



## Stephen Sugg Powell Sr.

September 2, 1957 - April 30, 2023

Stephen S. Powell, Sr., 65, passed peacefully from this world into a beautiful eternity with his Lord on Sunday, April 30th, 2023, at home in Conway.

He was born on September 2nd, 1957, to Richard C. Powell, Sr. and Mary Belle (Sugg) Powell. He was predeceased by his parents, a sister, Merri Powell, and his brother Richard C. Powell, Jr., as well as treasured aunts, uncles, and friends who undoubtedly heralded his arrival to Heaven on a rainy Saturday night.

He is survived by his wife of over 41 years, Judith Lorraine Powell, as well as son Kerry Poole and wife Charlene; daughter Dina Britton and husband John; daughter Becky Wilhoit and husband Jonathan; and son Stephen S. Powell, Jr. (Jake) and wife Erin. He leaves behind many treasured friends who he considered to be just like family. He is survived by 11 grandchildren: John Henry, Will, Jill, Jenna, Gunner, Wesley, Russell, Karlie, Henry, Odin, and Knox. He is also survived by six great grandchildren: John Graham, Kennedy, Jace, Beau, Katie, and Anderson. He is also survived by two sisters, Nancy Powell Nugent of Montana and Mary Beth Powell Cooper of Virginia. And on his final day, he was surrounded by all his loved ones. The last earthly sight Steve saw was the smiling faces of his loving family crowded around him, praying and telling him they love him.

Steve graduated from The United States Military Academy at West Point in 1979 and entered the United States Army as a 2nd Lt., completing Ranger training at Fort Benning, Ga. and earning his Airborne tab. He was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. when he met his beloved wife, love of his life, and lifelong best friend, Judy.

Steve and Judy met when they were side-by-side on a random interstate in Indiana. Judy beeped and waved at another traveler with a Tennessee license plate - that was Steve. Steve fell instantly in love at 80 mph, Judy met up with him at the next stop, and the rest - as they say - is history.

Together, they loved fiercely, raised four children together, and in their later years, enjoyed countless sunsets at their lake house on Lake Marion in Summerton, SC. Lake Marion was a unique and special place to Steve. It was where he spent many days fishing with his grandfather and father, where he helped many grandchildren and great grandchildren reel in their first fish, and where his Fourth of July fireworks shows became a legendary event.

A member of West Point's fabled Long Gray Line, Steve joins many predeceased members of his beloved "Top of the Line" Class of 1979. He is survived by a noble group, The Corps of Cadets, who will carry on his values of duty, honor, and country. No memorial of Steve would be complete without these words: Go Army, Beat Navy!

Steve was the founder and CEO of his own firm, Venture Engineering, Incorporated in Conway. From its founding in 1990, Venture was a labor of love for Steve. In his 33 years leading Venture, Steve trained and developed countless engineers, staff, and even a few loving office pets. Venture is a core part of Steve's legacy and will continue in exactly the way he wanted - with an unparalleled work ethic, attention to detail, and the belief that doing the job right is worth the time and effort.

When he wasn't fishing with Judy, visiting with grandkids, or engineering at Venture, Steve was giving back. He volunteered in a number of aspects over the years, including serving on the South Carolina State Guard, on the board at The Shepherd's Table, leading troops for the Boy Scouts of America, board member at the Waccamaw Youth Center, and as a member of the Conway Rotary Club. He was also an active board member at Santee Summer Ministries "Boat Church."

Steve valiantly battled gastric cancer for two and a half years prior to his passing. He endured chemotherapy and treatments with dedication until the very end, fighting like a true warrior for every moment he could have with his beloved wife and family. He prepared us as best he could, with gentleness, love, and humor to help usher us into a new phase of life without him. He fought cancer bravely with the help of his dedicated nurses and doctors, and we send deepest thanks to the team at CMC Cancer Center and Duke Cancer Center.

