



Mr. Stephen M. Milam

September 22, 1957 - July 26, 2022

Acclaimed author George R.R. Martin aptly explains, “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only once.” Steve Milam, without question, is a man who lived those thousand lives, and then some.

One book or another always in hand, Steve was quick to steal five minutes in the company of the written word. And, there, he lived among the greats – deep sea fishing off Bemini with Hemingway; traversing Middle Earth with Tolkien; shooting big game in the long grass with Capstick. Beyond those pages, Steve wrote his own memorable story, touching the lives of those he encountered in countless ways until his passing, much too soon, on July 26, 2022, at the age of 64.

Stephen McPeake Milam was born on September 22, 1957, the son of Arba Milam Taylor and Herbert Milam. Born on his mother’s birthday, he was beloved from the moment he entered this world. A natural student and a skilled marksman, when Steve was not patrolling the hardwoods of the family farm in Stringtown for wayward squirrels with his cousins, he was captivating his classmates with his seemingly endless knowledge of everything from Cortes’ expeditions to the seating capacity of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Steve graduated from Lexington High School in 1975. He then obtained his Bachelor of Science from the University of Tennessee at Martin. In 1982, Steve obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee

College of Law, after which, he returned home to begin his law practice – one that would thrive and serve his home community for 40 years.

In the courtroom, Steve's keen intellect, combined with his natural charm, established his reputation as a consummate counselor. From the house on Main Street, Steve provided expert legal advice while curating the perfect spot to showcase the spoils of another great love: Hunting.

An avid hunter, from bullfrogs to charging lions, Steve's adventures were extraordinary – African safaris; white-water rafting the crocodile infested Zambezi River; bear hunts in Canada and wood bison and wolf hunts along the Arctic; wing-shooting in Argentina, New Zealand, Ireland, Mexico, Canada, and across much the contiguous United States. And when he returned – whether from a different continent or a different county – it was to adoring family and friends eager to hear his tales.

Steve leaves behind many loved ones who will continue to tell his stories: His adoring wife of nearly 14 years, June, who he married on the first day of spring at high noon (a tribute to one of his favorite movies); his mother, Arba Milam Taylor; his children, Stephen McPeake Milam II and his wife Jacy; Jennifer Milam Lankford and her husband Brent; William Johnson Milam and his wife Roberta. And, of course, his step-children: Shara Beecham Begani and her husband Nate, along with Derek L. Beecham. Steve is also survived by his many grandchildren: Story, Shep, Catherine, Clark, Walt, Max, Anne, Mae, James, Lochlan, and Lincoln, all of whom have parents charged with ensuring that Granddaddy is remembered – his big voice, hearty laugh, and of course, that handsome mustache.

Steve will also be remembered by countless friends – those who joined him to watch the Saturday night fights; or kept him company in duck blinds and goose pits, along fence rows, field edges, behind working bird dogs or baying rabbit beagles; along with numerous colleagues who stood alongside him in the courtroom; and the especially lucky ones who had the opportunity to join him for a good meal, a glass of whiskey, and captivating conversation.

Indeed, Steve is gone too soon, but may his story forever continue in the fond

remembrances and the hearts of those he held dear.

Family and friends may gather to honor Steve's life on Saturday, July 30th at Pafford Funeral Home. Visitation will take place from 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m., with the memorial service to immediately follow. Pallbearers include: Stephen Milam, Bill Milam, Stan McPeake, Richard Walker, Ken Walker, Benjamin Walker, Andrew McPeake, Jack Hinson, Johnny Melton, Jeff Powers, Cole Wood, Jim Meyers, Steve Beal, and David Turner.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home - Lexington, TN
71 Monroe Ave.
Lexington, TN

Memorial Service

JUL 30. 4:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home - Lexington, TN
71 Monroe Ave.
Lexington, TN

Tribute Wall



“ Pafford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Pafford Funeral Home - July 29, 2022 at 02:19 PM

CP

So sorry for your lost he was a very good man and a lot of people love him RIP Mr stephenMilam

Christina parker - August 26, 2022 at 08:43 PM

DS

Terrible way to find out this news. He was such a good person, and meant the world to me. RIP my friend

Darlene Swindell - September 03, 2022 at 12:15 PM

DS

“ Darlene Swindell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Darlene Swindell - September 03, 2022 at 12:38 PM

June
Milam

“ I feel profound sadness in the reading of Steve’s passing. Although we were only on one safari together, I remember those days like they were yesterday. Back in 1996 Tanzania, East Africa was a wild place and to succeed client and Professional Hunter had to work together. What I remember most was Steve’s profound sense of humour. We laughed and joked all day long about the dumbest stuff and then well into the night encouraged by shots of courage around a blazing camp fire. And yet when push came to shove, Steve made one great shot after another on game that mattered. The big male lion on a rock that Steve later killed in full charge, a last minute leopard at last light, Cape buffalo bulls so old and mean we never knew who would be victorious, them or us.

