



## James David Slavens

August 19, 1957 - March 14, 2023

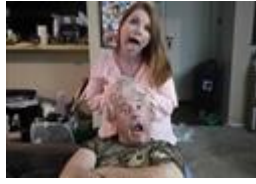
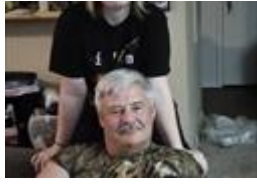
James David Slavens, 65, of Murphy, Texas, passed away March 14, 2023, after a long illness. He was born August 19, 1957, in Wichita Falls, Texas, the son of Frank D. and Joyce Alva (Kuder) Slavens. He was a product of Wichita Falls public schools and a 1976 graduate of Rider High School, where his nickname was “trouble”. David was active in band; he loved music his entire life, especially 50’s music. He was also an accomplished artist, drawing beautiful portraits in his spare time. In his mid 20’s, David joined the U.S. Army, where he proudly served his country for 22 years before retiring. His Army years took him to Germany, Korea, and Iraq. He loved to tell stories of riding a camel in Egypt, and of the escapades he and his fellow Army men and women were always getting into. He loved his country, and served it proudly. His final 2 years in the Army he did 2 tours of duty in Iraq, where he was injured. Although in constant pain, he never complained. He was a real warrior, and a hero. He always used to tell me that the real heroes were the ones that never came home. He was still a hero to me, and to all of those who knew and loved him. Upon returning home, he retired and made Colorado Springs, Colorado his home. David was a selfless man, and would give the shirt off of his back to someone in need. In 2018, his dad needed a caregiver, and David dropped everything and went back to Wichita Falls. He sold our home in Colorado, and put everything we owned in storage, and moved in with his dad. Frank’s last wish was to die at home, and David made sure that he got his wish. He was holding his dad’s hand when he passed into Heaven. After Frank’s passing, one more move was in order to Murphy, Texas, to be closer to the children and soon-to-be grandchild. David loved to fish, to barbeque in the backyard, and to “piddle”. He was happiest when he was tinkering around in his garage, or getting ready for a fishing trip. His only requirement when he left Wichita Falls was to be no more than 20 minutes away from a body of water. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a mischievous grin on his face, and was ready to help anyone at any time with anything. He was so good at working with his hands, that people would bring him things to work on. It was always said that if David couldn’t fix it, it couldn’t be fixed. He loved Jesus and his family. While we grieve and mourn his passing, the knowledge that he is now safely in the arms of Jesus and no longer hurting, give comfort. David is preceded in death by his parents, his biological mom, Constance Lessard, sister Katina Lessard, and sister Patricia

Maudin. He is survived by his loving wife, Sherrie Slavens, and his children, Nicholas Slavens, Kelley Dennett, (husband Mathew), Joshua Bristo, (wife Larissa), Rachel Bristo, and grandson, Revan Dennett. He is also survived by his brothers, Mike Lessard, Todd Lessard, Brock Lessard, and Patrick Lessard, a sister, Paula Lessard, and many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends. David wanted no fuss when he passed. A memorial is planned for sometime this summer.

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ 6 files added to the album Family Fun



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**Kelley Dennett** - April 02, 2023 at 12:08 AM

JB

“ I grew up living down the street from David, elementary, Jr High, and High School. Times we along with a few other guys would play tackle football in the front yard. He was like a freight train coming at you. Good times at school and any other time we got together. I'm glad I got to see him in the recent months and the chance to chat about old times. Miss you David, but I'll be looking up to chat with you now. Keep an eye on me! Love Ya Brother!

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**Johnny Brown** - March 28, 2023 at 07:43 PM

MS

“ I didn't know David very well. His wife, Sherrie, is my cousin. I do know that he made her very happy. That's the best compliment I can give to any husband. God's peace, comfort, and blessings for all his family and friends.

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**Mark von Soosten** - March 28, 2023 at 03:39 PM

DK

“ I met JD in Colorado Springs while I was stationed there. He has a personality that is contagious. He made me smile every time we met up. I will share a couple of my favorite memories as to keep this short and sweet. First memory. We both bought an enduro motorcycle and I remember bringing mine over and him rebuilding the motor and carburetor. In between he would get out the 25 oz Foster beer cans and we would drink a couple. Or more or less, lol. Anyways we spoke about everything. No secrets and this is what we both needed as combat veterans. He was always straight forward and honest. I was amazed how he could do such detailed work and still keep up with the chat. Second memory was fishing. He always put a line out to troll for bass. We never really caught a big one but again it was more about brotherhood than fishing. Every time I catch a bass I think of him. When I love someone this is how I keep the memory forever. It is in a big bass I catch or when I see a white enduro motorcycle. He will never be forgotten. Brother in arms. Soldier for eternity.

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David Keithsn - March 28, 2023 at 03:33 PM

JD

“ I met David off and on for years when he would come to visit his dad, Frank Slavens, who was a close friend to my husband and our entire family. What a delight it was for Frank when David came to town. He smiled from ear to ear. David was a wonderful son to Frank and would come to visit...every time he came home he spent at least half of his time fixing things around the house, in the garage, or in the yard. David's son Nicholas was the pride in Frank's life. When David met Sherry his family grew and he so enjoyed that. There was always the cherished "time" with his family. Sherry not only loved David but she was a tireless devoted wife...she fought right by David's side through every appointment, therapy session, etc. They were a wonderful team through thick and thin. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that they truly loved each other and it was very evident right until the end. The fight is over...and what a fight you had. David Slavens...you will truly be missed!

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Jeannine Donaldson - March 28, 2023 at 02:58 PM