



Stephen Joseph Melcher

August 1, 1957 - April 14, 2018

Stephen J. Melcher (aka The WarHorse)

Steve passed suddenly on April 14th, 2018 of cardiac arrest while at his favorite place in the world, their family lake home on Lake Vermilion. He was a beloved husband to Terry; father to Forrest (fiancée Natalie Miller) and Heather; son of Mary Ann Melcher; brother to Andy (Linda) Melcher, Mary Jane (Dennis) Welch, Elaine Melcher (Steve Smith), Rita (Tim) Johnson, Anita (Dave) Pilarski, and Ed (Bobbi Jo) Melcher; and friend to many. Preceded in death by his father, Norman Melcher, and sister Rose Ann Melcher.

There will never be enough words to capture the incredible man Steve was. A businessman, coach, comedian, handyman, golfer, and lifelong servant of others. He could light up any room and, as we lovingly say, he could talk to a wall. Steve loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman and hunter. There were few weekends when he wasn't doing one of those two activities, and he wouldn't have had it any other way. He was also a truly talented woodworker. Of his weekends spent at the lake, many included building (or fixing) just about anything. If it wasn't on his own home, he was certainly busy helping out his friends and family on theirs. One of his biggest joys was working with his son, Forrest, on his many woodworking projects, and Steve was excited to help him renovate his new home in Scandia.

Steve was also a humble and selfless servant of others. One of his acquired passions was coaching soccer for both Forrest and Heather. After they went off to college, he refused to quit and volunteered for TOPSoccer. Many of you

likely know him as "Coach Steve" and it suited him well, because he always had to be in charge. His enthusiasm could be seen all the way from the other side of the field (if you were at one of his games, you know exactly what this means). One of his favorites lines has always been, "If you aren't the lead dog, the scenery never changes" and he carried this through his life and volunteer activities. Active in his business, church, and community, Steve was a kind man, and hard worker who constantly served others and gave back to his community.

You also don't know Steve without his wife, Terry. Married for 36 years, they met when he was 19 and she was 18 at Zayre Shopper City, where they both worked as part-time employees. Steve and Terry were the perfect partners and complements. Steve's endless energy (and sometimes stubbornness) were balanced out with Terry's patient and loving nature. Together they were a rock-solid team, weathering the toughest times and sharing in the countless joys of life. They spent the last 15 years building their dream home together on Lake Vermilion, where they planned to spend much more time during retirement.

Steve has left a large hole in many, many hearts and we will miss him every day. We find strength in his faith, optimism, and courage, and know that if he were here he would tell us to "play on!". He will continue to guide us in spirit and serve at the hand of the Lord. We take this time to remember our individual experiences with him and to celebrate his life and all that he was. We will cherish these memories for a lifetime and the impact he has had will most certainly live on.

Please join us for a celebration of Steve's life on Thursday, 4/19 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home (515 Hwy 96, Shoreview, MN) from 4-8pm or Friday, 4/20 for Mass at St. Odilia Catholic Church (3495 N. Victoria St., Shoreview) at 12pm, (visitation begins at 11am). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Wounded Warrior Project ([Donate Here](#)) or the American Diabetes Association ([Donate Here](#)).

Tribute Wall

MD

“ *What a surprise to hear of the death of Steve. I wish there was a way that those of us who grew up in the Heights would hear of these things. Steve and Tom were great friends and spent many hours in the field behind our house on 46 1/2 playing ball and many other things my Heart goes out to all of you Peace be with you The DeMarais family*



Marilyn DeMarais - June 11, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Dear Terry, I just learned of your loss today. My heart aches for you and your kids. Hope to see you sometime this summer. Love, Kristin*

Kristin Dery - May 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ *Please accept my heartfelt condolences. Death is never easy, and it bring great sorrow. But in God's Word the Bible, he tells us of a time when we will be able to see our love ones again. We have the wonderful promise of the resurrection. I think about this promise, and what a time that will be when we meet our love ones again. I hope this bring you some comfort at this sad time. John 5:28, 29.*

Lowanda - May 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ I knew Steve through NSSA. He recruited me to join the board circa 2007. I joined the board and eventually became president. During that time we met at a MV game and it was obvious that we shared a common bond as we shared stories. He was my predecessor and left a very big, positive mark! Steve wore **big shoes** and was a tough act to follow. Unfortunately I did not receive the news that he had passed. Otherwise I would have attended the visitation and funeral. In the brief time that I knew Steve, he left a big impression on me. I'm very sorry that he is no longer with us. My deepest sympathies to the Melcher family. God bless you Steve! Paul Wikstrom NSSA Dad/Coach/Former board member

Paul Wikstrom - April 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Steve was a great neighbor and friend on Lake Vermilion, truly a Hall of Fame individual for so many reasons. I looked forward to seeing him at the lake on every visit. I would ask my parents, "Are the Melcher's here?" He would put a smile on my face before our first words were exchanged and endless laughter from our conversations which centered around razzing me, my dad, and his brother Andrew. I picture him walking to meet in the backyards or on our docks on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings. Thank you for the memories Steve as you will be greatly missed.