Although the years slipped by our friendship stayed true as evidenced by whenever we talked it was like two old friends; we never missed a beat. Steve was memorable. He was smart. He was funny. When he spoke you listened as he always had something interesting to say. Most of all Steve was my friend. And when it’s my time to go, I will take that friendship to my grave. God Bless you Stephen McPeake Milam. You will always be missed.

June Milam - August 09, 2022 at 07:41 AM

June
Milam

Message sent by Mark Sullivan, guide in Tanzania.

June Milam - August 09, 2022 at 07:47 AM

RS

“ Rhonda Sanders sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Rhonda Sanders - July 31, 2022 at 03:39 PM

YY

“ Prayers for June and the family.



Yvonne Yates - July 31, 2022 at 10:26 AM

JW

“ Jo Weatherford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Jo Weatherford - July 30, 2022 at 10:16 PM

JW

I am thankful I met you in this life. You helped me many times. RIP

Jo Weatherford - July 30, 2022 at 10:17 PM

PR

“ Steve will be missed . His bigger than life personality could light up a room. Spent many hours solving the worlds problems out on Lake Piney in the summer of 1977.



Patti Roberts - July 30, 2022 at 01:13 PM

KW

“ *Kim Hays Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam*



Kim Hays Wilson - July 29, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *138 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Pafford Funeral Home - July 29, 2022 at 02:16 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



July 29, 2022 at 01:01 PM

MC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to Steves family. He will be missed. A wonderful man. Matt & Teresa Collins*

matt collins - July 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM

BB

“ *Brian B. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



Brian B. - July 29, 2022 at 09:40 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



July 29, 2022 at 05:54 AM



“ *Ginger Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam*



Ginger Taylor - July 28, 2022 at 11:55 PM

RG

“ *Steve was always such a nice guy in school, and very smart. plus he would always take the time to help when a student may get stuck on a problem, even as an adult he always had a kind word to everyone, and would give honest advice to one in need. this town will surely miss him because he is a legend in my eyes, Prayers to his wife June, His Mother and to his children, May GOD comfort and help you through this..*

Ronnie Dyer (n) Ricky Gooch - July 28, 2022 at 11:41 PM

RG

“ *Ronnie Dyer (n) Ricky Gooch lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam*



Ronnie Dyer (n) Ricky Gooch - July 28, 2022 at 11:34 PM

AC

“ *Alice Cook lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam*



Alice Cook - July 28, 2022 at 10:00 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



July 28, 2022 at 09:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



July 28, 2022 at 09:47 PM

JW

“ So sorry. He will be missed

Joe and Janice Wadley - July 28, 2022 at 09:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.



July 28, 2022 at 08:47 PM

FS

“ I really didn't meet Steve Milam until he was already an attorney.... But growing up in Stringtown (a great community) his reputation and image was a part of my life. Sparing all details but I worked for him while in law school etc and eventually was with him and Kevin (MilamCarter and Stanfill) in the most awesome law office I have ever had the privilege of being in. Later, I went to work for the State but Steve was always my friend. I have told the story several times (and always get chocked up) when he saw my son Casey and me in the check out line at Food Giant probably 12 years ago. He was in front of us and we spoke. He waited on us to check and then told my son how much he thought of me, what a great friend I was to everyone and how my son Casey should be Ptoud to have me as a father. Casey shook his hand and asked when he left, "Dad, who was that?" I said my friend, Stephen McPeake Milam! RIP Steve and Godspeed

Frankie Stanfill - July 28, 2022 at 08:32 PM

SL

“ Sarah Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Sarah Lewis - July 28, 2022 at 07:28 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.



July 28, 2022 at 06:46 PM

KH

“ Karen McPeake Hickerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Karen McPeake Hickerson - July 28, 2022 at 06:44 PM

TA

“ Condolences from Bobby Ayers and family.



