



# David Paul Snell

FEB 20, 1950 - APR 24, 2021



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FUNERAL & CREMATION CENTER

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## David Paul Snell

FEB 20, 1950 - APR 24, 2021

**D**avid Paul Snell, age 71, of Wakeman passed away at his home on Saturday, April 24, 2021 after a heroic battle with cancer.

Born on February 20, 1950 in Lorain, Ohio to David and Agnes (nee Gencur) Snell, he was a 1968 graduate of Lorain St. Mary's High School. He went on to further his education, earning his Bachelor's degree at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa and his Masters degree in Nutrition from Bowling Green State University.

David made his career in teaching and coaching. He taught at St. Joseph Catholic School in Avon Lake, Lorain Catholic High School, and Vermilion Sailorway Middle School. He coached both football and track at Lorain Catholic and Vermilion High Schools. Throughout his entire life David had a passion for fitness. He enjoyed training athletes, those recovering from injuries and those that wanted to stay fit and healthy. He was also a Master of the Puns. (Hope this doesn't "cone-fuse" you.)

Dave was a man of faith who sought to fulfill God's purpose for his life. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Amherst. In addition to being a fitness enthusiast, he was an avid hunter and fisherman.

David is survived by his wife of 45 years, Brenda (nee Murray) Snell; son, David John Snell; and his sisters, Diane (Eli) Vitovitz, Jane (Tom) Rich, Pamela Wilhelm, and Gwyneth Shepherd.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Agnes Snell; and his sister, Barbara Snell.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, May 6, 2021 from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at German's Villa, 3330 Liberty Ave., Vermilion, Ohio. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, May 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 200 St. Joseph Drive, Amherst, Ohio. Private family inurnment will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family would be grateful for a donation in honor of Dave to



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Help Cure HD, the foundation started by one of Dave's students and friends, Allie LaForce, and her husband, Joe Smith.

Donations can be made at [HelpCureHD.org](http://HelpCureHD.org) or by mail:

Athletes and Causes

Attn Help Cure HD

12551 Franklin Road, Thonotosasa, FL, 33592

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.dovinreberjones.com](http://www.dovinreberjones.com).

David's funeral Mass will be available for viewing after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7, 2021 by going to our website and clicking on the UTube icon.



# Events

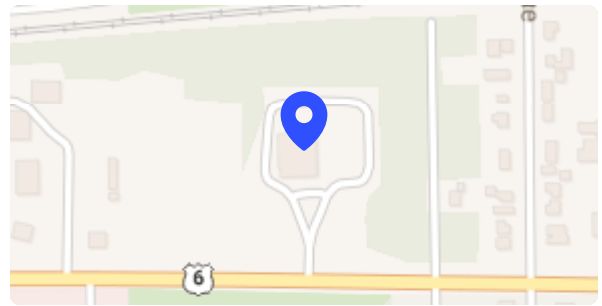
**David Paul Snell**  
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## Visitation

 **Thursday**, May 6, 2021

 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET

 **German's Villa**  
3330 Liberty Ave., Vermilion OH 44089

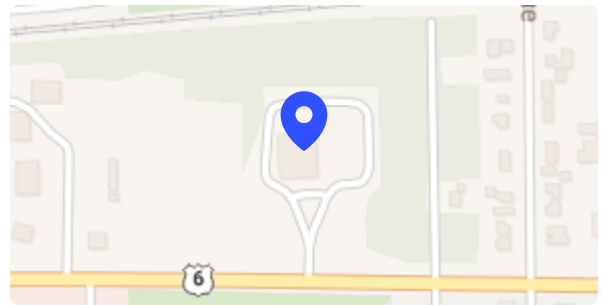


## Visitation

 **Thursday**, May 6, 2021

 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

 **German's Villa**  
3330 Liberty Ave., Vermilion OH 44089





## Tribute Wall

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**Linda Howell** posted:

I'm not sure i have enough words to describe how special Dave has been to me all through my life from the time i wanted to be a big muscle 12 year old girl carrying cut wood up that hill, showing off, and then going with my big bro to jump on a trampoline at lorain catholic cause Dave opened it up for all of us, developing a crush when i was 13 or so, then reconnecting around 19 after i went through some terrible times in my life and his reaching out to comfort me, and then all the parties we would see Dave and Brenda at, and always seeing that warm smile.....then reconnecting again at St. Joe's church, and all our gettogethers for dinners, lunches, parties, picnics, holiday gatherings...and then being pulled in to do some working out in "Dave's Gym." I would give him such a hard time cause he was making me work hard...and sometimes i would do crazy things like flip over the bar in the gym....and he would spot me, knowing i just needed to let out some of my crazy, inner self...i was so fit then...i even amazed myself at what he helped me be able to do physically....and oh boy, the sailboat.....oh geez, i'm still sorry for that....hahaha...i jumped out of the sailboat and Dave had to turn it all around to get me and pull me up along with a few of the other guys on the boat including my hubby! Oh, he was mad, mostly cause i couldn't got hurt or another boat not see me....and playing cards and having pizza....boy, Dave was just a bit competitive and happy to be on the winning side...there's so much i will miss, but so many great memories i am grateful for to have such a great family friend in my life. We had such a great time on our boat and sitting at the dock and having wine, and i know chocolates too! I will truly miss you Dave, but I am so glad you are resting peacefully in the arms of our Lord! I'll see you again sometime my friend! Oh, and i will make sure that when i play my guitar outside, around a nice firepit, i will play quietly, just that background music you thought was so nice!

