



Stephen John McKenna

July 2, 1966 - September 12, 2020

Stephen John McKenna of Whitehall, MT was born on July 2, 1966 in Berwyn, IL and reunited with Christ on September 12, 2020.

Loving father of Kaitlyn McKenna (Walter Otterness), Kelsey McKenna, Kiley McKenna and Konner McKenna. Beloved son of Thomas and Judith McKenna, fond brother of Thomas (Jana) McKenna Jr., Joan McKenna, Patricia (James) Hible, Therese (Terrance) Wensmann, and cherished Uncle of 11 nieces and nephews, and two great nieces.

He was also survived by his girlfriend Kristine Iten whom he loved spending time with. Stephen was a tenured microbiologist which led him to Montana in a beautiful landscape where he was able to enjoy all of his life's passions. Along with his family, he loved hunting, fishing, hockey and was an avid tennis player.

He was a loving nephew, and awesomely fun cousin and friend to many.

A private family funeral mass will be held at St. Edward Catholic Church. The family will plan a celebration of life at a later date for all those who knew and loved Stephen so that they can attend safely.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the American Heart Association there is a Tribute Page in Stephens honor:

https://www2.heart.org/site/TR/FunRaiser/General?px=19812611&pg=personal&fr_id=3930

or send to Therese (McKenna) Wensmann at 14243 Shore Crest Drive NW, Prior Lake 55372 to make on his behalf.

Washburn-McReavy.com

Werness Bros 952-884-8145

Tribute Wall

HB

“ I met Steve and his wonderful family in Grand Forks ND. He and I became great friends in a very short time and shared a lot of like interests. I really missed the hunting events we shared and the bonding of our friendship during that time. I'll never forget the many times I climbed a ladder for you not the time you paid me back with the chilling swim to get my snow goose! RIP Stephen McKenna. Prayers for all the family!!

Howard Beddingfield - September 21, 2020 at 02:00 PM

RT

“ I remember the day I met Steve. The McKenna’s were moving into a house on Franklin Turnpike, Ridgewood, New Jersey, early to mid-seventies, I think.

I heard there were kids moving in. I rode back and forth on my bike, waiting for any kids to emerge. I met Steve and we were the best of friends for years.

We were the same age, same size, and had a similar degree of aggression. We were well matched. I remember one time we wanted to play football with the 'big' kids. They said, 'no,' we were too small. Finally they agreed, but we'd have to be on opposing teams, and we'd have to set up against each other.

Ok. Seems fair.

On the first snap, we locked up, grappling, heads down, trying to get the best of each other. It seemed to go on forever.

Finally, “Robbie! Robbie! They’re gone!” Steve said.

Not only had the down ended, but the game ended. The 'big' kids were on the McKenna’s porch, cooling off with some water, while they were watching us wrestle each other.

I’ve heard God watches over children and fools. Well, Steve and I double dipped. When I think about some of the things we did, dangerous things, I shake my head and thank God we got to junior high with all our fingers and both of our eyes. Thank You, God!

I’m not crazy about social media, but I’m happy, after many years, it reconnected me with Steve. He revealed himself to be a thoroughly decent guy.

Rob Teasley

Robert Teasley - September 19, 2020 at 05:10 PM

PH

“ Growing up with Steve in NJ, he was a kind-hearted, fun-loving guy. We played, rode, competed, laughed, chased and argued about almost anything/everything... always parting ways looking forward to doing it again. Sad to see a kind-hearted soul taken so young... my heart goes out to the whole family. I am a better person. for knowing him, and feel blessed to have made meaningful memories together. RIP Steve.

Phil Harvey - September 19, 2020 at 07:40 AM



“ My good buddy we would hang out in his man cave and talk for hours about sports his favorite NFL team was the New York Giants and I would always laugh at him when they would loss a game. We would sing he loved to sing, my brother now your singing with the angles until we meet again rest in peace

Robert Bannarn - September 18, 2020 at 04:40 PM

Kiley McKenna

“ Kiley McKenna lit a candle in memory of Stephen John McKenna



Kiley McKenna - September 18, 2020 at 11:05 AM

JS

“ I was a good friend of Steve's our senior year in high school and for a short time after. I wish we would have kept in touch over the years. I wish I had a single memory that stood out (which wouldn't cause us both embarrassment:), but it suffices to say when we were together we spent half the time laughing. I remember Steve's quick laugh that was contagious, his great sense of humor and his good nature. When he got to Schlarman he was the "cocky kid from New Jersey" but I quickly saw through the facade. I recall his passion for hockey and energy to get out and enjoy life. I am glad to have known him and can still hear his voice and see his expressions all these years later.

John Spivey

John Spivey - September 17, 2020 at 08:09 PM