



Stephen John

DEC 7, 1947 - JAN 5, 2024



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

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Stephen John

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Stephen F. John, 76, died at home on January 5, 2024 after a brief, devastating battle with cancer.

Steve was born December 7, 1947 in Washington D.C., the fifth and youngest child of James E. and Helen McAlear John. He was predeceased by his parents, brothers James L. and George Vincent, sisters Sr. Helen James John, SSND (School Sisters of Notre Dame) and Roberta Gosier, and grandchildren Josephine and Alexander Richard. Steve moved to Falls Church, Virginia around the age of 7 with his parents. He enjoyed school days through high school there and then headed west to attend University of Notre Dame in 1965. His first view of campus was on the day he moved into his dormitory.

Steve had taken up guitar and singing in high school and grew to love playing for campus liturgies and myriad occasions during folk music's heyday. He played and listened to music until the end.

Following graduation from Notre Dame in 1969, the Vietnam War was raging and he began a long and serious inquiry into his beliefs and the implications of his connection to the Gospels. Steve completed application to the draft board in Fairfax County, Virginia, and was approved to be designated a Conscientious Objector. He completed alternative service working with boys at St. Francis Vocational School, Cornwells Heights, Pennsylvania.

On June 26, 1971, Steve was married to Mary Clune Shiel at St. Patrick Church, Decatur, Illinois. Steve and Cluney's first child, Matt, was born in Pennsylvania. Moving back to Decatur in 1973, daughter, Emily was born, followed by another son, Danny, in 1978.

Steve began building a unique career as environmental law and awareness developed in the 1970's. He pursued graduate education at Sangamon State University, igniting a passion for protecting water, land and air throughout our shared universe.



Obituary

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Steve worked for Blank, Wesselink & Associates, Architectural and Engineering Services, and Randolph & Associates before forming a partnership with Doug Kane as Environmental Planning & Economics, Inc. In 2003, Steve formed the Agricultural Watershed Institute (AWI) and pursued solutions with farmers, academics and scientists to benefit the fields and streams.

Steve became involved in the community as a trustee for the Decatur Sanitary District in the 1970's, and he served two terms on the Decatur City Council.

Survivors include his wife, Cluney, his children Matthew of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Emily (Keith) Richard; and Danny (Nikki Haggerty) of Chicago. He also leaves four beloved grandchildren; Ash, Alex, Mario and Xavion.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. on Friday, January 12 at Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, IL. At 4 p.m. a memorial service will begin at the funeral home to celebrate and give thanks for Steve's life.

Donations in Steve's memory can be made to:

Community Environmental Council - Friends of Lincoln Trail Homestead

<https://www.maconcountygives.org/member-organizations/lincoln-trail>

Green Lands Blue Waters - <https://greenlandsbluwaters.org/>

Email: glbw@umn.edu,

Checks can be made out to University of MN, write 'GLBW Foundation' in memo space; mail to:

Melissa Lindholm

1991 Upper Buford Circle

Borlaug Hall, Ste 406

St. Paul, MN 55108-0010




Events


Stephen John

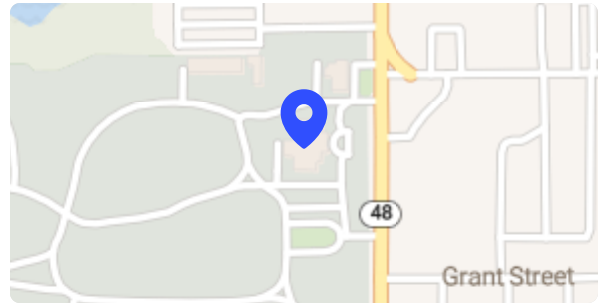
DEC 7, 1947 - JAN 5, 2024

Visitation


 **Friday**, January 12, 2024

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT


 **Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home**
2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur IL 62526

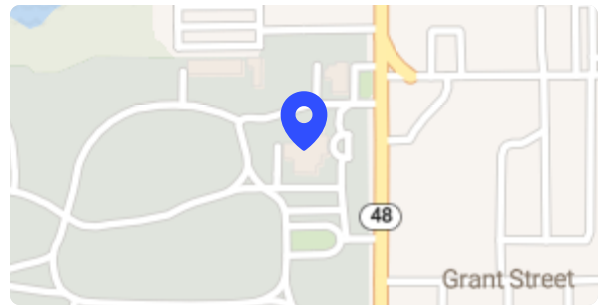


Memorial Service

 **Friday**, January 12, 2024

 4:00 PM CT

 **Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home**
2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur IL 62526





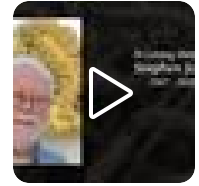
Tribute Wall

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Graceland Fairlawn shared a **Video**.