Teresa Ayers - July 28, 2022 at 05:41 PM

JF

“ I'm gone miss you my friend... I enjoyed working with you in court... always laughs I thought the world of you rest in peace my friend... Love Boo



Jennifer Fields - July 28, 2022 at 05:15 PM

EA

“ Eddie & Lori Akins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Eddie & Lori Akins - July 28, 2022 at 04:53 PM

AW

From the Ford family rest in peace

Aredia williams - July 28, 2022 at 05:10 PM

RP

“ Rainey,Kizer, Reviere & Bell, PLC purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.



Rainey,Kizer, Reviere & Bell, PLC - July 28, 2022 at 04:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



July 28, 2022 at 03:40 PM



“ *The Employee Relations Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



The Employee Relations Team - July 28, 2022 at 01:05 PM



“ *Cracker Barrel Legal Team purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



Cracker Barrel Legal Team - July 28, 2022 at 12:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



July 28, 2022 at 12:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.



July 28, 2022 at 11:40 AM



“ Will be missed, enjoyed working with Steve over the years. Hate to hear this.

David Dowdy - July 28, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ Steve was my friend, we enjoyed deer hunting together. He was a outstanding sportsman and loved the adventures of the outdoors. His late uncle Charles McPeake and I graduated from LHS together in 1963. My condolences and prayers to all of his family. Lexington has lost three attorneys in a relatively short time, Dan Perky, Carthel Smith and now Steve, that's a big loss for us.

Bobby Cogdell - July 28, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ Prayers of comfort to the family

DONNA KENNY-SEAMAN - July 28, 2022 at 08:56 AM

SJ

“ *The Jamison's Send Our deepest
Condolences to the family of Mr. Milam*



Sean Jamison - July 28, 2022 at 08:45 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



July 28, 2022 at 08:31 AM

AS

“ *Alicia Scott lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Stephen M. Milam*



Alicia Scott - July 28, 2022 at 07:05 AM

CK

“ *Charlotte Kizer lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Stephen M. Milam*



Charlotte Kizer - July 28, 2022 at 06:46 AM

JP

“ Loving memory of a strong, soooooo smart, young man that was so loved. Tweetie bird, Tweets.

Jo Ella Parks - July 27, 2022 at 11:51 PM

JR

“ Jay And Denise Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Jay and Denise Reynolds - July 27, 2022 at 11:13 PM

GF

“ My memories of Steve are deep and strong as he and I were great friends during high school. We were big pranksters but it was always good clean fun. Above all my memory of Steve was that he was a true friend. Though I've lived far away from Lexington since high school, memories of my friend Steve have never left my heart and never will. Deepest condolences to his family and his mother Arba. Greg Frizzell

Gregory Frizzell - July 27, 2022 at 10:33 PM

LE

“ Linda Elam lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Linda Elam - July 27, 2022 at 10:17 PM

BM

“ I always considered Steve to be a friend and we had our differences as all lawyers do and thus we battled each other on cases, but always in a civil manner and nothing personal as to the cases or their outcome. I have been sorry to know of his physical health issues and can be in understanding with those that I have had and still do, although I was much older. Due to my current problems it is hard for me to get out and will not be able to do his visitation or funeral, but will be thinking of him, June and Arba. May he rest in peace.

Bill R Martin - July 27, 2022 at 09:03 PM

RG

“ ROY GURLEY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



ROY GURLEY - July 27, 2022 at 08:22 PM

RG

“ ROY GURLEY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



ROY GURLEY - July 27, 2022 at 08:22 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Stephen M. Milam.*



July 27, 2022 at 08:11 PM



“ *Tracy Hollis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam*



Tracy Hollis - July 27, 2022 at 07:40 PM



“ *Paula Wisinski lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam*



Paula Wisinski - July 27, 2022 at 07:33 PM



“ *Kim Hall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam*



Kim Hall - July 27, 2022 at 07:30 PM

KP

“ Keith & Debbie Patterson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Keith & Debbie Patterson - July 27, 2022 at 07:30 PM

SW

“ Susie White Willis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Susie White Willis - July 27, 2022 at 07:06 PM

BC

“ Brenda Casey sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Stephen M. Milam



Brenda Casey - July 27, 2022 at 01:39 PM