



Benjamin Franklin Curtis Jr.

August 29, 1961 - December 24, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Benjamin Franklin Curtis Jr., of Laurel, DE, who died from COVID-19 on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025, at TidalHealth-Nanticoke. He was 64 years old and had been recovering from a series of complications following a significant stroke in June 2025.

Born on August 29, 1961, Ben was a proud graduate of Laurel High School, Class of 1980. There, he showcased his competitive spirit as a decorated athlete on the track and cross-country teams. A true jack of all trades, Ben had an extraordinary ability to fix just about anything. Over the years, his work took many forms-tending chicken houses, welding, building boats for Bayliner, and trimming trees for ASPLUNDH-before he found his long-term calling with the Town of Laurel. For nearly 20 years, he served with integrity and pride as Director of Public Works and Wastewater Operator.

Ben was known for his sharp sarcasm, unforgettable sense of humor, resilience, strong work ethic, and passion for good food and cooking. He had a deep love for God and was an avid outdoorsman with an unmatched green thumb. He loved hunting, fishing, and tending to his garden, plants, and misfit farm animals-including his turkey, Tom, who only walked in left-hand circles. Ben found joy in riding his Harley-Davidson, drinking excessive amounts of Pepsi, eating blue crabs, listening to classic rock 'n roll, and watching the History Channel on repeat. He always seemed to have candy on hand, no matter the place or time. These simple pleasures brought him comfort and happiness and will forever be part of how he is remembered. Above all, Ben

was a devoted single father and cherished every moment spent with his grandson.

Ben is survived by his daughter, Amanda Raine Curtis Lee, and her son, Rooke Worcester-Lee, of Greenwood, DE who were the light of his life. He is also survived by his brother, James Robinson, and several close friends who were like family to him. He was preceded in death by his oldest daughter, Sommer Curtis, who passed on September 29, 2025; his brother, Peter Voskreshenov; and his best friend, Larry Bartee.

A celebration of life will be held in the upcoming warmer months, with additional details to be shared at a later time. To honor Ben's life, donations may be made in his memory to Doggone Happy Animal Rescue Inc., by visiting <https://www.doggonehappyde.com/> , reflecting his deep love for animals and pets.

Though he will be deeply missed, his family takes comfort in knowing that after enduring so much pain and difficulty, Ben received the greatest Christmas gift of all-being called home to the loving arms of Jesus with his daughter at his side.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home of Delmar.