nd Presbyterian Church. We lived near each other, and our parents were good friends. I loved David! He was a soft-hearted and kind person who reached out to anyone regardless of their situation in life. I remember one of the last times I saw David in Carlisle. He told me about someone we both knew in high school that he had met outside as he was being released from a reasonably long term in prison. I was astonished that DJ had stayed in touch with this person, much less made an effort to be there for him on his first day of freedom. David even told me that he thought this person was ready to move forward and finally get his life together. I was both astonished and touched at how intimate their friendship had remained, but that was David. Of course, DJ had other wonderful traits too. He was bright, caring, funny, and gifted athletically. He was engaging to be around. He touched many people's lives, mine being one of them. I will miss him very much—my deepest condolences to the entire Johnston family for your loss.

Matt Shomaker

Matt Shomaker - October 17, 2021 at 05:51 PM

TC

Martin and Emily: You may remember me (and my sons Mark and Paul Steidl) from East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Your dad was one of my favorite people. Lately, I would see him almost weekly at Rite-Aid. As soon as I would walk in, we would strike up a conversation and it always revolved around you two (and my sons. I am so sad that your dad passed away. He was a wonderful person, a rare person, and I will miss him very much.,

Tina Calabro - November 05, 2021 at 10:23 PM

AL

“*Sending our heartfelt condolences to all who knew and loved David.*”



Ali - September 27, 2021 at 02:12 PM

NH

“ *Nancy Henry lit a candle in memory of David Glen Johnston*



Nancy Henry - September 27, 2021 at 01:14 PM

TF

“ *The Frohman Family lit a candle in memory of David Glen Johnston*



The Frohman Family - September 27, 2021 at 10:28 AM

ES

“ *Ellen Shank lit a candle in memory of David Glen Johnston*



Ellen Shank - September 27, 2021 at 10:03 AM

ES

“ David was well-loved by his four dear sisters, his two devoted parents, especially his twins, Martin and Emily, and many, many other members of his large family. He made friends wherever he went, and kept so many of them close to his heart. I will miss his smile and I will try to emulate in my life so many of his special qualities to carry on his legacy. So many of us will miss him dearly, but keep those special memories of him close to our hearts.

With love and sympathy to all who loved this special man,

*Ellen Shank
Carlisle, PA*

Ellen Shank - September 27, 2021 at 08:53 AM

AF

“ *Martin and Emily,*

Dave was such a nice guy. He would go out of his way to say hello and wish me a good day. It seems he understood the importance of being kind, and the importance of lifting someone's spirits. He spoke very highly of you both. His face would light up with so much love when he spoke of you both. He will be missed in the community.

Rest In Peace, Dave. 🕊

Love, ❤️
Anna Falcione & Family

Anna Falcione - September 27, 2021 at 08:45 AM