May 6 at 11:27 AM



**Gavin Baker** posted:

Very sad to hear of Mr. Snell's passing. I have fond memories of gym class with him. What I remember most is that it didn't matter how athletic you were with Mr. Snell. As long as you tried he gave you encouragement and made you feel good about yourself. Of all the teachers I had growing up, he's one that I'll never forget.

May 6 at 8:30 AM



**N** posted:

The impact that Mr. Snell had on my life and many others cannot be defined and the world was a better place to have known him. My deepest condolences to Mrs. Snell and David J. , I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Snell was a special person, one for the record books.

May 6 at 6:32 AM



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JR

**Jennifer Reimer** posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. The day we spent with the two of you, when Dave took Griffin fishing for his very first time, was such an amazing day. We were so lucky to know him--we love you.

May 5 at 5:26 AM

MO

**Micki Oconnor** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Dave's fondly especially when I think of him picking us up for rides to St. Mary's. Prayers of comfort offered for all and a donation made to his charity.Micki O'Connor

May 4 at 7:41 AM

BN

**Bill Nelson** posted:

So sorry to hear of Dave's passing. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends. As a former teammate at Wartburg I know first hand what a great man he was. All of us were blessed to have known him

May 4 at 7:06 AM

DB

**Dave Bright** posted:

My Wartburg College friend that became my little brother. Like most little brothers he got lovingly abused by a much bigger brother! On a dare, he even swam icy waters to retrieve ducks I shot on a pond. Great memories and lots of laughs from when he, his dad & friend, and nephew visited our farm to pheasant hunt in Iowa. Prayers and Peace to Brenda, DJ & family. Can't wait to be with him again, some day.Dave (and Julie) Bright

May 3 at 11:33 AM

PK

**Patty Kishman** posted:

I am one of the many people Dave helped attain a better level of fitness. More than that though, Dave showered me with praise in a way I really had never experienced before, showing me a way to be more positive that I'll try to always carry with me. He certainly did fulfill God's plan for his life!Patty Kishman

May 3 at 4:03 AM



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TK

**Tania Keyges** posted:

Dear Pam and all of David's family, sending condolences and prayers. Sorry for your loss.

May 2 at 11:46 AM

RW

**Roger Werbylo** posted:

Brenda, I'm so sorry to hear about Dave. Please accept my condolences to you, your son and other family members.

May 2 at 10:11 AM

LL

**Lois Leininger** posted:

My sincerest sympathy to the family on the loss of your dear loved one. Davey had been a wonderful neighbor to our family from the time he was growing up to when he became an adult. I have many wonderful memories of his compassion and concern for others. He will be truly missed I'm sure by all who knew him and worked with him over the many years. May our precious Lord look down and give his family comfort and peace at this very difficult time. May your consolation be that he is no longer in pain and is with his heavenly Father in heaven. In Christ, Lois Leininger

May 2 at 9:38 AM

ML

**Mike Levelle** lit a candle in honor of David.

My precious friend Dave, has stepped across the threshold into eternity. He now rest in the gentle embrace of our Lord and Savior. I loved this man. Mike Levelle

May 1 at 4:07 AM



JS

**Joy Sigrist** posted:

I will always think of Dave when my dahlias bloom. I still can see him coming into SMS loaded with tubers to share. He was a gentleman in every way. He will be missed by many.

April 30 at 4:19 PM



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**Jeff Coughlin** posted:

Dave had a profound influence on my life and on countless others. He was my teacher, my coach, my carpenter, my cheerleader, my drill sergeant, my groomsman and above all else, my friend. We've lost one of the great ones.

April 30 at 2:17 PM



**Thomas Potts** May 1 at 7:26 AM

Well said, Jeff. Coach had a profound impact on everyone who knew him.



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Snell family.



April 30 at 2:10 PM



**Martha Headington** posted:

Brenda, DJ and family, Heaven gained one of the best there ever was! His ornery blue eyes, his gentle soul, his smile, and his ability to never leave you Cone-fused with how he felt about you! The laughter, the love, the joy I had sharing my life with him as we got older is a treasure worth more than anything! My dear cousin I will miss you... wish there had been more time for memory making, bad joke and pun telling but most of all love.

