



David P. Haverdink

January 16, 1951 - December 25, 2025

It is with profound sadness we announce the passing of our husband, dad, and grandpa; Hamilton Fire Chief David Haverdink on Christmas Day, December 25, 2025. Chief Haverdink succumbed to injuries received on December 23rd while serving in the line of duty in Hamilton, MI.

To view the livestream of the service, please visit <https://centralevents.online.church/>

David was born on January 16, 1951 to Harvey and Harriet Haverdink, their second child and oldest son. Life on the Haverdink farm in David's early years was one of endless adventure, great fun, and healthy mischief. Being one of 5 boys and 3 girls, with many cousins who loved to play on the farm too, David and his siblings kept Harv and Harriet on their toes at all times.

Farm life eventually transformed to business life as Harv founded Hamilton Distributing Company, the only dealer in the state of Michigan for Stormor grain handling equipment. In his teen years, David continued helping with farm chores, but also began delivering grain bins and other equipment for his dad. Over time, David and his brothers all worked for their dad at various points until Harv retired and sold the business to David and his son-in-law. David continued as President of Hamilton Distributing and co-owner until 1992. The Haverdink family line with Hamilton Distributing continues to this

day as David's son, Tim, is part owner of the company.

Most know David through his 51 years of service with Hamilton Fire Department. David's love for lights and sirens and helping others began at age 16, when he drove an ambulance for a local funeral home, which was how it was done back then. The early years of the fire department are ones from a time gone by, when equipment and procedures were basic by today's standards, but the dedication, bravery, and comradery were equally the same. David became Assistant Chief early on in his time with the department. Tragedy struck in 1982, when Hamilton Fire Chief, Richard Boeve, a close friend of David's, died while serving in the line of duty. A few years later, David was appointed as Hamilton Fire Chief, a position he held for the rest of his life. David's accomplishments while serving as Fire Chief were numerous and a testament to his dedication to his fellow firefighters and the community they served.

In addition to the fire department, David followed two of his younger brothers, into law enforcement, becoming a reserve deputy sheriff for Allegan County in 1980. Over time, David's community network continued to grow, and he became involved in countywide programs and committees. In 1990, David entered service in local government and successfully ran for a term on the Allegan County Board of Commissioners. During his term, David advocated for and later helped implement, new safety initiatives jointly with county government, law enforcement, and the Allegan County Court system. With nearly 15 years of valuable countywide experience and relationships, David made a significant career change and in 1992 successfully campaigned for Allegan County Sheriff. Sheriff Haverdink immersed himself in this honored role for 8 years; advocating for the dedicated men and women of the Sheriff's department, implementing new safety initiatives, and most rewarding to him being actively involved with his deputy's. Unusual for that time, it was not uncommon on nights and weekends to hear Sherrif Haverdink check-in on

duty over the radio with his unit number, "Xray-1," to be out on patrol, often arriving on scene to assist his deputies in incidents of all sizes, from routine traffic stops to major crimes.

Beyond David's public service role, he was also at the center of an amazing extended family and wonderful circle of friends.

Both growing up at East Saugatuck CRC, attending the same school, and despite being one of the mischievous kids in the back of the same bus, David eventually caught the eye of a young Judy Prins. After graduating from Holland Christian and completing an Associates Degree at Davenport University, David and Judy were married in 1972. Early marriage years continued with David's love of adventure and exploration, but this time as a couple. They built a new home, traveled, bought into the family business, and within a few years became parents to their two sons.

Throughout their nearly 54 years of marriage, family and close friends were at the center of their lives together. Being from large families and having a large circle of friends; there were countless birthdays, holidays, church gatherings, school activities, and milestone events to be celebrated. Over time, each event that David and Judy were a part of began to create traditions and beautiful memories that will never be forgotten and will continue on. David was the brother, uncle, or friend who could be counted at any gathering to add humor, wit, endless stories, a bit of mischief, and find his little way (often with his sly grin) to let a person know they were special to him.

Despite all that David was to the public and his extended family, his legacy and most significant role in his life was that of husband, dad, and grandpa. It is not possible to summarize all that David meant to his immediate family. He was the center and foundation for them all, and yet, he could not have done

this alone. Judy provided David with the perfect set of complementing gifts. Together, they raised a family built upon love, commitment, adventure, traditions, and most importantly, faith. Although he didn't show it in the same way as Judy, David's faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior was secure and provided the underpinning of his lifetime of service to others. David is irreplaceable to his family and will be deeply missed forever. However, David's life and legacy will continue on through his family, whom he loved deeply.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Harvey and Harriet (Blystra) Haverdink. He will be cherished in memory by his wife of 53 years, Judy. Son, Jeff (Erin) Haverdink and their daughters Anna and Elizabeth, son Tim (Sarah) Haverdink and their sons Travis and Tyler. David's siblings; Louise (Leon) Koops, Dale (Marcia) Haverdink, Paul (Cathy) Haverdink, Barbara (Rick) Hulst, Ron (Jodi) Haverdink, Doug (Sara) Haverdink and Julie Haverdink. Judy's siblings; Jo (John) Lappenga, Jean (Curtis) Mans, Jane (Ken) Genzink and Jay (Laurie) Prins. He is survived by 28 nieces and nephews and their spouses and children, plus countless cousins. Equally important to David, he is survived by his second family, current and former members of the Hamilton Fire Department.

