



## David Craig LaJeunesse

March 10, 1970 - August 26, 2020

David Craig LaJeunesse, 50, died on August 26, 2020, at his home in Tallahassee, Florida. He was born March 10, 1970, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, where he grew up with his three older brothers, Brian, Kent, and Rainard, amidst as much laughter and mischief as four brothers could create. David came to Tallahassee in 1990 to attend Florida State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Music Education in 1993. Upon graduation, he taught chorus at schools in Pensacola, Florida, and Bainbridge, Georgia, before transitioning to a job in the Bureau of Educator Certification at the Florida Department of Education, where he served in several roles for a period of almost 20 years. He earned his master's degree in Library and Information Science from FSU in 2005. He served as Bureau Chief of Educator Certification from 2015-2019. In the fall of 2019, he took on a new role as the media specialist at Oak Ridge Elementary, where he hoped to help children discover the love of reading that he instilled in his own children, Cassie, Alex, and Ellie.

During the years in which he made Tallahassee his home, his passion for both music and education came to be known and loved throughout the Tallahassee music community. He was a dedicated church musician, first as director of music at Fellowship Presbyterian Church and later as a member of the chancel choir and handbell ensembles at Trinity United Methodist Church. At Trinity, he was also a beloved Sunday School teacher and led the youth choir for a brief period.

David's love of music extended beyond the church; he sang in the Tallahassee Community Chorus several times and was a devoted member of Capitol Bells, Tallahassee's community handbell choir, for the past seven years. He also passed down his love of music to his children. While he encouraged them to participate in church music as well, he also turned them into Van Halen fans at a very young age. David was a loving and supportive father. He was present at countless chorus, dance, band, orchestra, and steel pan concerts over the years, and his children will fondly remember family game nights and trips to the bowling alley.

David is preceded in death by his mother, Kathleen "Kay" Brown LaJeunesse. He is survived by his children, Cassie, Alex, and Ellie LaJeunesse; their mother, Jessie Elizabeth Landrum LaJeunesse; his three brothers, Brian (Josie), Kent (Sonja), and Rainard (Laura); nephews Andrew (Tressa) and Josh (Katherine); nieces Kalyn Jernigan (Jared) and Carrie LaJeunesse; and great nephews Ayden and Elijah.

A private family memorial service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Monday, August 31 at 6 p.m. We invite you to join us virtually at [tumct.org](http://tumct.org). Those who want to pay their respects are encouraged to join the family for a few moments of quiet reflection at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road in Tallahassee, on Tuesday, September 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. We will provide cards on which visitors are encouraged to leave a note of condolence, memory, or anything else for the family. We ask that everyone wear masks and observe social distancing. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to Trinity United Methodist Church marked for David LaJeunesse memorial. Donations will be given to Oak Ridge Elementary School to support media center resources.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the LaJeunesse family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Private Service

AUG 31. 6:00 PM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church  
120 West Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

## The family will receive friends

SEP 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

# Tribute Wall

SV

“ I only today just heard about the loss of our dear David. I met David through the Bureau of Educator Certification. I work in Orange County Public Schools. David was never without a smile. You could always tell when he was up to something because he'd get this look in his eye. He was one of the kindest most caring people I know. He was like a little brother to me. He gave the best hugs. I am going to miss him terribly. He touched so many lives. I know he made mine better just by being in it. His family and friends are in my prayers.

*Susan Vander Vossen*

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**Susan Vander Vossen** - September 28, 2020 at 04:05 PM

SS

“ I knew David through Trinity Ringers and Capitol Bells. He seemed so reserved when I first met him, but the more I rang, the more I found there was another side to him.

*Among the many, there are two particular moments I recall.*

*One was following a handbell solo I did in the worship service at Trinity. Interestingly it was "It Is Well with My Soul", always a favorite hymn of mine. David made a point of coming up to me after and telling me I'd done a really nice job of ringing. For me that was high praise because he was by far the better musician.*

*The second was a Capitol Bells rehearsal when he rang the C3 bell (largest bell we had) and the handle broke. There was momentary shock and then relief. He provided some great comic relief in handling the accident.*

*My condolences to his entire family.*

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**Sally Strohbeck** - September 02, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ David was not only a mentor, he was also a friend. Working with David for over 6 years in BEC and being friends for nearly 10, I learned a lot about him, not only was he smart, he was incredibly funny and very talented too. I have so many fond memories of David. David would always reach out with invites, many I attended for steel band concerts, church at Trinity, bell choir events and get togethers. One thing throughout the years David always mentioned in conversations was his children, Cassie, Alex and Ellie and how proud he was of them and their accomplishments. His children meant everything to him and it showed. David was very caring and always had a big heart. David will certainly be missed by all that knew him. I will miss our conversations, get together and his affectionate laugh, in the tag lines of David, TTFN  
My condolences to the family, may the Lord comfort each one of you during this difficult time.

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**Chantel Sanders** - September 01, 2020 at 09:30 PM

DS

“ David and I were in college together at NWFSC then OWCC. We sang together in the first Show Choir. He and I called it the "not ready for prime time choir". We sang a duet in several shows and performed in the musical Godspel from which I have great memories. We once took a trip together to audition at Disney for Voices of Liberty. That was a true adventure. Needless to say the Lord had other plans. Praise Him! I remember David fondly and will remember him until we sing together again. I pray a blessing of hope and strength on his family and especially his kids.

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**Dave Stanley** - August 31, 2020 at 07:00 PM

SO

“ I am still shocked with the news of passing David who was a great colleague and friend to work with at the Department during the past 12 years. He was always easy to work with in so many key projects. Rest is peace you will be missed. Our condolences to his children and the family.  
Suleyman

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**Suleyman Olgar** - August 29, 2020 at 08:32 PM

GB

“ David was so loving about his children. I remember the pride he had when his oldest went to college and the excitement he shared after visits. I remember attending the Leon steel band events at Cascades and seeing him filled with pride as we watched his younger two have fun drumming on stage. We are praying for his family.

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**gretchen brantley** - August 29, 2020 at 08:21 PM

EM

“ I was privileged to ring in Capitol Bells with David. He was an incredible musician and mentor. He was also one of the funniest people I ever knew. He will be missed.

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**Elaine McCreary** - August 29, 2020 at 05:36 PM