Bryan Bergquist - April 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ I will miss Steve, but have many fond memories. He was one of a kind.

Daneil Knak - April 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Our deepest sympathies to your family.

Joel and Margaret Reddington - April 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ I was saddened to hear that Steve had passed. I have known him for more than 25 years. He was always a gentleman and a pleasure to work with. I have worked with Steve and Dave both on various projects over the years in in the twin cities area at customers like 3M and Par Systems. He was a smart fellow and so easy to work with. I will definitely miss him. My condolences to Terry and the entire family. I lost my wife 7 years ago today at the age of 43, so I know how bad you are hurting. Keep your faith because you will see him again someday. And in spite of how your heart feels today, I can promise you from my own experience that time will help your heart heal. God is good! Scott Dawson, Kollmorgen motor design engineer

Scott Dawson - April 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ We are so sorry for your loss, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Natalie and Forrest let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Josh, Nicole, & Colton Pellett - April 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Terry and Family, my sincere condolences. Steve sounds like a wonderful person, I wish I had the pleasure of knowing him. May the love of family and friends sustain you in this time of loss and wonderful memories bring you comfort.

Cindy Atchison - April 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AH

“*Dave, Brenda and Melcher family - I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Steve. He was an outstanding person: a mentor, comedian, caring father and husband, outdoorsman and businessman. I treasure my days in MN drumming up business, talking about life and technical consulting on motion projects with Dave and Steve. Steve was a excellent salesperson and I still have a "Big John" sump pump in my home in Troy to prove it. Bless us all on the loss of Steve - he will be deeply missed by everyone he touched but the memories he produced will live on. God bless!*

Andy Van Hoef - April 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TF

“*We were privileged to call Steve our next-door-neighbor. Whenever possible, the advice is to choose the neighbor before the house. When we moved into the Shoreview neighborhood we chose the house and prayed that the neighbor turns out OK. Steve was the perfect answer to our prayer. He made us feel welcome and was always at hand to help out when for some reason or other our lawn or snow threatened to overwhelm us. Once more it's our prayer that Steve's family finds solace after his passing. We all will miss his unfailingly beaming face and waves of acknowledgement.*

The Lubega Family - April 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AB

“*Our hearts are broken! We will miss Steve so much! He was such a wonderful neighbor and friend to us at the lake. He could put a smile on our faces always and his witty stories kept us laughing for more. We will always be here for you Terry, Heather, Forrest and all the Melcher family. The war horse is at rest but he will never be far from our thoughts. Prayers and hugs. Love, Arlene & Jed Bergquist*

Arlene Bergquist - April 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AH

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Andy Van Hoef - April 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TD

“*I was so fortunate to know Steve through work. I will miss him so very much. Steve & I bonded over politics ironically! He loved to give me a hard time and sometimes out of the blue he would just call for no reason to check in and check on my family & I. Your words describe him perfectly and I wish I could just hear him one more time. My heart is broken for our loss! He was a true gentleman and a blast to work with him. We will miss him so much. Prayers to everyone for comfort.*

Teresa Davis - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GF

“*Steve was one special man that could make everyone laugh and smile the minute he entered a room ! I have such fun memories of Steve from up at the lake. I consider myself fortunate for the gift of knowing him. I am so sorry for your loss Terry, Forrest, Heather along with all the Melcher family and his friends. We will talk of him often and keep all his stories alive - R I P, Steve - We love you !*

Gina French - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ Ed and Melcher Family- very sorry to hear of your brothers death. I know how close your family always was and you'll miss him dearly. Hope you find comfort in your family and friends during this difficult time.

Joe Zandlo - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ I have worked with Steve for the past 15 years and I have enjoyed every time we spoke or met. He was an excellent engineer and made each call personal and enjoyable. He will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathy for Steve's family. Paul Coughlin

Paul Coughlin - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ We have many fun memories of lacrosse games with Steve and the family. So sorry for your untimely loss.

Jean & Martha Chastain - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

EN

“ Terry, My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. You are in my prayers. -Eric

Eric Nielsen - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ You have our most sincere sympathy for your loss. Our fathers were cousins who felt more like brothers, enjoying so many things that Steve liked: hunting, fishing, woodworking and family. May God bless him and keep him.

