



Steven A. Wagner

November 23, 1953 - February 5, 2024

Steven A. Wagner, 70, of Poneto, Indiana passed away at his home on February 5, 2024.

He was born on November 23, 1953, to Victor and MaryAnn Wagner in Ft. Wayne, IN. After Steve graduated from Brebeuf Jesuit High School in 1972, he went on to study Biology at Wabash College. In 1973, Steve met Nancy Carroll and they were married in Ft. Wayne in 1975.

They went on to have four sons, who benefitted from his intentional mentorship, coaching, soft-spoken advice, and dry sense of humor. After an illustrious academic and athletic college career, Steve moved to Wells County in 1976 to begin his teaching career at the new Bluffton Jr./Sr. High School. During his teaching tenure, he was selected as a Fulbright Scholar and instructed for a year at The Hundred of the Who school in Rochester, Kent, England. Steve taught Biology at Bluffton until 1995 when he accepted a position as Director of Guidance at Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School. He also held three Master's Degrees from Ball State and IPFW. Steve's influence on colleagues and students was unmatched, and he was greatly missed following his retirement in 2020.

Steve was a devout parishioner at St. Joseph Catholic Church, a constant friend, an avid reader, an indifferent sports fan, and a generous community member. He will be remembered for prioritizing his family, students, athletes, friends, and faith.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and MaryAnn; parents-in-

law, James and Ann Carroll; sister, Vickie Oslos and sister-in-law Marilyn Wagner.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Nancy; his sons, Joshua (Megan), Benjamin (Jennifer), Peter (Laura), and Samuel, grandchildren; Justin, Abigail, Gabriel, Adrienne, Scarlett, Ainsley, Oscar, August, and Owen; his siblings, Richard (Liz) Wagner, Dianne (Wendell Walls) Wagner, Daniel (Joyce) Wagner, and Donald Wagner; sister-in-law Susan (Thomas) Dunlap, brothers-in-law David (Julie) Carroll and Jimmy Carroll; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Sunday, (Feb. 11, 2024) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 5 P.M..

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 A.M. on Monday, (Feb. 12, 2024) at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton with Father David Violi celebrating mass. Visitation will be held on Monday for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow mass at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Bluffton, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Steve's name to Bluffton-Southern Wells Dollars for Scholars or Family Centered Services and can 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 send online condolences to the Wagner family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

3600 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-2832
<http://www.stjosephchurchbluffton.org>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 11. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Rosary Service

FEB 11. 5:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Visitation

FEB 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1300 North Main Street
Bluffton
Bluffton, IN 46714

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1300 North Main Street
Bluffton
Bluffton, IN 46714

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Steven A. Wagner*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 11, 2024 at 11:08 AM

CA

What an awesome legacy! I'm amazed at what Steve did with his life. I'll be praying for his family.

Chad Anderson - February 15, 2024 at 09:42 AM

CE

“ *Steve and I were good friends at St. Christopher, and both attended Brebeuf Jesuit. I remember his terrific sense of humor, his athleticism and seemingly endless energy. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. I'm certain he will be missed terribly.*

Chris Easterday - November 05, 2025 at 07:53 PM

AS

“ *Nancy, this is Anne (and Tom) Sherbondy. We are so sorry to hear of your Steven's passing; had we known before today, we would have come to his funeral Mass. It is true that we only met the both of you the one time (in Rem's hospital room) but it such a pleasure to meet him and you, knowing your deep love and care for Rem (Tom's Bridge partner). God Bless you and your family. We are so sorry for your loss.*

Anne L Sherbondy - February 19, 2024 at 02:31 PM

LE

“ Steve blessed a lot of people during his lifetime and will be missed by so many. We are praying for all of you. Love, Leah, Nick, Rachel, and Lydia Baumgartner

Leah - February 12, 2024 at 08:26 AM

DJ

“ Nancy and family, we were so sad to hear about the passing of Steve. We had only had the honor of meeting him within the last year. Stan and Steve bonded over Magoo. Then we were able to keep Magoo while you took that trip late last summer. What a special couple you were. We will be keeping all of you in our prayers.

