



David Brummer

December 26, 1966 - December 18, 2025

David Ambrose Brummer

Dec. 26, 1966-Dec. 18, 2025

David Ambrose Brummer of Chicago kept his loved ones smiling with his wit, generosity, and unyielding confidence in their every move. They were at his side as he died Dec. 18, 2025 at home, following days of music, storytelling, theatrical readings, and prayers, a mere mortal attempt to honor his magnanimous love and fuel his trip to the heavens.

David was born Dec. 26, 1966, in Effingham, Illinois, the youngest of George and Elizabeth “Betty” Brummer’s three children. He grew up with boundless energy, running between his and his grandparents’ house on a livestock, corn and soybean farm, playing trumpet in marching band, and showing cattle at the annual county fair while also cultivating a dream to someday become a big city newspaper journalist. He realized that dream in Houston and Chicago, but his most cherished roles were as husband to wife, Mary Ann Fergus, and dad to their daughter, Olivia Claire. They survive him as well as his mother, his sister Jennifer Hunzinger (Bob) and his brother, Tony (Shelley), seven beloved nieces and nephews, four great nieces and nephews, cherished aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends. Oh, and Luca, the family’s knucklehead Black Labrador. He is preceded in death by his father, and his grandparents; Ambrose and Laura Brummer and Bernard and Marie Ochs, and another

shiny black dog that we trust David is now holding.

David and Mary met in a newsroom, bonding over their passion and belief in the power of storytelling and falling in love over long conversations filled with laughter. They married July 4, 1998 in Chicago, supporting each other's growth as writers and as individuals, and reveling in parenthood, long walks, nights out appreciating Chicago's live theater and music scene. David paid homage to his rural upbringing in keeping a backyard vegetable garden, and as a skilled chef, folded his harvest into diverse dishes for his family that sometimes didn't even match his preferred palette.

As a dad, David showed unconditional love and enthusiasm through his daughter's every pursuit—from riding a bike to driving a car, and studying fine arts. He taught her that love is a verb and passed on his acute ear for rhythm in both music and the written word. By his side and in his arms, she always felt safe.

David graduated from Newton Community High School and Eastern Illinois University. He was a gifted writer, page designer, editor, and collaborative leader at The Pantagraph in Bloomington, Illinois, the Houston Chronicle in Texas, and the Associated Press in Chicago. For the past 20 years, he oversaw magazine stories for a variety of publications, most recently serving as a senior content director for the MX Group. Throughout his career, David earned awards, accolades, the respect and friendship of colleagues who enjoyed his take on the work itself amid detours to talk politics, sports, music, and, most often, family.

Friends loved David's authenticity and could count on him to meet compliments with humility and lighthearted retort. Over the years, however, his authentic German-American roots merged with Mary's Irish heritage. Inexplicably, he would be the guy chosen to hold the Irish flag in a Chicago St.

Patrick's Day parade when marching with Irish dancers, and soon he was flying his own version at home each March. In recent years, David replaced his marching band trumpet for the soft beat of a bodhrán, or Irish drum, and joined music sessions across town.

David was taken from us so early due to complications of a relentless bully of an autoimmune condition that came out of nowhere early this year and that we can barely pronounce - Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis - a disease as rare as David himself. Over the past 12 months, David endured long hospital stays, endless tests and treatments like he did all other challenges - with determination, cheeky resolve, and absolute trust in his (care) team. If we can all still call 58 "young," then David certainly met the criteria for that old saying about 'only the good.' We will miss him every second.

Visitation Saturday, January 3, 9:30am until the service begins at 11am at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4550 N. Hermitage, Chicago. Livestream the event [here](#).

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in David's honor to the Histiocytosis Association, Inc. (<https://histio.org/>) or help our neighbors in need through Ravenswood Community Services (<https://ravenswoodcommunityservices.org/>).

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Previous Events

Visitation followed by memorial service

JAN 3. 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

All Saints Episcopal Church
4550 N. Hermitage
Chicago, IL 60640
<https://allsaintschicago.org/>

9:30am visitation; 11am service begins

Memorial Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

All Saints Episcopal Church
4550 N. Hermitage
Chicago, IL 60640
<https://allsaintschicago.org/>

9:30am visitation; 11am service begins

Tribute Wall

NK

“ I worked with David for about three years at both Imagination and MX— he and I were often the first ones in the office at Imagination, and we would nod at each other and then work quietly in the early morning until others arrived.

He was reserved and a little mysterious. I worked with him only occasionally, but I could quickly tell that he had the very highest level of integrity and I guessed that he was a “real news guy.” He never mentioned his accomplishments though. Sometimes I would see him working with those he supervised over, and what caught my eye was how caring and patient he was (far more so than I ever would have been).

I knew he had a wife and daughter he loved deeply, and I also knew of his great affection for big black dogs.

Reading this tribute, I got the chance to know so much more about him, and what stands out is how he seemed to have had such a well-lived life—going from a small town and a farm to the big city (but carrying over a talent for gardening), a lover of the arts, devoted to journalism and getting to the truth of a story, and most importantly, a beloved family man. Life breaks our hearts in a million ways, but it seems especially unjust to lose a person like David so young.

This is a beautiful tribute to his gentle soul, and I'm so sorry for your loss.

Natalie Kroc - January 06 at 01:19 PM



“ *Your Trinity Dance Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of David Brummer.*



Your Trinity Dance Family - January 02 at 03:46 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of David Brummer.*



December 30, 2025 at 03:37 PM

DJ

“ *It is with sincere sympathy that we extend our condolences for your loss. We pray that you will find healing, comfort and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ who loves you beyond measure!*

Death is something we will all encounter and if we don't make a decision now before we die, about giving our lives to Him, we will face serious consequences for rejecting Him and His love for us, after our departure from this world. Jesus paid a tremendous price for us by taking the wrath of God on the cross, on our behalf, for our sins and rebellion against God. God, being our Creator, sent Jesus, His Son, to lay down His life for us, so we would never have to face God's eternal judgement once we leave this earth. Death is not the end for any of us. We will all live on, but where is determined by whether or not we surrender our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ who is the only way to God the Father and to our salvation from sin, death and destruction. Jesus is only a prayer away. A simple prayer like "Lord Jesus, I believe you are God's Son who He sent to pay the price for my mistakes, sins, and rebellion against God. Please forgive me for all I have done in rebelling against you, Lord.

I now give and surrender my life to you and ask that you be my Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me from God's eternal judgement and allowing me to now be a part of you and your royal family forever. In your name, I pray. Amen. " God bless you and keep you always during this hour of your grief. I pray you will realize that you're never alone when you're in Christ Jesus. His Word guarantees us He will never leave or forsake us.

DJ - December 26, 2025 at 12:03 PM

CF

“ *Cathleen, Annamarie & Francis Fergus purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of David Brummer.*



Cathleen, Annamarie & Francis Fergus - December 24, 2025
at 12:09 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of David Brummer.*



December 23, 2025 at 01:26 PM

RR

“ *My sympathies to all of you. David will be greatly missed. I enjoyed our time together at the Pantagraph and our fun outside of work.*

Randy Reinhardt - December 22, 2025 at 01:23 PM