April 30 at 1:18 PM



**Ian Cutcher** posted:

As a student he made a difference in my life. Ian Cutcher

April 30 at 9:30 AM



**Bill Philbin** posted:

We who were able to cross paths with Dave on this earth were certainly blessed. A man with strong faith and family values, he was an example of what the human race should be like. My deepest and sincere condolences to his family. Bill Philbin

April 30 at 8:15 AM



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TG

**Terry Goetzing** posted:

Dave was a teammate at Wartburg College--a tough competitor, a good friend but above all a great person. I along with many of our other teammates can rejoice in the many memories of Dave that we share. My condolences to his family. This world has truly lost one of the good ones. May he rest in peace. Terry and Mary Goetzing

April 30 at 7:27 AM

AH

**Andy Huffman** posted:

I was in Mr Snell's gym class in middle school (1987) and it's been decades since I'd seen him or even heard his name, nonetheless I still remember his mix of kindness for kids and intensity for athletics. What a great guy, the kind your heart drops when you hear this news, RIP sir.

April 29 at 4:37 PM

EJ

**Ej** posted:

Dave was one of the really good ones and he will be missed! EJ

April 29 at 3:37 PM

JS

**Jerod Smith** posted:

He was a great mentor and an even better friend. Always there to show support and give me great advice. I will miss him dearly and am thankful for the many great duck hunts we shared. See you someday Pal.

April 29 at 3:09 PM

JB

**John Burke** posted:

This was one of the great guys and great athletes of all time. A true friend who feared nothing and always had your back and who loved life, his family, and friends. The world is a worse place without Dave Snell in it. Our condolences to Brenda, DJ, and all of Dave's sisters and their families. He will be sorely missed. RIP my friend and teammate. John and Shelly Burke

April 29 at 2:11 PM



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JE

**Jim & Jan Ellison** posted:

With great sadness, we send all our love and prayers for the loss of a truly good man and childhood friend.

April 29 at 1:35 PM

JM

**Joan Myer** posted:

Words cannot express what a wonderful person Dave was. In so many ways he was strong and sturdy like the oak trees found in the forest behind the house that he loved so much. A kind and giving person--respectful of others and always willing to share a finely tuned humorous moment; but also strong in his conviction to work hard, to teach, to learn, to help, to inspire, to motivate, to accept, to shelter, to nurture and to support those he touched the lives of. He will be greatly missed. May joyful memories of Dave remain steadfast in the hearts of those who knew him. Safe journey onward to a remarkable, generous man. Kind thoughts and kind love to Brenda and David (D.J.) during this difficult time--Joan, Anthony and Loren M.

April 29 at 12:35 PM



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BK

**Bob Klinar** posted:

It is with great sadness, that I say goodbye to this truly REMARKABLE man...my coach...my teacher....my mentor.....my friend. Many decisions I've made in my life were rooted in the lessons I learned from Coach Snell. Thank you, sir, for exhibiting what discipline, a strong work-ethic, faith, & kindness looks like in a quality human being. You epitomized all these things in my eyes. I was the COACH I was because of YOU. Thank you for your impact on my life. Give rest, O' Lord, to your servant, David, and May His Memory Be Eternal. Bob Klinar LC Class of 1983

April 29 at 10:08 AM

MA

**Marcia** April 30 at 8:51 AM

Rest In Peace, my friend! Marcia

TJ

**Tom Jenkins** April 30 at 4:02 AM

Dave was the embodiment of what we all admire in life. His dedication to family, service to others, and compassion for his endeavors set a high bar for all to aspire to. Smart, insightful, kind, and warm-hearted, he was a fighter to the end. Condolences to Brenda and DJ, Di, Jane, Pam, and Gwen. May Dave help focus Jesus' light upon you all.

SP

**Stephen Polansky** April 30 at 3:31 AM

Dear Family, Dave was the best. He cared. His smile lit up this world we live in. Of all his accomplishments the one thing that will stand out with him is, he will be missed. I pray for your peace and comfort in the Holy Spirit. Bless you all. Steve (Robbie) Polansky

SG

**Sheila L Greene** April 29 at 4:07 PM

Having taught at Sailorway Middle School w Dave for ten years, I have nothing but wonderful memories ... from an appreciation of his contribution to own my four kids' health and fitness (embedded with a sense of humor), his camaraderie in the middle school trenches, and adventures in Mohican through post-retirement inspiration and expertise in his own workout setting ... Dave was a good friend and thoughtful colleague. Thinking of his family with love and compassion.

GS

**Greg Sween** April 29 at 2:34 PM

Brenda and DJI remember the first time and the last time I met Dave. He was a great friend, roommate and teammate. I have never met such a strong person with such character and drive. He was my brother from a different mother. I will forever remember our wonderful memories. Greg "Hawk" Sween

DS

**Dick And Rosemary Schuler** April 29 at 12:11 PM

Brenda, Dick and I would like extend our deepest sympathy to you and your son on the loss of such a great gentleman. Dave was always kind and interested the kids. May he rest in the arms of Jesus and be blessed as he so richly deserves.



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring David by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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