

David McIntyre

By Jeanne Cotroneo Darrow

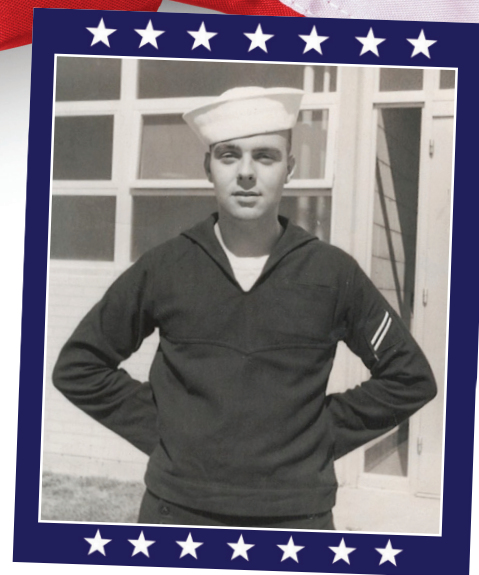


Stormville has always been a place where service matters—and few embodied that spirit more fully than David McIntyre.

Born in Mount Kisco, N.Y., on Nov. 28, 1943, and raised in Purdys, N.Y., David was the middle child of three, shaped by a family rooted in dedication—his mother worked at *Reader's Digest*, and his father maintained the grounds at Hopewell Junction's Sylvan Lake area, which was home to many summer camps and residences at the time.

David's dedication to service started early. After graduating from John Jay High School in 1962, he served in the U.S. Navy until 1968, as an electronics mechanic aboard submarines and naval destroyers during the Vietnam War and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

It was while off duty, during a party at her aunt's house on July 4, 1963, that he'd meet Claire Morris, a lifelong Stormville resident. She and the sailor married a year later and built a life together in a cozy home on Claire's family property in Stormville after his discharge. For a short period, when he was stationed in Portsmouth, Va., aboard the USS Blandy DD 943, she made her home there.



Photos courtesy of the McIntyre family

David McIntyre served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1968.

But it was the community of Stormville that would capture their hearts and become the place where they'd raise two children, Kelly and David II. "We loved country living and our kind and helpful neighbors," says Claire. Eventually, they welcomed seven grandchildren. One of them, Victoria, also chose service in the Navy and is currently stationed in Japan; her brother Timothy served in the Army.

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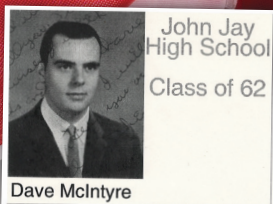
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David is pictured with his little sister and his mother.



He graduated from John Jay High School in 1962, enrolling in the Navy that same year.



David and Claire married in 1964.



Claire and David with their beloved Pontiac, a 20th anniversary Trans Am, at a car show in Rutland, Vt., in July 1989.

Pictured in this family portrait are David, Claire, David II, Kelly, and Olivia, the first-born grandchild.



CAR GUY

After his military service, David applied the same discipline and care to his civilian work. He had a passion for cars and spent 25 years as a painter at Ward's Auto Body in Hopewell Junction and 20 years at Lee Myles Transmission. He held various roles in the community—from Hopewell Auto Parts to the Town of East Fishkill Recreation and Highway departments—and was affectionately known by many as "The Gateman" at Waubeeka Family Campground in Copake, a job he cherished.

David also enjoyed camping, motorcycling, hot-air ballooning, and car shows. He and Claire managed Rainglow Detailing together, lovingly cleaning vehicles side by side on weekends. They owned Pontiacs: a white 20th anniversary (1989) Trans Am and a red 1987 Firebird Formula, which Claire still sometimes drives around town. They also shared a love of travel, which took them to St. Lucia, Alaska, Hawaii, California, and the Grand Canyon.

What truly defined David was his passion for volunteering. He dedicated over four decades to the Stormville Fire Company and 38 years to the East Fishkill Rescue Squad. He also participated in Marriage Encounter, Walkway Over the Hudson, Indian Guides and Princesses, Midnight Run, and Hopewell Reformed Church, where he served as a Sunday School Superintendent.

HONOR FLIGHT

David stayed connected to his fellow veterans. He was a proud member of the Sgt. Ronald Gray American Legion Post #1572 in Putnam County, and in a moment that meant the world to him, he was chosen for Honor Flight 27—a trip to Washington, D.C., in 2022 to see the war memorials, with his granddaughter by his side.

Aboard the plane, he read letters from his shipmates from the USS Blandy, including fellow sonarman Rick

Leveque, who wrote: "You and I both know that one of the most significant events of our lives was the day we joined and served in our beloved United States Navy. We docked in the ports of many countries; saw the most beautiful of seas, sunrises, and sunsets; and encountered experiences no others will ever have. We spent many hours on maneuvers in our dimly lit sonar room listening for the enemy, fighting that urge to drift off when all of a sudden that shrill sound of a whale echoed in our head to say, 'Stay awake!'"

Another sea buddy of David's was Rick's brother Jerry, who wrote: "I remember our first cruise. Blandy was assigned as the number-two recovery ship for the Gemini spacecraft launch." After that, they went to Portugal and the Mediterranean, where, in a tragic boiler blowup, they lost two crew members and another 20 were burned by steam. "We recovered from that and found ourselves in Matla for R&R" then onto many beautiful places, including "France drinking wine...Italy eating pizza...Spain watching the bullfights...then looking for atomic bombs off the coast of Spain."

One year ago, at age 80, David passed away. His legacy of service, integrity, and generosity lives on through Claire and his children. Claire has been a member of the Stormville Fire Company Auxiliary for 60 years, Kelly was a member of the rescue squad for two years before she moved away, and David II volunteered with the fire department for 14 years. Thank you, McIntyre family, for your ongoing service. ♦



Olivia accompanied David on his Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., in September 2022.

Claire and David spent a lot of time together volunteering, including decades with the East Fishkill Fire District Rescue Squad and the Stormville Fire Company.