Funeral services with full honors will be held at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Central Wesleyan Church, 446 W. 40th St. Holland, MI 49423. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Hamilton. Visitation will be 3:00-7:00 p.m. Monday, January 5, also at Central Wesleyan Church, (please use entrance A.) In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in David's memory can be made to East Saugatuck Christian Reformed Church, <https://espoint.churchcenter.com/giving> or Holland Christian Schools, <https://hollandchristian.org/donate/>.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

Hamilton, MI 49419

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Central Wesleyan Church
446 West 40th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Funeral Service

JAN 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Central Wesleyan Church
446 West 40th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a David Haverdink Funeral Video in memory of David P. Haverdink*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - January 07 at 01:48 PM



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of David P. Haverdink*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - January 07 at 11:46 AM



“ *I don't know that I ever met Dave and clearly that was my loss. I am so struck by his years of faithful service to the fire department and thus the community and the descriptions of him as a family man. This loss is significant and my hope is for grace for all who knew him and worked with him and for his family.*

Reka Jellema - January 08 at 12:08 PM

BW

“ My family and I moved to Hamilton a couple of years ago. One day at the park in Hamilton my son noticed the firefighters outside with the brush trucks (his uncle is a firefighter). Chief Haverdink, along with a couple of other firefighters, noticed his excitement and took the time to talk about all of the different attachments on the trucks. Chief Haverdink left my son with a lifelong memory that day. He still talks about how nice he was and how cool it was to talk about being a firefighter one day. We are so sorry for the loss of such an amazing and inspiring man. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, his firefighters, and every person that had the opportunity to know him.

Barbara Wood - January 06 at 04:36 PM

PT

“ Judy, your family, the Haverdink and Prins family, we have been thinking of you often in these past days, and especially today as you say your final goodbyes to Dave. One of the first things Rich said when I told him about Dave, was that he was a guy who loved his community! I remember his shy yet mischievous smile to everyone. Rich also mentioned that even if you didn't know Dave well, you could just tell by looking at him that he was a good guy. Our prayers are for comfort, peace and strength for you today and in the days ahead as you adjust to his absence.
Rich and Paula Tanis

Paula Tanis - January 06 at 10:22 AM

GR

“ Gun Lake Casino Resort purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of David P. Haverdink.



Gun Lake Casino Resort - January 06 at 10:17 AM

GR

“ Gun Lake Casino Resort planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Gun Lake Casino Resort - January 06 at 10:17 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



January 05 at 11:05 AM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



January 05 at 10:40 AM

BI

“ Bradlee I. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Bradlee I. - January 05 at 10:40 AM

DF

“ David and Karen Cole and Family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of David P. Haverdink.



David and Karen Cole and Family - January 05 at 10:34 AM

JJ

“ Jeffrey J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Jeffrey J. - January 05 at 09:42 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



January 04 at 08:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



January 04 at 03:42 PM

SD

“ *Salem Township Fire Department purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of David P. Haverdink.*



Salem Township Fire Department - January 04 at 02:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.*



January 03 at 09:29 AM

KA

“ *Thank you for your service! This world needs more people like you. RIP.*

Karl - January 03 at 09:04 AM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.*



January 02 at 01:23 PM

P1

“ Portage Firefighters IAFF Local 1467 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Portage Firefighters IAFF Local 1467 - January 02 at 01:23 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



January 02 at 12:20 PM

GT

“ GTFD purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of David P. Haverdink.



GTFD - January 02 at 10:01 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



January 01 at 09:12 PM

TF

“ The Bagladi Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

The Bagladi Family - January 01 at 09:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



January 01 at 06:28 PM

MP

“ May God grant you comfort & peace purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David P. Haverdink.



May God grant you comfort & peace - December 30, 2025 at 09:03 PM

MP

“ May God grant you comfort & peace planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

May God grant you comfort & peace - December 30, 2025 at 09:03 PM

JV

“ Our deepest sympathies to all of Dave's family and friends. Dave and Judy showed us great hospitality and friendship while we were living in East Saugatuck. We especially enjoyed the Thanksgiving Day get-togethers in which Dave and Judy, along with their extended family, regarded us as part of their family.

I'll just mention two other things that stand out as wonderful, unforgettable memories...

Dave used to joke around with me and (my wife) Judy that he knows all, sees all, but tells nothing. And to prove the point, we would find the parsonage lit up from time to time by his extremely powerful spotlight. And of course we would wave back - and Dave would blink the light a couple of times and continue on his way. That memory was the first thing that our daughter, Laurie, mentioned when we told her about David's passing.

Dave and Judy were in on the planning of the surprise party for my 40th birthday. My wife, Judy, said something like "Dress up a little bit; I want to out for dinner tonight." Then, "Oh, drop by the Haverdinks. I have something I need to give to Judy." There were no cars there other than Dave & Judy's. The house was quiet. So Judy V started talking with Judy H and Dave said "Come on down to the basement to have a drink." When we got there... SURPRISE! And it really was! Lots of friends hiding behind the furniture in their basement scared me pretty much the way Dave's spotlight did the first few times!

There was always great fellowship, good fun, and wonderful memories with Dave and Judy. His loss will be felt not only by us but also by his many friends and the people he touched in the line of duty, doing the work he loved so dearly.

Godspeed, David!

Jack and Judy VanderPlate - December 30, 2025 at 03:43 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



December 30, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ HES Equipment planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

HES Equipment - December 30, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ Len M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Len M. - December 30, 2025 at 02:44 PM



“ Byron Township Fire Department purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of David P. Haverdink.



Byron Township Fire Department - December 30, 2025 at 02:42 PM

BD

“ Byron Township Fire Department planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Byron Township Fire Department - December 30, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



December 30, 2025 at 02:35 PM

VS

“ Valley Township Board and Staff purchased the Fairest of All for the family of David P. Haverdink.



Valley Township Board and Staff - December 30, 2025 at 02:03 PM

RW

“ Ron Jodi Brandon Kate Aimee Kay & Wy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David P. Haverdink.



Ron Jodi Brandon Kate Aimee Kay & Wy - December 30, 2025 at 11:25 AM

RW

“ Ron Jodi Brandon Kate Aimee Kay & Wy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Ron Jodi Brandon Kate Aimee Kay & Wy - December 30, 2025 at 11:25 AM

MS

“ Merl's Towing Service purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of David P. Haverdink.



Merl's Towing Service - December 30, 2025 at 10:04 AM

MS

“ Merl's Towing Service planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Merl's Towing Service - December 30, 2025 at 10:04 AM

PB

“ What an amazing life David had filled with family, public service and business. One of the best Fire Chief's with an amazing service to Hamilton & Allegan County then to serve as County Commissioner and Sheriff of Allegan County wow. A true friend and boss as you will be missed but never forgotten! Rest in Peace.

Paul Baker - December 30, 2025 at 01:10 AM

OA

“ Ottawa Medical Control Board Authority purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of David P. Haverdink.



Ottawa Medical Control Board Authority - December 29, 2025 at 06:01 PM

OA

“ Ottawa Medical Control Board Authority planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Ottawa Medical Control Board Authority - December 29, 2025 at 06:01 PM

MP

“ Mike and Sharon Phelps purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of David P. Haverdink.



Mike and Sharon Phelps - December 29, 2025 at 05:25 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



December 29, 2025 at 04:21 PM

ST

“ Spencer family and Spencer Fire Trucks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Spencer family and Spencer Fire Trucks - December 29, 2025 at 04:21 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



December 29, 2025 at 03:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David P. Haverdink.



December 28, 2025 at 05:29 PM

LH

“ Lon Hoyer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David P. Haverdink.

Lon Hoyer - December 28, 2025 at 05:29 PM

SJ

“ *SHERIFF, CHIEF, Dave. These were the ways and order in which I knew him. As the Deputy that served the area he lived and worked in, I would see Dave on almost a Daily basis. I learned quickly that he was available to the community he loved 24/7. Over my entire career as a Deputy He was always present. Present at fires, medical calls, and yes....traffic crashes. It didn't matter the time of day or how hot or nasty biting cold it was. He was always there, leading by example. Dave was a calming presence in whatever chaos he happened be in the middle of. He inspired team work. Above all he always had time for a quick smile a comment, or even a joke. His presence always let those around him know, that it would be OK. He didn't just speak about it, demonstrated his love for his fellow man. He is a man who's absence will be felt by all who knew him. Some one to be emulated. I will miss him! In saying so, I lift him up to the LORD to keep him always. When my time comes I will look forward to seeing him again. I pray his family will take Peace from that knowledge.*

Scott Johanson - December 28, 2025 at 10:32 AM

KL

“ *Paul and I worked with Dave in different capacities in Manlius Township. Dave was a kind and helpful man. He was respected by all and a great human being friendly to everyone. Prayers to all of the family and may God give you peace. Hugs and love you all.*
Paul and Kathy

Kathy Lubbers - December 27, 2025 at 01:45 PM

JA

*Oh, Judy and family,
So sad to hear about the news of Dave's untimely and unexpected death! Always serving his community. Gary and Judy Alderink*

Jusy Alderink - December 28, 2025 at 06:50 PM