



Stephen Joseph Nagle

September 29, 1948 - February 18, 2026

Stephen Joseph Nagle, age 77, graduated Summa Cum Laude from his mortal experience on the evening of Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Steve, born in Brooklyn, NY September 29, 1948, grew up in Bound Brook, NJ, the oldest of three boys, son of Stephen John Nagle and Loretta Frances Colahan Nagle. He married the love of his life, Sara Sanders, August 9, 1987. Steve was a man larger than life, and all of us who love him wanted so much more time because the time we had was so awesome.

Many know Steve from his career as a Professor of Linguistics, but many don't know his path began at St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, NJ, a school that remained very important to him. Steve came to South Carolina to attend the University of South Carolina and never left. When Steve was completing his doctoral studies at USC, he met Sara, also a linguist, who became his colleague in the English department at Coastal after their marriage. They collaborated in research publications and presentations, but their friends all agreed that their son Brendan was their best collaboration of all. Being Brendan's dad was the greatest joy of Steve's life with a very close second being Granddaddy to Truman and Shay.

A husband, father, granddaddy, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, linguist, traveler, musician, athlete, polyglot, Gamecock fan, and bon vivant extraordinaire, Steve lived an adventurous, epic life. In German the word that

describes Steve is Lebenskünstler, Life Artist. Steve enjoyed time with a wide-ranging Beloved Constituency here and abroad. Everyone who had a meaningful relationship with Steve has Steve stories to tell. Friendship with Steve was value added to life. Steve was a fountain of knowledge about craft beer, music, cars, car racing, the stock market, and worldwide travel. He climbed Mt. Kenya, took two Fulbright groups for summer study in Poland, taught at universities in Poznan, Vienna, and Wrocław, and traveled extensively in his capacity as Director of International Programs at Coastal.

Steve understood the relationship between Spirit and spirits. One of the ways he explored the world was searching out special beers and artisanal liquors. He visited monasteries in Europe where the monks brew beer, drove home with cases of special beers procured at venues he searched out all along the I-95 corridor as he made treks back and forth between New Jersey and South Carolina, kept tasting notes in spiral bound notebooks before Untappd was a thing, and papered the walls of the garage with flattened six pack holders, all different, all beers he'd tried. He appreciated that the Vikings referred to the concept of Fellowship as Beership. His last significant beer quest led him in December to three bottles of Utopias, surely no coincidence.

Steve is survived and celebrated by his wife Sara Lyles Sanders, his son Brendan Colahan Nagle, his daughter-in-law Caroline Tilma Nagle, his grandson Truman Timothy and his granddaughter Shay Lyles; by his beloved siblings Mike (Karen), Andy (Celia), Jaime El Georr (Sami) and nieces and nephews Meghan, Allison, Andy, Daniel, Sabrina, Vanessa and Alexander; and by all his Beloved Constituency who haven't graduated yet.

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, there will be a memorial service for Steve at Coastal Carolina University's Lackey Chapel at 3:00 followed by a celebration of life at 104 Laurel Street, Conway, SC at 4:00. If you would like to honor Steve with a charitable contribution, a cause that is near and dear to your

heart would be perfect. The two causes he contributed to were St. Jude's Children's Hospital and St. Benedict's Preparatory School.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **28**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Coastal Carolina University Lackey Chapel
104 Laurel St
Conway, SC 29526-5134

Visitation

FEB **28**. 4:00 PM.

104 Laurel

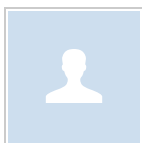
Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Stephen Joseph Nagle.



February 28 at 06:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Stephen Joseph Nagle.

February 28 at 06:29 AM



“ Sara and Brendan we are so very sorry for your loss. I can always remember his phone calls for acolytes and youth activities at St Paul's many years ago. You all are in my prayers.
Love Lynn and Butch Smith

Lynn Chestnut Smith - February 27 at 06:30 AM



“ Renee S Wikstrom lit a candle in memory of Stephen Joseph Nagle



Renee S Wikstrom - February 26 at 04:31 PM

LS

“ *Lyn Snyder lit a candle in memory of Stephen Joseph Nagle*



Lyn Snyder - February 23 at 01:41 AM

ST

“ *Dear Dr. Sanders, I am so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you at this difficult time. Deepest Condolences, Sara Millus Tyler*

Sara Millus Tyler - February 22 at 03:49 PM

JM

“ *John Marlowe lit a candle in memory of Stephen Joseph Nagle*



John Marlowe - February 21 at 10:40 AM

JB

Sara , Brendan and family . I am sure you are heartbroken . Thinking of you

j burch - February 22 at 06:00 PM



My deepest condolences to Sara, Brendan and all of the family that I have not met. Steve was indeed a unique human unto himself who displayed the most excellent disposition toward life and others. I am saddened and feel as though the World is somehow less without him, but still better because he will never disappear. Nothing inscribed in time ever goes away and those who knew him are more than they would have been without having known him. His lusty laughter, sense of humor, judicious use of seriousness, and bright eyes will always be with me. I remember the night he retired from CCU in the Edwards courtyard when Coastal was Coastal, the great "honor" he bestowed upon me. Friend, mentor, artist, irreverent goon boy (in the highest sense of the terms) and most of all Bon Vivant! My thoughts are with you Sara and Brendan. Best and CHEERS! Michael

Michael Ruse - February 24 at 12:11 PM

NC

I was in his class in the early 70s at Coastal. I have fond memories of days gone by when Coastal was small and he was a part of that. Rest well.

Norma Cooler - February 24 at 03:55 PM

DC

I was in one of his classes in the 70's and never forgot him. I also remember watching him play at the Gaslite Tavern in MB in the late 70s. My condolences to the family!
Dee Adams Coleman

Dee Adams Coleman - February 25 at 03:24 PM

BB

I took Prof. Nagle's English class at Coastal during my senior year of high school, circa 1975. I came away from it thinking, "If all the professors are like him, I think I'm going to enjoy college." I managed to enjoy college, but I quickly learned that Nagle was one of a kind. My condolences to his family and loved ones.

Bo Bradham

Bo Bradham - March 18 at 02:59 PM