

Dr. Stephen Morley Burton

September 18, 1936 ~ July 20, 2024

Our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend, Dr. Stephen Morley Burton, peacefully passed away early Saturday morning, July 20, 2024, at his home.

Steve was born September 18, 1936, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Oliver Thompson and Zelda Coombs Burton. He was the youngest of four children, who lost their father when Steve was only four years old. Steve felt that loss his entire life, and he developed a strong bond with his mother, going to her house for lunch every Monday, and as an extended family for dessert every Sunday. Zelda was an amazing hostess who loved being surrounded by family, and those qualities were passed on to Steve. We are so happy that he is reunited with his parents again!

Steve has always been a charismatic, charming person. At East High School, he sang in choirs and was involved with student government, making lifelong friendships. After graduating from high school, Steve served as a missionary in the Great Lakes Mission, where he was a branch president and learned about enduring even when things were hard. He graduated from the University of Utah in Biology with a teaching degree and taught at West High for one year. The following four years, he attended dental school at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

While attending a dance at the Terrace, Steve looked across the room and saw a beautiful young lady with a dazzling smile. He knew immediately that she was the girl he would marry. She soon became the love of his life and his eternal companion. On August 20, 1965, Steve and Marianne (Ebert) were sealed to each other in the Salt Lake Temple by Elder Harold B. Lee. Throughout their marriage, they exemplified what true love and devotion looks like.

Steve enlisted in the U.S. Army to help pay for dental school and honorably served his country for many years, retiring as a full-bird colonel. Steve was on active duty during three wars and lived in Germany for part of his service.

Steve and Marianne welcomed six children into their hearts, whom they dearly loved. They were the crowning jewels of their lives. Steve led by example and taught many lasting lessons, such as hard work, forever families, living within your means, enduring to the end, and treating everyone with kindness and respect.

Steve has always used his hands for good. As a dentist, he helped children and adults look forward to coming to the dentist and refused to charge missionaries who needed dental work done. As a teacher, he made everyone feel welcome in his class and enjoyed meaningful discussions. As a golfer, he played every week and loved the camaraderie. As a builder, he constructed his beloved cabin with his Uncle Ken. He also built the home in which he and Marianne raised their children. He knew every nail and board, and we knew we were living in a home built with love.

Besides his home and the temple, Steve’s favorite place was the cabin. Many happy memories were made there as the family snowmobiled in the winter and fished and hiked in the summer. The cabin has become a legacy, a place where his children and grandchildren love to gather.

Steve had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh and to tease, which he continued doing to the very end. He made up silly nicknames for all his kids and his wife. Even though he had a beautiful singing voice, he started singing Happy Birthday terribly off-key, which became a family tradition. He would also read our cards to him out loud and would change the wording to make us laugh.

Steve received the Utah Dental Association Distinguished Service award. He was a member of Pierre Fauchard Academy, an international honorary dental association. He was chairman of the board of PIE (Professional Insurance Exchange) from 1985 to April 2023, 38 years. He was part of the Utah National Guard from 1954 to September 1996. Steve didn’t serve for accolades or fame, but he accomplished much by doing good for others.

Steve was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and he loved his Savior. He served in many callings throughout his life, including branch president on his mission and while in the army, stationed in Germany, as well as Sunday school teacher, scout master, elders quorum president, counselor to two bishops, and a high counselor. Steve loved serving with Marianne in the Salt Lake Temple for 20 years and loved being married to his favorite person for almost 59 years.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Maxine and Warren McAllister, Carol Burton, Janis and Sam Cox, and a cherished granddaughter, Sophie. He is survived by his sweetheart, Marianne, his children, Tracy (Mike), Stephen (Rebecca), Nicole (John), Richard (Karin), Rachel (Christopher), and Jen (Pete), 27 grandchildren, Christopher (Jessica), Madeline, Stephen, Sarah, Isaac, Mary, Michael, Jonathon, Emma, Lizzy (Jim), Taylor (Megan), Rebecca (Seth), Jacob, Brooklyn, Andrew, John, Ben, Will, Thomas, James, Topher, Burton, Sydney, Charlotte, Ainsley, Molly, and Ellie, and five great-grandchildren. Steve is also survived by his best friend and brother, Richard, someone he greatly admired.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 27, at 12 noon at the LDS Chapel located at 1320 South Wasatch Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah. Friends and family may visit Saturday between 10 and 11:45 a.m. at the church.

Interment will be at the Memorial Mountain View Cemetery on Monday, July 29, 2024, at 9:30 am.

Those wishing to view a recording of the service via Zoom can click "Watch Service" or follow the link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/QDe9t3kXqR_2vFvhaSb1hwlN3nF9WZ2-9SOUFwEX8LqqIRz5F__Hq0LaOpGKAcY.p

Those wishing to view the Completed graveside service can follow the link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/F0NnP3UPITHcurWYX8FVdvIeYsio8SyvS4VDI3D7KuS9qqzUF6JK3q8Fn5p8_sI.Am4