Stan and Diane Johnson

Diane Johnson - February 11, 2024 at 05:09 PM

MM

“ On behalf of Mary and I who both had Mr Wagner as a Teacher or Coach at Bluffton we are so sorry to hear the news of his passing. Our Love and prayers go out to Nancy and all the family. Mr Wagner will be greatly missed!!

Mike and Mary Murray - February 11, 2024 at 01:17 PM



“ Steve was a great man and even better father. He and Nancy were kind enough to invite me into their house during a college break when Ben convinced me that visiting Poneto was an experience I couldn't pass up. Although Ben attempted to convert me to Catholicism during that visit, the highlight of the trip was the banter that I shared with Steve. His sense of humor was infectious and he always kept me on my toes. I always tried to make a point to talk to him when the Wagner clan rolled into Crawfordsville for a Wabash visit because he was always a joy to be around. Although I was never a student of his, I can only imagine how significant and positive the impact was that he had on his students considering the impact he had on me with the short periods of time that we had together. He will always have a special place in my heart and I want to express my sincere condolences to the Wagner Family.

-Jeremy Johnson

Jeremy Johnson - February 10, 2024 at 12:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Steven A. Wagner.



February 09, 2024 at 06:20 PM

TC

“ As beloved members of the Wabash College community, our father and mother, Chick and Janet Clements, embraced Steve and Nancy as close and dear forever friends. While Janet is no longer with us, Chick still has the clarity to remember, with fondness, his time in “The Cage” with Josh and Ben. For those who don’t know, “The Cage” was an area in the old Wabash Athletic Dept. where many student athletes, including Steve, readied themselves, not only for practice and games, but also for life. It seems Steve’s accomplishments in his academic, work and family life are shining examples of that readiness.

The family of Chick and Janet Clements - February 09, 2024 at 06:13 PM

CG

“ Chris, Melissa and Heather Gilchrist purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Steven A. Wagner.



Chris, Melissa and Heather Gilchrist - February 09, 2024 at 03:17 PM

MR

“ On behalf of the McArdles who were either taught and/or coached by this wonderful man, we send our condolences and heartfelt prayers to the family.

Mary McArdle Ramirez - February 09, 2024 at 01:26 PM



“ 152 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - February 09, 2024 at 12:57 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Steven A. Wagner.



February 09, 2024 at 10:03 AM



“ Paige Hamilton & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Wagner.

Paige Hamilton & family - February 07, 2024 at 05:43 PM



“ Paige Hamilton & family purchased the Serene R etreat for the family of Steven A. Wagner.



Paige Hamilton & family - February 07, 2024 at 05:43 PM

DA

“ Oh my gosh, I can't believe this. Steve and I were classmates in grade school at St. Christopher in Speedway, and in high school at Brebeuf Prep. A couple of west-siders. After college I lost track of him, but so many wonderful memories. . . That trip to Florida for Spring break as high school seniors with Rick Gleason and A.J. Hackl . . . He was a wonderful person, and very passionate about his beliefs. My deepest condolences to his family. -- Dave Theising, Brebeuf '72.

David - February 07, 2024 at 04:51 PM

BG

“ Mr. Wagner was my 8th grade science teacher and football coach at Bluffton Jr. High School back in the late 70's. I learned so many life lessons from him.

Our careers in education took similar paths, several years at BHMSD before being called to serve at Southern Wells. Throughout our time together Mr. Wagner and his wife, Nancy, always made me feel affirmed, supported and valued. He impacted my life in so many ways, and I will always be grateful for his investment in me. My thoughts and prayers are with Nancy, the boys and the rest of his family.

