



David James Sowards

June 12, 1955 - August 11, 2023

David James “Gizz” Sowards 68, of Hurricane, WV passed away on August 11, 2023 at Rivers Health Hospital Point Pleasant, WV.

He was born on June 12, 1955 to the late Lloyd and Jacqueline Sowards. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his best friends and brothers in law: Sidney Warner Sr. and Gary Erwin.

Gizz was a graduate of Hurricane High School where he played football and became close with Coach Jim McGhee who had a profoundly positive impact on his life. He took great pride and joy coaching Babe Ruth Baseball in Hurricane. He was a faithful member of Liberty Baptist Church, where he thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of being in the church, was an avid hunter, fisherman and WVU Football fan. Gizz was a lifelong (over 50 years) Auto Body Man who sure enjoyed the paint booth, self-proclaimed as “the Best in WV!”

Be sure to watch for a Gizz “like” prank, knowing him, it is hard to tell what he still has planned!

He is survived by his loving family, his daughters: Ami Jo (Adam) Hayes and Sara (Shane) Thornton; sons: Brian Scott (Cindy) Nipps, Bill (Della) Young and Joshua Young; sisters: Phyllis Warner, Kathy Erwin and Jackie (Greg)

Gilberto; brothers: Steve (Marcie) Sowards and Scott (Cheri) Sowards; as well as many beloved grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends and lastly his special friend, Pat Burd, whom he shared a special bond with.

In accordance with his wishes he was cremated and there will be a Celebration of Life planned for a later date.

Anyone wishing to leave an online memory may do so by visiting Gizz's tribute page at: www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com.

Chapman Funeral Home 3941 Teays Valley Road Hurricane, WV 25526 is honored to serve the Sowards family.

Tribute Wall



“ *David James Sowards*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Scott and Cheri, I am sorry for your loss. Sending you prayers and love.*

Lisa Ronk

Lisa Ronk - August 21, 2023 at 10:55 AM



“ *worked with Gizz in Barboursville one of his greatest joys was taking his grandson hunting and camping he was a fine person .. will be missed. Steve Dickess*

Steve Dickess - August 19, 2023 at 07:53 AM



“ *I knew Dave for a short time but thought highly of him, how nice he was and how pleasant he always was when I was around him. I am sorry for this loss to his family and all who knew him.*

Alice Thornton - August 17, 2023 at 07:01 PM



“ *I used to babysit Billy and Josh. Dave was always so proud of their accomplishments. He also did body work for our daughter and was just the nicest and most gentle man I've ever met.*

Karen Pettit - August 17, 2023 at 01:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David James Sowards.

August 17, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David James Sowards.



August 17, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ Coach McGehee feels it to be such an honor to be mentioned in his obituary. Coach has late stages of Alzheimer's now. But he remembers gizzard. I am asking my Lord and Savior to bless your family with sweet memories. Love to all of you, Joy. My telephone number is 336 242 4991

Joy McGehee - August 17, 2023 at 09:47 AM



David and I go back over 60 years. In school and sports he and I were best of friends. The memories I have will always be cherished. Praying the prayer of peace, comfort, and of understanding for David's family and friends.

David Atkins - August 17, 2023 at 11:22 AM



Dave was good friend and neighbor for years. He will be missed. Prayers for the family.

Mike & Marlene Beckett - August 17, 2023 at 04:04 PM

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Thank you all so very much for your sweet words. It really helps in grieving, when you hear the impact and impression Dad made on people. It really means the world to us.

Ami Jo Hayes - September 21, 2023 at 10:34 PM