



## Duane Allen Steffen

August 28, 1961 - October 3, 2025

Duane Allen Steffen, 64 of Bluffton, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 3, 2025, at his residence, surrounded by his family.

Duane was born on August 28, 1961, in Wells County to Robert Steffen & Carol (Riggenbach) Tarr. He was a 1980 graduate of Bluffton High School and continued his education with IPFW. He started working at Star Engineering with his father, and worked his way up to be an Automation Robotic Engineer at WEG Electric in Bluffton.

Duane was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church and was involved with prison ministry and the Hospital Lumiere Ministry in Haiti. He was a self-motivated DIY guy that had a passion for building anything. Most of all, Duane loved the weekly family gatherings on Sunday evenings, with all of his family together.

On August 16, 1981, at the Apostolic Christian Church-Country, Duane and Karen (Gerber) were married.

Survivors include his wife Karen of Bluffton and children: Jessica (Brian) Steffen of Bluffton, Bradley (Kendra) Steffen of Bluffton, Justin (Larissa) Steffen of Morton, IL., and Sadie (Kevin) Gerber of Bluffton, IN. He was a proud, loving "Grampy" to 17 grandchildren.

Duane is also survived by his siblings; Craig Steffen of Bluffton, Amy (Kent) Worthman of Bluffton, Mitchell (Tess) Steffen of Fort Wayne, and Vivian (Rex) Drennen of Montpelier and sister-in-law, Dian Steffen.

Duane is preceded in death by his father, Robert Steffen, mother, Carol Tarr

and 2 brothers, Kelly & Randall Steffen.

Funeral services will be held at 3 P.M. on Monday, (Oct. 6, 2025) at the Apostolic Christian Church – Country, with Kole Meyer officiating. Burial will follow at the Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Adams County.

The family will be available to visit with guests from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. on Monday, (Oct. 6, 2025) prior to the service at the church. This time will be informal, with no traditional visitation line. The service will start promptly at 3 p.m.

Duane was very practical, and the family strongly prefers instead of sending flowers, plants and gifts, that memorials be made in Duane's memory to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation or to Stillwater Hospice in Fort Wayne and can be sent to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send condolences online to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery

2001 S 700 W-1  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 6. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Apostolic Christian Church  
1970 South 800 East  
Bluffton, IN 46714

## Funeral Service

OCT 6. 3:00 PM (ET)

Apostolic Christian Church  
1970 South 800 East  
Bluffton, IN 46714

# Tribute Wall

EF

“ My deepest sympathy to Duane’s family. I met Duane at WEG Bluffton Motor Works, where we worked together for nearly six months. Duane was a man of great intelligence, kindness, and strong purpose. I will never forget how warmly he welcomed me from Brazil and the valuable lessons he shared with me during my stay in the United States. His example of faith, humility, and compassion will always remain in my heart.

*Eriquer Formigari*

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**ERIQUE FORMIGARI** - October 16, 2025 at 06:58 PM

JE

“ To Duane’s family, I am so very sorry for your loss. I worked with Duane at Weg and he was a brilliant man. But mostly, he was kind. Always spoke whenever I ran into him and always asked about my family. He is missed here; but I’m sure he will watch over you all. Sincere sympathy.

*Jen Emery*

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**Jen Emery** - October 06, 2025 at 01:54 PM

LM

“ Karen. So sorry ..Never easy..I know days ahead are difficult..Be good to yourself..You have a wonderful Family...Someone told me Greater the Love. Deeper the Grief. No time limit on Grief Karen.. I got this info from Grief Support groups. Love you Karen and your family...Give me a call sometime.

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**Linda (John) Mills** - October 06, 2025 at 01:51 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Duane Allen Steffen.*



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October 05, 2025 at 09:48 PM



“ *My sincerest sympathy to Duane s family. I witnessed Duane, Tom Steffen and Lonnie Grubb give their time and devotion to help inmates at the Wells county jail, to find God and a better life. I am sure that several inmates were inspired and made changes in their life. Duane was a man of faith and I will never forget how he touched others lives. Mike Gerwig*

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**Mike Gerwig** - October 05, 2025 at 12:34 PM



“ *The Campbell families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Duane Allen Steffen.*



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**The Campbell families** - October 05, 2025 at 10:52 AM

RB

“ Dear family of Duane Steffen, you have our deepest sympathy in your loss of Duane. We got to know Bro. Duane when we worked at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti with him from 2012 through 2014. We heard him give his testimony of his imprisonment and how God had led him to share that testimony of God's grace. Duane was very influential in solving hydro-electrical problems and helping with the assessment of electrical needs of this very worthy Haitian hospital. He was involved in a miracle regarding the electrical power at the hospital. Your family has likely already heard the story of the miracle, but I would like to share it again, if it will fit within this allowed space.  
Bob & Sue Beebe

*(Below was written by Duane regarding his 2012 trip to Hospital Lumiere)*

*The story started when I was researching an electronic load control solution for the hydro plant to eliminate the need for a full-time Haitian to regulate the electrical frequency by hand. I found a company and control that met our need, and ordered parts from Thomson and Howe Energy Systems Inc. British Columbia, Canada. The owner of the company called me to ask why Hospital Lumiere was ordering another electronic governor, he was concerned why the original unit would have failed. I told him we didn't have a unit yet, but he insisted his company had shipped a control to the hospital years earlier. I had an inspiration! I remembered seeing some crates in the old electrical storage building and the Spirit told me those crates held the equipment we needed. I knew the equipment was there and it would work. While I was still on the phone I cancelled the order with him and on my next trip to the hospital we found the equipment! I didn't know how to setup the controls but the Lord gave knowledge and we installed it that week. That system is still working today (2018)!  
In His service,  
Duane*

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Robert & Sue Beebe - October 04, 2025 at 04:04 PM



“ *Vivian & family, I am so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers of comfort.* ”

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**Jill Patrick** - October 04, 2025 at 01:23 AM