Brett Garrett

Brett Garrett - February 07, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ Both memories and condolences. Steve was a wonderful classmate at Brebeuf. He made positive contributions to all with whom he interacted. He will be missed. Bill Horin Brebeuf '72.

William Horin - February 07, 2024 at 02:53 PM

LC

“ Love, BCCHS Girls BBall Team and Coaches purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Steven A. Wagner.



Love, BCCHS Girls BBall Team and Coaches - February 07, 2024 at 12:33 PM

RG

“ My deepest and most heartfelt condolences to you, Nancy and your children and grandchildren. Steve was one of a kind. Steve was a true friend. His character was of the highest integrity. He always looked for the positive in every situation. Never made rash decisions. Didn't gossip. Deeply cared for people. Always looked for a solution, not an excuse. Never blamed. Never held a grudge. Was always forgiving. Always had/found/took time to listen. Didn't display anger or a temper. Loved kids. Loved teaching. Loved going to work every day. Made everyone around him a better person.

Family always came first. He loved you, Nancy, and all of your children and grandchildren with every fiber in his being. Loved God. Always made decisions based on how it would/could/might impact his family. Steve always put everyone ahead of himself.

I could continue with infinite stories - and I mean infinite. Steve left a deep hole in many of our hearts. I wish I could say thank you to him one more time. The hurt will subside and maybe someday leave. It is okay. Take time to grieve and celebrate.

Ron Gremaux - February 07, 2024 at 12:18 PM

RK

I talked about Mr. Wagner a couple of weeks ago. I talk about you as well Mr. Gremaux. Hope you and family are well and am sure glad to have had you as a teacher and coach! I was a wimp but it helped start to toughen me up.

robert karas - February 07, 2024 at 09:50 PM

RK

Hope you're well coach! Thanks for being my teacher and coach!

robert karas - February 07, 2024 at 09:56 PM

SH

“*For Nancy and his sons my soul cries, but all memories of my time with Steve are uplifting. We met as teammates at Wabash, where he was a relentless hard running fullback and my lab partner in anatomy. We both married Dwenger girls in 1975 and lived near each other in C-ville. We shared sarcastic senses of humor and our mutual friendship and respect for Rem. Our last conversation in September was filled with smiles and a comraderie I cherish today.*

Stan Huth - February 07, 2024 at 10:38 AM

SC

“*"Mr. Wagner" (because I could never bring myself to call him Steve), was one of the best teachers I've ever met. Not only did his quirky style make him fun in class but he was also just genuinely a decent man. I met him as a shy freshmen when I had no self-confidence and felt abnormal among my peers because I had a 'funny' accent and hadn't been in the States long. However, Mr. Wagner was an Anglophile who found a way to make me feel like I belonged whenever he saw me. He was good at teasing but in the best way possible and he told goofy stories about his kids which made us laugh. He was a bright spot in the otherwise dark times of a high school freshman when not all of the teachers were as nice and compassionate or as dedicated to actually helping us learn both the book skills and the social skills we'd need to survive. We bonded over our affinity for the musical, "Cats" and I'll never hear the song "Mr. Mistoffolees" without thinking of him....and the unfortunate feline namesake that was the subject of our advanced bio dissection! Thank you, Mr. Wagner- you will be missed. Thank you for making this British fish-out-of-water's high school days brighter.*

Samantha Clements - February 07, 2024 at 10:11 AM

TH

Nancy and the family

Sorry to hear and total shock about Steve. He will be missed and his smile. thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time

Sincerely yours

Tammi K Helm

Tammi K Helm - February 07, 2024 at 02:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Steven A. Wagner.*



February 07, 2024 at 09:19 AM

DE

“ *Debbie and Joe Elkins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Wagner.*

Debbie and Joe Elkins - February 07, 2024 at 08:21 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Steven A. Wagner.*