January 11 at 5:00 AM



David Seiler posted:

I met Steve when he was a candidate for state representative and I was the Chairman of the Effingham County Democrats. His district included only a small sliver of our county but Steve made multiple trips here. I was always impressed with him and always happy to see him. When I decided to run for Rep in 2018, Steve was one of the people I sought out for guidance. He was happy to meet with me and sitting down to lunch with him after a 15 year gap felt like we had picked up a friendship right where we had left it. Steve was simply a wonderful human being. Please accept my sympathy for your family's loss. Steve's passing is a loss for us all.

May 6 at 3:10 PM



Rebecca C. planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Stephen.



January 16 at 12:25 PM



Anonymous sent a sympathy card to the John family.



January 16 at 10:29 AM



Tribute Wall

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Joan M. Schullian posted:

Dear Cluney and family, I just heard today that Steve died. I am so sorry. I offer my sincere condolences and sympathy. I thank God for Steve for his person, his ideals, his justice and peace actions, ways of sharing truth, for his goodness and willingness to share his talents (playing guitar). I witnessed how he stood up and spoke up for justice re: many social justice issues. He was a faithful volunteer and member of our Macon County Citizens Opposing Capital Punishment organization for several years. He helped to influence our legislators to abolish the death penalty in Illinois. I pray he is celebrating his new life with God to the fullest. Cluney, I pray that you experience God's peace and strength. Sister JoAn Schullian, OSF

January 13 at 12:26 PM



Candy Carroll posted:

Dear Cluney and family, So sad to learn of Steve's passing. He was a good, conscientious man who loved his family and hi God. It was such a good experience to play and sing music with him during the many years at St Thomas. May your wonderful memories help carry you through this difficult time. God bless all!Candy (Heneghan) Carroll & SteveHermitage TNCathy HeneghanLebanon TN

January 11 at 4:16 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the John family.



January 11 at 10:58 AM



Bridget Ploessl And Sherry Lourash planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Stephen.



January 11 at 10:58 AM



Bill & Pej Clark posted:

Our sympathies to you Cluney. We have fond memories of Steve and I playing music together, him Bob Dylan and I John Denver. God Bless you and your family at this time.

January 11 at 9:18 AM



Tribute Wall

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Marilyn Parker posted:

I met Steve in 1987. I was the cofounder of the second neighborhood association, Lakeview Area Improvement, and Steve was walking the area to meet and greet people. We immediately connected in our interests for neighborhoods and to improve the natural environment. In 1993, a partnership first created by Kevin McSherry and Gary Anderson to reduce sediment in Lake Decatur was passed on to Steve, Keith Alexander, Tim Hoffman and the Board of the Macon County Soil and Water District. A national watershed award was won due to the work of Steve, Keith, Tim and our District staff, especially Tim McMahan. When the District no longer led the vision, due to Tim Hoffman and I leaving, Steve and Tim McMahan carried on thru Steve's work and his creation of the Agriculture Watershed Institute. To Cluney, Emily, Danny and Matt, I share these thoughts: There are many people in the rural and urban areas and throughout the U.S. who know what Steve's efforts did to improve the Sangamon River and its Watershed. He may not have completed the work, but what Steve and others did made a difference. A difference is all that our Creator God asks of us. Our God has now led Steve to lie down in green pastures and has led him to sit beside the still and always clean waters, and has restored his soul. I will miss you, Steve, but hope some day to see you along that river. Marilyn Parker, former Executive Director of of the Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District and Foundation.

January 10 at 7:14 PM



Cathy Walton posted:

Our deepest sympathy to Cluney and family. We will remember Steve fondly. He will be missed. We are so sorry for your loss. Cathy and Harry Walton

January 10 at 3:56 PM



Maureen posted:

Cluney and family, I was so saddened to hear about Steve. We will be out of town during the service but want you to know I'm thinking of all of you. Maureen Woodard (from St Thomas)

January 10 at 12:30 PM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the John family.



