



David J. Chandonnet

August 31, 1963 - January 16, 2021

LEWISTON-David J. Chandonnet passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, January 16th, 2021; at the age of 57. From his birth, David was a miracle. As a young child, David was diagnosed with the then-rare Autism Spectrum Disorder. Although David communicated, learned, interacted, and behaved in ways considered “different” from most people, he leaves behind many rich relationships with friends, family, and loved ones.

David grew up at home, with his loving family, at a time when people with his level of disability were often institutionalized. He was close to his parents and siblings all throughout his life. A lifelong Maine resident, David attended Lewiston Public Schools and, as an adult, went on to live in group homes in the Lewiston area. He had several jobs that he enjoyed very much before his physical condition made it difficult. His all-time favorite job was inserting the spring on the clothespin assembly line.

David retained a beautifully childlike quality and humor throughout his life. He never lost the wonder of holiday traditions like gifts from Santa Claus, candy from the Easter Rabbit, and singing “Happy Birthday.” David could easily memorize a jigsaw puzzle he’d done only once, requiring family and caregivers to keep an endless supply of new puzzles on hand. If he wasn’t doing puzzles, he was playing with model cars or drawing road signs.

As a foodie with a sweet tooth, David had a particular fondness for Coca-Cola and Crunch Bars. He preferred Johnny Cash as a kid, but wore out his Beethoven CDs as an adult. A lover of all animals, especially giraffes, he carried animal figurines wherever he went. He was observant of his surroundings and diligent in the pursuit of his interests. He would often surprise and charm his family with his innovative plots to uncover hidden gifts and candy stashes. He had a natural knack for comedy that is difficult to describe, but was easily understood by all who met him.

He visited home and family often, and routinely enjoyed local concerts, dances, and bowling trips with his housemates. David also loved going for car rides in the countryside, visiting horse farms, and apple-picking. Most of all he loved to visit with his mother, where he would spend quiet afternoons once a week — sharing a meal, listening to music, and doing a puzzle.

David was a caring and kind person throughout his life. His loving spirit lives on through organ and tissue donation. David is predeceased by his father Richard. He is survived by

his mother, Jeannette; his siblings, John, Mark, Renée, and Celeste; his nephews, Timothy and Michael; his nieces, Julia, Maddy, and Elise; and many extended family members and caregivers. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Autism Society of America.

A Funeral Mass honoring David's life will be celebrated on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 11:00 AM at Holy Family Church. Committal services will then follow at St. Peter's Cemetery. There will not be any visitation. Arrangements by the Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home 305 Alfred A. Plourde Parkway in Lewiston 784-4023. Online condolences and sharing of memories may be expressed at www.lynchbrothers.com .

Events

JAN **Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

21

Holy Family Church

615 Sabattus Street, Lewiston, ME, US, 04240

Comments



“ So very sorry to hear of David's passing. Our deepest sympathy to the entire family.
George and Kathy Shinopoulos

Kathy Shinopoulos - January 21, 2021 at 11:13 PM