Richard Ruummele - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ What do you say about someone you have known for forty-five years. From the time we first met at Church with his Mom, Dad & family. We watched him grow up, chatted with him and Terry after Church, met with him when he sought Dave's advice about buying a company. He bought that company and asked Dave to come to work with him. Then started 29 years of getting to know him and a great guy and human being he was. He and I spent lots of time talking politics, kidding each other and debating. He became a very special part of our lives and our family. I will miss him more that I can express. I know he is with our Lord. He was a man of faith, loved his family and his friends, and was always there if you needed him. What more can I say, except, rest in peace dear friend. We love you.

Marlaine Szurek - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ As a vendor to Steve's company, I got to know him over the years much more than a business acquaintance. He was that kind of a person that you wanted to be his friend. I am so sorry for your loss and hope that you can find some solace in the fact that world was a better place for people like Steve having lived in it. My prayers for all of you. Lee Stephens

Lee Stephens - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I knew Steve through work. I was on his speed-dial for any problems or questions with Kollmorgen products. I thoroughly enjoyed working with him. A smile would come to my face whenever I saw his name pop up on my phone. I just wish I had the opportunity to get to know Steve on a more personal level. I want to offer my best wishes and sincere condolences to all of Steve's family and friends.

Jimmy Coleman - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Uncle Steve - it will be impossible to forget the laughter that filled every room you were in. We will miss you greatly. Terry, Forrest, Heather, and Natalie - Our hearts are broken for you, please know you are in our prayers.

Ryan, Melissa, Elaina, Grace, and Luke Blazei - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ I was surprised and sadden by the news of Steve's death. He was a good person who was always willing to chat. I cannot recall meeting him when he didn't have a smile on his face. He will be missed.

Gordon S. Ritchie - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ So sorry for the loss! I thought a lot about Steve and will surely miss him. We shared a lot of good time through work. I never had a moment when I was not glade to be around him and after I always looked forward to the next time I would see him... Steve Crockett or Dublin Va.

Steve Crockett - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ My thoughts and Prayers are with you during this very difficult time. May you find peace and calm through your faith.

Diane Hasse - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dear Melcher Family, My heart and prayers goes out for your loss. Steve was truly a master of conversation and you would instantly enjoy his company. A wonderful soccer coach that would always bring out the best. RIP Mr. Steven Melcher.

Julie Wohlwend - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

R(

“ Our hearts and prayers go out to you Terry and to your children that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will strengthen you all during this time.

Roxane Davis (Pilarski) - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole Melcher family, Steve will be dearly missed. Cindy, Wylie, Sandra, Jess, Becca and Sophie Swanger

Stephen Melcher - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Terry, Forest, Heather, You know how I feel about Steve. He was my big brother and my friend. He was the best of the best. Love you guys.

Kendra - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ My deepest condolences on your family's loss. Praying for your family.

Diane Lacina - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *Such a beautiful tribute for an incredible man!! I can not believe it...and will see you, Terri and kids for Hugs soon. You are so lucky to have had Steve in your lives...he truly was one of a kind!!! I will miss seeing him at the lake and hearing his high energy and kind spirit. He was a special friend for my father. His loss will never be forgotten* 🙏🏻🙏🏻❤️

April Tatur - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ *We are going to miss Steve so much! Steve told me a long time ago that from the moment we are born we start our journey towards death. We should take each day as a "gift" cuz we don't know when we will be called home to the Lord. Steve told me his Motto: Life is uncertain, Eat dessert first! WE will miss hearing him say, "The bus is leaving now!" And hearing him say, "It's quitting time, lets go fishing, golfing or lets go for ice cream or it's nap time." We will miss his kind but funny one liners. "Build a bridge and get over it" It's time to go to the Do Not think chair. People were encouraged to sign up for his SENSITIVITY Class :) The War horse will live on forever in our hearts.*

Anita (the Jinx) and (Lucky) Dave Pilarski - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ *So sorry to hear about Steve always enjoyed talking with him at Family get togethers. PRAYERS for the family in this very unexpected SAD time.*

Alfred DeJuliannie - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RV

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Steve was a great friend. I'll always remember when he took me to the Mall of America one year while I was in the cities having surgery. It was the only time I've ever got the chance to go to Hooters.*

Rodney Vondrka - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

YY

“ *Dear Heather, My sincere and deepest condolences for your loss. Your father was about the same age as my father's, and even if I am in the middle of the circle of life, I still can't imagine how it's going to be like to live without him. I believe your father would be proud of you as a confident and warm-hearted person. Yuna and I will say a little prayer for you and your family. Sincerely, Yoonki and Yuna*

Yoonki and Yuna - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM