



## Jeffrey Scott Stevens

May 6, 1974 - September 20, 2021

Jeffrey "Jeff" Stevens, age 47, died peacefully on September 20 surrounded by his family after a courageous battle against cancer. He is loved, admired and respected by many and will be truly missed by all that knew him.

Jeff was born on May 6, 1974 in Minot, North Dakota to Michael and Connie Stevens. He graduated from Fargo South High School where he was a standout athlete. Jeff was a North Dakota Mr. Basketball finalist and key member of the baseball team that competed in the 1992 American Legion World Series. He began college at North Dakota State University and went on to become a two-time All-American basketball player for Black Hills State University (BHSU). He was inducted into the Hall of Fame for both BHSU and the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference.

Jeff brought the same sense of teamwork to his career in the financial services industry. After joining BlackRock in 2010, he helped the global investment firm achieve record results in the D.C. market and in 2017 became National Sales Manager. Jeff always made time for others. He cared deeply about the people he worked with and had the ability to genuinely connect with anyone. He nudged and coached colleagues through challenges and took pride in their successes.

Jeff's greatest pride was his family, as husband to Erica and father to Maia

(15), Michael (13) and Maren (9). He absolutely loved spending time with his kids, bringing his warmth, humor and encouragement to his role as a parent. One of his greatest joys was to coach his own kids and cheer on others. His love of the game fueled his contributions to the development of a youth basketball program where he coached girls' and boys' teams of all ages and mentored players.

One of the many special and admirable things about Jeff is that he was always fully himself. That simple, likeable authenticity showed up in so many ways - as a fan of Weird Al Yankovic and an ever bigger fan of bacon. As someone who loved to swap stories over Miller Lites. As a road warrior who never got tired of cashing in hotel points or using fax machines. As a quick wit and charming goofball. The outpouring of love and support over the past year is testament to how Jeff inspired warmth and friendship among so many people throughout his life.

Jeff is survived by his wife Erica (Solberg); children Maia, Michael, and Maren; mother Connie Ford (Marc); mother- and father-in-law, Larry and Shirley Solberg; brother Jason Stevens (Kristi); sister Kelly Buffington (Mark); brother-in-law Sean Solberg (Monica); and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and his grandparents.

A memorial service will be held at 12pm on Thursday, Sept. 30 at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church (5025 Knox Ave S., Minneapolis) with a visitation beginning at 11am. Memorials in honor of Jeff can be sent to The Family of Jeff Stevens Benefit Fund, Bell Bank, 5050 13th Ave SW, Fargo, ND 58103 to benefit Maia, Michael and Maren. Memorials may also be sent to the Jeff Stevens Memorial Scholarship Fund for the Minneapolis Lakers Youth Traveling Basketball Association at <https://www.mplslakers.org/jeffstevens>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **30**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)  
5025 Knox Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

## Memorial Service

SEP **30**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)  
5025 Knox Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

# Tribute Wall



“ *My friends big brother Jeff. Big in size, big in heart, big in warmth, big in friendship, big in game, big in life, big hole in our hearts to fill.*

*You left a lasting impression and will be so sorely missed.*

*Our love to the whole extended Stevens family.*

*The Lucketts*

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**Lucky** - September 30, 2021 at 02:24 PM



“ *Dear Stevens family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I met Jeff some 20 years ago through our industry and he quickly went from “work” friend to just my friend. That is how special Jeff made everyone feel and the impact he made on so many. I always looked forward to our get togethers and chats about family, work and Vikings.  
My deepest sympathies.*

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**Yaqub Ahmed** - September 30, 2021 at 10:38 AM

JM

“ To the Stevens family, our hearts are heavy for your incredible loss.

*I was blessed to have met Jeff back in college and to have become close friends. I always looked up to him and was so thankful to call him my friend. He was truly one of a kind - a child like boy with his goofy games stuck in a giant's body. Always laughter, always having fun.*

*I admired his talent, but mostly his grace. He treated everyone well. I will sure miss my friend.*

*May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding be with your family.*

*The McNames Family*

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**Josh McNames** - September 30, 2021 at 07:11 AM

TL

“ To the Steven's Family- Jeff was a great retirement industry friend for years and his passing is simply heartbreaking. It is important that you know that he was one of the most beloved figures in our business who had a positive impact on everyone he came in contact with. He was incredibly bright, engaging and had a huge heart. My last time spent with Jeff was during the summer of 2019 at a Chicago Cubs game hosted by our close friend Jason Crane. It was an amazing day. I feel fortunate to have had the pleasure and privilege of calling Jeff a friend and along with many, many others, will miss him dearly. I am so sorry for your loss and please know that there a lot of us in your court sending our thoughts and prayers.

