



# David C. Hockenberry

APR 20, 1948 - APR 30, 2025



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# David C. Hockenberry

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**D**avid C. Hockenberry, age 77, of Seaford, DE, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Born on April 20, 1948, in Lock Haven, PA, he was the son of the late Oscar and Miriam (Overton) Hockenberry. David was a proud graduate of high school and pursued one year of college education, laying the foundation for a life marked by service, dedication, and craftsmanship.

A proud veteran of the United States Navy, David honorably served his country for 2 years, 1 month, and 15 days. His time in the Navy instilled in him a lifelong sense of pride and patriotism.

On May 18, 1974, David married the love of his life, Margaret P. Hockenberry, in Midland Park, NJ. Together, they shared 51 wonderful years of marriage filled with love, laughter, and enduring companionship.

David spent much of his career as a skilled carpenter and asbestos remover at Invista. He was also beloved by many as a seasonal mall Santa Claus with Cherry Hill Photo, a role he cherished deeply. With his jolly spirit and authentic appearance, David didn't just play Santa—he was Santa to many. His home was filled with a cherished collection of Santa Claus memorabilia, reflecting not only his love for the holiday season but also the joy he brought to children and families year after year.

In his free time, David enjoyed fishing, bowling, golfing, attending garage sales, trying his luck at the slots, browsing flea markets, and calling bingo games. His joyful personality and warm heart made him a favorite wherever he went.

David is survived by his devoted wife, Margaret Hockenberry; and two loving sisters, Bonnie and Carol. He will be forever loved and deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



## Obituary

**David C. Hockenberry**

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Family and friends are invited to attend a viewing on Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, with a second viewing that evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, both at Watson-Yates Funeral Home & Crematorium, 609 E. King St, Seaford, DE 19973, a Parsell Family Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Mr. Hockenberry's memory to the Allen Cancer Center, <https://www.tidalhealth.org/about-us/donate>, or VITAS Hospice, <https://vitascommunityconnection.org/>.

He will be remembered not only for his warmth, humor, and generosity, but also for the twinkle in his eye that made so many believe in the magic of Santa Claus.


To share memories or offer condolences, please visit Mr. Hockenberry's Life Memorial at [www.watsonyatesfuneralhome.com](http://www.watsonyatesfuneralhome.com).

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.


FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3:00 PM ON FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025, TO OUR SEAFORD LOCATION.

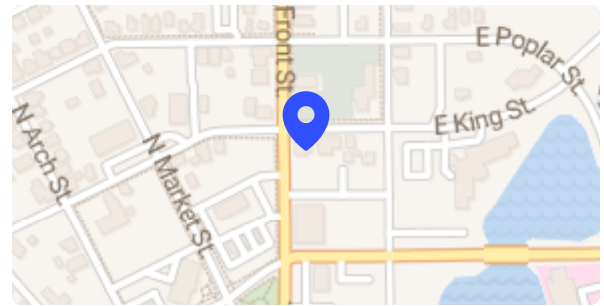


### Viewing

 **Saturday**, May 10, 2025

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET


 **Watson-Yates Funeral Home & Crematorium**  
609 E King St, Seaford DE 19973

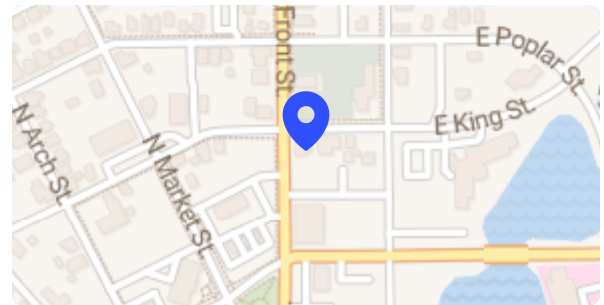


### Second Viewing

 **Saturday**, May 10, 2025

 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

 **Watson-Yates Funeral Home & Crematorium**  
609 E King St, Seaford DE 19973





# Tribute Wall

**David C. Hockenberry**

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LM

**Leon Murdock** lit a candle in honor of David.

David was such a great person with such a warm and loving personality. I remember seeing him every summer and sometimes on Christmas as my Great Grandmother Elsie Pase lived next door! He was such a vibrant memory in my childhood growing up and I am sad to hear of his passing. He was always a helping hand to those around him and well known in the community. I also loved seeing the outfits Peggy spent so many hours putting hard work into and even seeing him with her as Mr. and Mrs. Claus! To Peggy and the family you have my deepest condolences and you are in my thoughts and prayers. Much love and big hug!



August 21 at 1:09 PM

LB

**Lynne Betts** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dear PegSo glad I got to revisit with you & Dave in November, at Slices for Troups. I know you have many fun & fond memories to help with your loss. Lynne (Mangene) Betts



May 9 at 11:49 PM

TW

**Terry Warrington** lit a candle in honor of David.

Peg, Bonny, Carol and Friends, I'm saddened by the passing of David. He was always fun loving, had a joke to tell every time I spoke to him. He loved living! He was so proud of him time playing Santa, and of Peg's talents with sewing and costume making. He touched my life and many others in his years on this earth. But I know he is giving his new life the best he has! Thinking of you all with prayers for strength and peace and the ability to share the beautiful memories Terry Warrington



May 5 at 2:18 PM



**Lynne Betts** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 9 at 11:49 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring David by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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