



Stephen "Steve" O Studebaker

June 12, 1943 - May 12, 2025

Stephen O Studebaker, age 81, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 12, 2025, at River Terrace Retirement Community in Bluffton, Indiana. He was born on June 12, 1943. He was born in Bluffton, Indiana to Sylvan Cleatus Studebaker and Genieve Irene (McKuras) Studebaker.

Steve attended Petroleum High School in Wells County, Indiana, where he was active in basketball and band. Steve's first job was working on the farm. This provided him with a strong work ethic that he carried throughout his life. As an adult, Steve was employed at International Harvester. He retired from Harvester/Navistar in 1996 after 30 years. After his retirement, he began his own business in woodworking and carpentry. Steve was meticulous in his work ethic, and his attention to detail was evident in everything he did. More than 300 homes and businesses in Wells County bear the mark of his creativity and talent.

In addition to his work, Steve gave 100% as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. Steve never knew a stranger. He had the uncanny ability to reach people in a deep and positive way. This was particularly evident in his passion for working with young people. Not only was he the #1 fan of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, but he also served the children of his community. This included being a volunteer coach for Bluffton's girls' baseball league in the early 1970's and girls' softball in the 1980's, helping to bring t-ball to Bluffton, his involvement with the Boy Scouts in the '70s and '80s, and his passion for the Wells Community Boys and Girls Club

whose mission is to enable young people, especially those who need supportive adults the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Steve believed in the impact and importance of the Boys and Girls Club and served on its board, continuing as an honorary member until his death.

Steve was the 2nd eldest in a family of 7 children. He is survived by wife Vicki Patterson Studebaker; children Candice Haffner (Dan) of Dayton, Ohio, Nikki Barcus (David) of Poneto, Indiana, Brent Studebaker of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Yolanda Rehbein of Bluffton, and Tasha Martin (Jim) of The Villages, Florida; grandchildren, Sarah Floyd, Adam Haffner (Brook), Gavin Barcus (Alli), Linden Barcus, Gideon Barcus, Alicia Bodenheimer (Doug), Alexa Reed (Gage), Aja Hurst (Spencer Wiles), Atira Hurst, Stuart Hurst (Alex), and Blake Martin; brothers, Gary Studebaker (Suzie), George Studebaker (Brenda), Stuart Studebaker (Tooter), Guy Studebaker (Karen), and Sam Studebaker (Priscilla); 12 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren; and many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends who will very much miss Steve's gift for gab and his kind and generous heart.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Sylvan and Genieve Studebaker, his sister, Sharon Lorena Sibert, and an infant daughter.

There will be a private family service at a later date with burial at Elm Grove Cemetery.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions to the Wells Community Boys and Girls Club may be sent to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can share online condolences with the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall

ST

“ *Scott C. Thrasher-Herndon lit a candle in memory of Stephen "Steve" Studebaker*



Scott C. Thrasher-Herndon - May 15, 2025 at 04:43 PM

DR

“ *Vicki sad to here about Steve's passing Douglas and Joyce Runyon*

douglas runyon - May 14, 2025 at 10:50 PM

VS

Just wanted to say thank you Doug and Joyce. please tell your mom hello and hope you two are doing good. Love Vicki.

Vicki Studebaker - May 21, 2025 at 02:28 PM

VJ

“ *Valerie Wilson Jackson lit a candle in memory of Stephen "Steve" Studebaker*



Valerie Wilson Jackson - May 14, 2025 at 01:01 AM

BO

“ Oh Vicki, I understand what you are going through. I just lost Bill on May 2nd. My heart breaks for you and your family.💔. I pray that God will keep his arms around you as you travel this unwanted journey. Many memories of Steve going to Petroleum school with the Studebakers! Cherish your many memories and lean on your family and friends! God bless you💕🙏💕🙏💕

Barbara (Baker) Overdeer
Columbia City

Barb Overdeer - May 13, 2025 at 05:23 PM

VS

*Steve love those petroleum days and I'm so sorry about your loss.
Also Barb love Vicki

Vicki Studebaker - May 21, 2025 at 02:35 PM

CS

Vicki
So sorry to hear this. Steve was a special person. He was always welcoming to everyone. Enjoyed our years in school together. May God watch over you and your family. I know you will miss him.

Charlotte Stuff - May 22, 2025 at 10:16 AM

SK

“ Bless the family in time of loss He was a talented man

Sharon king - May 13, 2025 at 04:52 PM

VS

Thank you, Sharon, I know you understand how it is. Love you, Vicki

Vicki Studebaker - May 21, 2025 at 02:32 PM

TR

“ *RIP Steve - you were special -Hugs to the family*



Trudy - May 13, 2025 at 04:43 PM

SD

“ *Vickie & family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. Steve was a wonderful man. He will be so missed. Thoughts & Prayers for you in the days ahead.*

Sandra Davis - May 13, 2025 at 04:22 PM

SD

“ *Sandra Davis lit a candle in memory of
Stephen "Steve" Studebaker*



Sandra Davis - May 13, 2025 at 04:20 PM

KC

“ *Kara Cupp lit a candle in memory of Stephen
"Steve" Studebaker*



Kara Cupp - May 13, 2025 at 11:22 AM

DG

“ Sorry to learn of Steve’s passing. We did a lot of things in scouting together when we were leaders. Steve was always willing to lend a helping hand. At least we know he is in heaven with no more pain and suffering. The Studebaker family will be on our prayers. Dan and Darlene Gerdom



Dan Gerdom - May 12, 2025 at 04:18 PM

JN

Vicki I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers to the families.

Judy Nickles - May 14, 2025 at 12:39 PM

GS

RIP, Steve. You will be missed. I remember when we all were in Jaycees. What a fun time! I also remember how you and my dad were such good friends and rode together every day to work at IH. Dan and I both have such great memories. Dan and Georgia Schmidt

Georgia Schmidt - May 17, 2025 at 05:49 PM

VS

*Thank you, Dan for the kind thoughts *Steve always had a good word for you. Appreciated your comment Vicki*

Vicki Studebaker - May 21, 2025 at 02:39 PM