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**Todd Lacey** - September 29, 2021 at 10:48 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 29, 2021 at 01:08 PM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 29, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 29, 2021 at 10:47 AM



“ *Derek Cook purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



**Derek Cook** - September 29, 2021 at 10:38 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



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September 28, 2021 at 10:08 PM



“ *Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



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September 28, 2021 at 03:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



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September 28, 2021 at 03:06 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



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September 28, 2021 at 01:50 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 28, 2021 at 12:18 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 28, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 27, 2021 at 07:22 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 27, 2021 at 07:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.



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September 27, 2021 at 04:51 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.



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September 27, 2021 at 11:55 AM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia* was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.



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September 27, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.



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September 26, 2021 at 06:36 PM

HO

“ To all the Stevens family, we are so sorry for your loss. I remember Jeff as the little boy who said his name Deff Dott and held my hand walking on the old farm place. He always had the biggest smile and infectious laugh. He grew up to be a great man. He was a star athlete, a star in his work and a star family man. We truly loved the times your work brought you to Des Moines and we'd get to see how well you were doing. In all your actions you always showed how much you cared for all of your family. You will be missed by all of our family. Your time was too short but it was well spent.

*Love, Harlee and Danita*

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**Harlee Olafson** - September 24, 2021 at 02:47 PM

AK

“ Dear Stevens and Solberg Family, I am so, so sorry for your heartbreaking loss. Kelly and my daughter, Laurie Nelson Hernandez, were high school friends. Shirley, I did not know Jeff was your son-in-law. You are all in my thoughts and prayers at such a sad time as this.

*Angie Fiechtner Knapp*

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**Angie Fiechtner Knapp** - September 23, 2021 at 10:07 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.



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September 23, 2021 at 03:31 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 23, 2021 at 12:06 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



September 23, 2021 at 11:51 AM



“ *Jeff - I always felt it to be a privilege to know you throughout these years - you were a man of character and integrity. I've enjoyed sharing the word of the Lord with you this past year or two - my hope is that it provided you with comfort throughout all of your pain. Rest assured your legacy will follow through within your family and through your friends - you are gone but certainly not forgotten. Rest easy legend.*

**Paul Nepodal** - September 23, 2021 at 11:34 AM



“ *BHSU BB Team and Friends purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



**BHSU BB Team and Friends** - September 23, 2021 at 11:30 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



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September 23, 2021 at 09:49 AM



“ *Jeff was a classic "gentle giant". He was a big, powerful man who had a tender heart that over flowed with love for people. He was a man of accomplishment and a man of humility. He was an accomplished athlete, an accomplished businessman and most importantly an accomplished husband and father. He left this world far too soon. but he left this world a better place because of himself having been in it. I shall miss him. I'm so glad I knew him.*

*Dave Engstrom*

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**David Engstrom** - September 23, 2021 at 03:07 AM



*I met Jeff 15 years ago through work but he wasn't a "work" friend, Jeff was simply my friend. He was loved and will be dearly missed by so many in our industry and Jeff made them all feel like his best friend. I always looked forward to our time together to share laughs, talk family, work, and of course the Vikings. Jeff was such an authentic and caring guy and I will miss you so much my friend.*

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**Yaqub Ahmed** - September 25, 2021 at 03:53 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



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September 22, 2021 at 08:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



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September 22, 2021 at 06:57 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Jeff & Friends*



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**Angie Dahlof** - September 22, 2021 at 06:17 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Scott Stevens.*



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September 22, 2021 at 05:28 PM

GP

“ Our heartfelt sympathy in the loss of this much loved young man. I know he meant so very much to his family and to his extended family. His smiling eyes and warm greetings will be a treasured memory. Love, Uncle Clay and Aunt Ginny

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**Ginny Pollert** - September 22, 2021 at 05:25 PM