



Steven John Sarantopoulos

November 15, 1944 - February 26, 2026

Steven J. Sarantopoulos, a beloved educator, enthusiastic coach, devoted husband, proud father, and loyal friend to all who knew him, passed away peacefully on February 26, 2026, at the age of 81, surrounded by the love of his family. His life was defined by uncommon generosity, quiet integrity, and a remarkable dedication to helping others grow-whether in the classroom, on the court, or simply through the countless moments he was there for the people he loved.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Steve discovered early on that his gifts shone brightest on the basketball court. From his first games in his church league to his years at Brockton High School and eventually Providence College, the sport became the thread running through his youth. Fiercely competitive yet endlessly joyful in his love of the game, he built a remarkable playing career-highlighted by an unforgettable 51-point performance at the Boston Garden during a high school tournament. Though it was the kind of feat most would recount for years, Steve held it quietly, proudly, and with the same humility that shaped every part of his life.

In addition to playing, Steve found his true calling in teaching and coaching at Bridgewater-Raynham High School, a community he loved. For more than 30 years, he inspired students with steady guidance, patient encouragement, plenty of humor, and unwavering belief in their potential. As a basketball coach, he led with equal parts heart and volume-motivating his players not only to compete, but to persevere, support one another, and carry themselves

with humility and character. Affectionately known as Sara to his students as well as his colleagues, Steve's devotion to the school - its students and its faculty - was lifelong, woven into the fabric of who he was and how he chose to serve others.

Above all else, Steve was devoted to his family. He was a steadfast partner to his junior-high-school sweetheart and wife of more than 50 years, Diane. He was a loving and proud father to Stephanie and John, and an even more delighted Papou to his grandsons-Stevie, Bobby, and Teddy. His family was at the center of everything he did. He never missed an opportunity to celebrate their joys, cheer on their achievements, share wisdom (usually delivered through a spot on quote or well-timed quip), cook meals, or simply be present in the everyday moments he cherished most. He especially loved watching his grandsons compete in sports-basketball, baseball, football, and even hockey-play instruments, perform on stage, and discover their own passions. His move to Minnesota to be closer to them remains one of the clearest expressions of his boundless love.

To his many friends, Steve was someone you could always count on-quick to help, quick to laugh, and always ready with a smile, a joke, or an offer of his time to share a bottomless cup of coffee. His loyalty ran deep, and his friendships lasted a lifetime. If he knew you, he probably gave you a nickname you could never shake, and when he greeted you, it was with genuine warmth and his trademark booming voice.

Steve leaves behind a legacy of kindness, hard work, and lives made better because he truly cared. He will be profoundly missed by his family, friends, former students, athletes, and all who were fortunate enough to cross his path.

Steve is preceded in death by his parents, John and Bessie Sarantopoulos, and his brother Michael Sarantopoulos. He is survived by his wife Diane Edythe Sarantopoulos, his children John Sarantopoulos and Stephanie Sarantopoulos; and his grandchildren, Steven Martin, Robert Martin, and Edward Martin. He is also survived by his brother, James Sarantopoulos, and

his sister, Janice Sarafoglou; his brothers- and sisters-in-law, Alik Sarantopoulos, Pantelis Sarafoglou, Christine and Robert St. Cyr and Howard and Roberta Matchett; and his nieces and nephews-Christine Sarantopoulos, Michael Sarantopoulos, Deborah Sedell, Peter Sarantopoulos, Aphrodite Sarafoglou, Constantino Sarafoglou, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Andrea Sturzenegger, and Eric Matchett. He is further survived by his godchildren, William Deftos and Micaila Donovan; his son-in-law Robert Martin, and his daughter-in-law, Caitlin Sarantopoulos; and his adored chosen family, the Donovans-Maureen, Patrick, Brian, and Micaila.

A Celebration of Life will be held where all who knew and loved Steve can gather to honor his memory.

Location: Tutto Bene, 1050 Pearl Street, Brockton, Massachusetts

Date & Time: June 14, 2026, 12pm - 3pm, with special remembrance speeches at 2 PM

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the Steven J. Sarantopoulos Scholarship Fund, honoring his lifelong commitment to education and athletics. Contributions may be made by check payable to "Bridgewater-Raynham Citizen Scholarship Fund (CSF)" with "Sarantopoulos" noted in the memo line, and mailed to: Bridgewater-Raynham High School CSF, Bridgewater-Raynham High School, 415 Center Street, Bridgewater MA 02324.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you for the special care Steve received from the doctors and caregivers at Methodist Hospital and all of the amazing medical professionals in Massachusetts and Minnesota who treated and supported him over the years.

Please let Steve's memory live on in the quiet rituals of your day, especially in a warm cup of coffee enjoyed with people you love.

Tribute Wall

ET

“ Dear Diane and family,I am sorry to learn of Steve's passing. I have many fond memories of growing up on the East Side and knowing you and Steve in our early school years. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Rest In Peace Steve.
Elaine McGovern Thibault-BHS 1963

Elaine McGovern Thibault - March 09 at 04:32 PM

SL

“ Rich and I want to extend our heartfelt condolences to you and your family. May he rest in eternal peace and may all your memories sustain you.
Rich and Linda Straczynski

Straczynski Linda - March 06 at 04:22 PM

A.

“ He was # 1 one of the greatest on and off the floor , who ever he represented playing Basketball for church leagues , High school and college team . He was loved by all . He was a household name in the city he grew up in . R.I.P and condolences to all family members !!!!

Arthur (JAY) Leary Jr . - March 06 at 08:20 AM

WM

“ RIP Steven
Wendy Call Gurman Morgan-BHS 1963

WENDY c MORGAN - March 05 at 06:28 PM

TD

“ Dear Diane, Stephan & John: Cindy and I extend our deepest condolences. As a neighbor, former colleague and friend, Steve was an outstanding individual and family man. We will always remember him for his friendship, kindness and sense of humor. The many people he touched will forever remember Steve for all the good he bestowed on them. God Bless ! Tim & Cindy Driscoll

Tim Driscoll - March 05 at 01:27 PM

DH

“ Dear Diane, Stephanie & John, I was so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. He was a fun guy; his obituary says it all! I'm happy you have a beautiful family to lean on, Diane.
Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers to all of you.

Diane Haglund

Diane Haglund - March 03 at 11:44 AM

RF

“ As great of a basketball player that he was, he was even a better person. I was privileged to have known him. I followed his career at Brockton & Providence. I once asked Steve if he regretted going to Providence because Jimmy Walker was there, a # 1 pick to the NBA. He said it was never important to him. He was an educator
RIP Steve

Robert A. Faradie - March 02 at 10:26 PM

MJ

A classmate we were all privileged to be. Always humble, always a gentleman and a hell of a great basketball player.

Michael E Jaye - March 13 at 08:25 PM