



## Drew A. Gurbach

December 18, 1957 - August 27, 2022

Drew A. Gurbach, age 64 of Concord Twp., OH, passed away on August 27, 2022 at the David Simpson Hospice House in Cleveland. He was at the end as he was throughout his whole life- brave and selfless.

Drew was born December 18, 1957 in Painesville to Elmer and Gloria Gurbach. He grew up alongside his big brother, David Gurbach, in a blue collar home on Hawthorne Drive adjacent to the fairgrounds learning the values of honesty, hard work, family and (most importantly) baseball. His dad, Elmer would come home from his Diamond Alkali job and coach his beloved Drew in baseball. Drew, coached by his dad and big brother, excelled on the diamond. He could hit. He could run. And he had a cannon of an arm.

As a student at Riverside High School, he demonstrated that he was a musician. He played the violin and later discovered his true love, the banjo. A self-confessed “picker,” he loved country and bluegrass. Mom and dad reinforced this passion with multiple trips to the Ryman Auditorium where he saw country music royalty grace the stage at the Grand Ole Opry. Drew carried this passion throughout his life.

Like any good romance, Drew met his bride at Regal Lanes in Mentor, Ohio (and Drew would be the first to make light of that). He was enamored with a co-worker, Katherine Lima. The world knew her as Kathy. The two started

dating and there was no looking back. Their romance took a break only when Drew departed for San Antonio to train as an Airman in the United States Air Force.

When he graduated, he came back to Ohio to marry Kathy at St. Gabriel's Church in 1983. He wore his Air Force Dress blues and Kathy was a radiant bride. They then departed for exotic destinations like Wichita, Kansas and Grand Forks, North Dakota. Drew was on our nation's nuclear front-line, tending to the Titan II missile arsenal. He took pride in his service, as he should. Drew served our country for a decade.

Drew's real purpose in this world, however, revealed herself when she was born on October 4, 1989. That is the date that the center of Drew's universe shifted when his daughter, Katelynn, was born. She timed her arrival with Drew's discharge from the Air Force and the family re-established their roots in Ohio.

Drew, Kathy, and Katelynn made their home in Concord Township. They were hard-working and dedicated to raising their daughter. Family was at the center of their world - Holidays, Birthdays, Graduations. It was all brought to a crashing halt in 2002 when Kathy succumbed to breast cancer. Drew knew that he had to forge ahead with raising his daughter.

After Kathy passed, Drew worked the hours that he needed to work. He did what he needed to do. All to make sure that his beloved Katelynn had the ability to enjoy every single opportunity afforded to her. Drew attended every concert. Every event. Every game. Drew and Katelynn were a team. Inseparable. He made sure that she could travel the world and go to college. And he beamed with pride talking about her. From the moment that she was born until the very end. He loved and supported his daughter without end. And she, too, loved her dad beyond measure.

Drew was also an uncle. And an amazing uncle at that. To his nephew, Matthew and niece, Kristen. But more importantly to their children- Madeline, Eleanor, Josephine, Donovan, and Sidney; he was always there.

Drew will be missed by his entire family and all of his many friends, co-workers, and social media contacts. In heaven, his mom and dad will meet him. As will his beloved Kathy, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends.

For us, the family, we just hope that the bowling lanes are working and that he can watch some baseball.

We are all going to miss this guy beyond words.

The family will receive friends from 4-6 on Friday, September 2, 2022 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

A funeral service will be held at 6 pm on Friday at the funeral home.

A private interment will be in Riverside Cemetery, Painesville, OH.

In lieu of flowers, contributions, in his memory, may be made to Rescue Village: Geauga Humane Society Animal Shelter, online at [www.rescuevillage.org/](http://www.rescuevillage.org/) and/or the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL), online at [clevelandapl.org/](http://clevelandapl.org/)

Offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

385 Riverside Drive  
Painesville, OH 44077  
(440) 392-3727

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 2. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center  
8466 Mentor Avenue  
Mentor, OH 44060  
(440) 255-3401  
ajs@brunners.com  
<https://www.brunners.com/>

## Funeral Service

SEP 2. 6:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center  
8466 Mentor Avenue  
Mentor, OH 44060  
(440) 255-3401  
ajs@brunners.com  
<https://www.brunners.com/>

# Tribute Wall

VG

“ Drew was our neighbor, great guy. Katelynn we are so sorry for your loss. Your Dad was awesome and made a difference in this world.

Vicki and Steve Galecki - September 22, 2022 at 07:14 PM

DI

“ Dave and the Gurbach family, my sincere condolences for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Doug Inscho - September 05, 2022 at 11:07 AM

LP

“ I remember Drew as a happy, person who was warm and friendly. I hope he is having a wonderful reunion in heaven. Rest in peace Drew. Say hello to your Mom and Dad for me. I liked them both so much. Linda Gandee Pillar

Linda Gandee Pillar - August 31, 2022 at 02:32 PM

CP

“ Drew next door to me. He love my dog Charlie. We would sit out back Drew having a Bud Lite me drinking a glass of wine. We will all miss you around here. God Bless

carol pitts - August 31, 2022 at 01:43 PM

“ I met Drew in 7th grade, shop class I believe. He and I hit it off immediately as I found him hilarious. He nicknamed most of our teachers and had an imitation of many them, which he was really good at. He was the class clown all through school. He had a great photo from junior high school playing his banjo between the "one acts plays." It captures his spirit. In gym class he would break out of the morning line up and cartwheel all the way around the gym until he crashed into the big curtain that separated the boys from the girls while Coach Green was yelling Gurbach get back in line over and over, of course being the brother of one of the teachers, David, he never got in trouble for it. In high school he would be featured at the pep assemblies with his fiddle, where he would play a little bit, balance the fiddle on his chin in the middle of the gym, and tell some jokes. The last one was a little off color so the vice principle decided to end his career there. Drew was my inspiration to play the banjo. In 7th and 8th grade I used to spend the night at his parents house and we would stay up late listening to the Grand Ole Opry, or his Flatt and Scruggs albums til all hours. I fell in love with that music, especially the banjo and knew that someday I'd play. He already was starting to play at that point. Drew and I kept in touch after high school until he went off to the service. I heard from him periodically but didn't really see him until we decided we needed to get together, as I started leaning the banjo, at around 50 years old and knew that having him help me would be fun. He played "Hot Corn Cold Corn, one of our old favorites for me in the Spats parking lot at the end of that night. It was like we hadn't missed any years at all. Future "lessons" consisted of lots of laughs, lots of music, and lots of beer! . We had a blast as usual. We played at his house all the time....poor Katelynn had to listen to my learning! We went to banjo camp together up in Michigan, It was total immersion into the banjo world for a whole weekend. 160 students! I called it weapons of mass destruction. We had friends over his house, and mine, all the time to jam frequently. We just had a great time. Drew was a huge baseball fan, as am I, so he helped me fulfill one of my other goals in life, to attend Cooperstown. We spent a weekend up there, again laughs, beers, and actual tears when we saw all of the

*baseball memorabilia, and our boyhood heroes come to life there. Jump to more recently, I again lost track of Drew the past couple of years with covid. I still thought about him a lot and missed his friendship. I learned of his illness and tried to keep informed of his recovery but am of course greatly saddened at his passing. He's certainly unforgettable, and I appreciate all that he added to my life. Thank you Drew for being a lifelong friend. I'm sure you brought along a demi john to heaven my friend. I've been saying prayers for you Katelynn, and the rest of your family. Miss you buddy.*

**Chad Pengal** - August 31, 2022 at 07:28 AM

MF

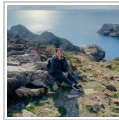
*Such a nice remembrance, Chad. Very thoughtful. ❤️*

**Mike Feeney** - August 31, 2022 at 10:31 AM

PS

*Beautiful, Chad.*

**Pam McMillen Swedo** - August 31, 2022 at 01:37 PM



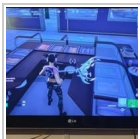
*Thank you for sharing, Chad. ❤️*

**Katelynn Gurbach** - August 31, 2022 at 04:16 PM



“ *we were classmates. make heaven a happy place*

**Cindy Durst** - August 30, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I worked with him at palisades bowling center as a mechanic. great guy :(*

**Richard Willis** - August 29, 2022 at 02:31 PM



*Went to school with brother, David. Sending prayers of support David, for you and your family* ❤️ 🙏

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**Carol Soos** - August 30, 2022 at 06:59 PM