January 10 at 10:35 AM



Tribute Wall

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LT

Liz Tietz posted:

My condolences Cluney to you, and your family. Wishing you each Peace

January 10 at 3:32 AM

KM

Kevin M. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Stephen.



January 10 at 3:13 AM

KM

Kevin Mcsherry posted:

I was working for Macon County soil & water conservation district when I first met Steve. We shared the same beliefs and concerns on the environment. Very intelligent person and passionate about the environment. May God Bless and be with all of your during this time of grieving.

January 10 at 3:11 AM

AW

Angie Williams posted:

So very sorry. Prayers for the family!

January 9 at 5:29 PM

SS

Sally Sykes posted:

Sincere sympathy Clune and family. Sally Sykes

January 9 at 2:06 PM

CA

Carole Ahola posted:

Cluney and family, Jack & I send our deepest sympathy. Praying for comfort for all of you.

January 9 at 2:00 PM



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EL

Emilee Lyons lit a candle in honor of Stephen.

Emilee Lyons lit a candle in memory of Stephen John

January 9 at 12:25 PM



AA

Avis Anzenc posted:

I'll never forget leaning of Stephen's singing and guitar prowess when he played Blackbird by the Beatles for us at his home. It was beautiful. A talented and kind man. My condolences.

January 9 at 8:35 AM

DJ

Danny John January 9 at 6:47 PM

Thank you, Avis.

MS

Mark And Kathy Sorensen posted:

Condolences to the entire family.

January 7 at 3:34 AM



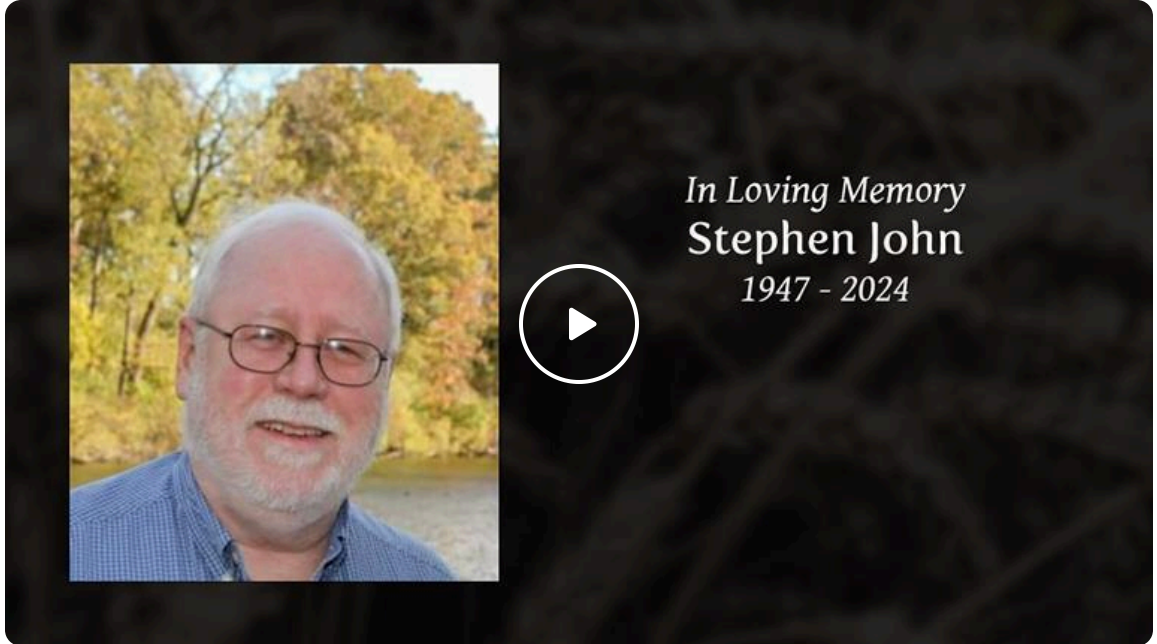
Media

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Graceland Fairlawn shared a Video.

January 11 at 5:00 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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