February 07, 2024 at 08:21 AM

LM

“ *Liz Tina Morris lit a candle in memory of Steven Wagner*



Liz & Tina Morris - February 07, 2024 at 08:15 AM

TS

“ *Steve Wagner was a generous man, teacher, and friend. My daughter enjoyed his help on the Canada canoe trips. Steve helped me with cutting drywall for an addition in my Bluffton home. Very appreciated! He will be greatly missed.*

Tom Schwartz - February 07, 2024 at 07:43 AM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Steven A. Wagner.*



February 07, 2024 at 01:29 AM

DH

“ *Donita Harris lit a candle in memory of Steven Wagner*



Donita Harris - February 06, 2024 at 11:57 PM

BK

“ It is with a heavy heart and deep sadness that I say "see ya later" because I refuse to say good bye. I have loved Steve since 1974. We taught together, argued, debated, yelled, laughed a whole bunch- even if it might have been a bit inappropriate, we cried on occasion. Sometimes Steve has this way of slow stutter talking when he is trying to make some obtuse point and sometimes after several stops and starts and he still didn't seem to be hitting his point .I would just say , "shut up, Steve" and turn to walk away. We never left it like that for long though because we rather enjoyed our wide ranged discussions that could get loud! He is bright, quick, clever, compassionate, empathetic, caring. He was a consummate educator, strong father who understood the power of unconditional love, and who lived his life in such a way that his sons knew just what he valued, what mattered, a loving grandfather, and a rather remarkable husband. He was a fabulous friend, a man of integrity, honor, empathy, And a solid sense and appreciation for doing what is right. I will miss him more than I can even know now, but I can unequivocally say, that whenever he slips through my mind, a memory, that Wagner snicker/ chuckle/ cockeyed grin, well, whenever I think of him, it will be with a smile, always. I am saddened because he is gone, but I am more grateful that he was here and that I was his friend.

Billy Kreigh - February 06, 2024 at 11:44 PM



“ 7 files added to the album *Photos of Steve and Nancy*



Karen York - February 06, 2024 at 11:40 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Photo's of Steve*



Karen York - February 06, 2024 at 11:13 PM

JS

“ I had the great pleasure of meeting you many years ago at Southern Wells School. You played a large role in my children’s academic careers and achievements. You were a regular, friendly face at all of Sadie’s annual IEP meetings and always focused on the positives and helped put me at ease when she was struggling. I will forever be grateful she had you to look after her and help guide her to graduation. She thought very highly of you as did my other child, Taylor. From the moment I first met you, I could tell you had a genuine love for your profession and for all the kids. Your large heart has touched many lives and anyone whose path crossed yours was truly blessed. The world needs more kind souls like yours. Rest easy Mr. Wagner. You leave behind a great legacy and your impact on this world will be felt for many years to come. Thank you for being such a guiding light in this world!!
Jennifer Stefanko

Jennifer Stefanko - February 06, 2024 at 10:30 PM

PB

“ To the family of Steve Wagner, I am shocked to read of Steve's passing. I do not know the words to express my condolences to all of you. Steve was a great man and dear friend from the time I got to meet him many years ago at Bluffton High School, mainly as a football coach for the Tigers. After that I had the privilege of being around him at Southern Wells. Being a sports writer and editor for the News-Banner, I had the honor of knowing him as a loving father and mentor to his sons, who I had the privilege to cover their exploits in athletics. I wish I knew exactly what else to write. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. My sincere love to all of you and I wish you peace and comfort in your time of sorrow and loss. A friend, Paul Beitler.

Paul Beitler - February 06, 2024 at 10:01 PM

LH

“ So sad. He was the best teacher. He always asked me about Lenn and LaChele even when we surprise to see him at a gas station on 69 heading home from the kids. The best!! 🙏🙏🙏's for the family.



Laurae and Larry Henkle - February 06, 2024 at 06:46 PM

DS

“ Dan & Larisa Sudhoff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Wagner.

Dan & Larisa Sudhoff - February 06, 2024 at 06:35 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven A. Wagner.



February 06, 2024 at 06:35 PM