The family will receive visitors on Friday May 19th, 2023 at the Grand Strand Church of Christ at 10 am, with a memorial service following at the church at 11 am. Grand Strand Church of Christ is located at 2212 Glenn's Bay Road in Surfside.

In death, Steve joins a God he followed his entire life and his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In his final days, he continually praised God, and for that, we are so grateful and proud.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to two of Steve's favorite local charitable organizations, The Shepherds Table and A Father's Place in Conway. To donate, visit their websites at [www.shepherdstable.com](http://www.shepherdstable.com) and [www.a-fathers-place.com](http://www.a-fathers-place.com).

[afathersplace.org](http://afathersplace.org)

Sign an online guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Grand Strand Church of Christ  
2212 Glens Bay Rd  
Surfside Beach, SC 29575-4832  
(843) 650-9711

## Memorial Service

MAY 19. 11:00 AM.

Grand Strand Church of Christ

# Tribute Wall



“ So very sorry for your loss, Judy! I enjoyed our time as neighbors in Windmeadows. Keeping you and family in my prayers!



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**Ellen Lyerly** - May 20, 2023 at 06:09 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..



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May 17, 2023 at 09:48 AM



“ Spartina Surveying purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..



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**Spartina Surveying** - May 17, 2023 at 08:35 AM

LG

“ Always a dedicated servant to Horry County citizens. I talked with Steve at the last County Council meeting about his statement "odd people are our buying demographic and they don't want houses built up higher out of flood water." Bless his heart. Steve never let on that he was fighting a battle with cancer which was fatal. We had a chuckle over that "old people". He is with the angels now pain free. We'll see you when we get there Steve, you just got there first. Prayers for his family; he loved you'll so much.

Liz Greene - May 17, 2023 at 12:52 AM

LG

Auto correct... old people. Sorry.

Liz Greene - May 17, 2023 at 12:53 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..



May 16, 2023 at 08:52 PM

DP

“ Danny Barnhill & PaySouth Payroll purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..



Danny Barnhill & PaySouth Payroll - May 16, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..*



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May 15, 2023 at 10:01 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..*



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May 13, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..*



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May 12, 2023 at 03:44 PM



“ *Rest in peace Steve.....*

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**Brent Schulz** - May 10, 2023 at 04:39 PM

PC

“ *Patty Crawford lit a candle in memory of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr.*



**patty crawford** - May 10, 2023 at 04:15 PM

RR

“ *What a wonderfully written obituary and summary of his life. Steve sounds like he was an awesome person and i hope he got to read his obituary before print or at least knew what would be written about him before he passed. What an awesome tribute! It sounds like he impacted many lives in a positive way that will pay it forward for generations.*

**Ron Rozner** - May 10, 2023 at 11:42 AM

AM

“ *Amelia lit a candle in memory of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr.*



**Amelia** - May 07, 2023 at 09:52 PM

R7

“ *Steve was energetic, smart, and funny. A valued Infantry officer and member of the Class of 79. I will miss our phone calls about his latest innovations, EPA plans, family, etc. I'm sorry we never got around to our linkup at the beloved lake house. As our song says, "Let it be said Well Done, be thou at peace." Well done brother.*

**Ray Grantham, 79'** - May 06, 2023 at 12:43 PM

RC

“ *Such a great loss. Steve was always willing to help be it with engineering expertise or local West Point Society leadership or just being a friend. His impact on all of us has been immeasurable. He will be missed by so many. Our prayers and condolences are with his family and closest friends. Rest in Peace! Lyndorcas and Rich Carlson '68*

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**Rich and Lyndorcas Carlsin** - May 06, 2023 at 06:05 AM

DS

“ *Debbie Flinchum - MB Showcase purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..*



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**Debbie Flinchum - MB Showcase** - May 04, 2023 at 06:08 PM

DF

“ *I have known Steve for many years. Steve always had a kind word, he always had a compliment and he always made me smile or laugh. He put his trust in me throughout the years and I am so very grateful. I will forever remember the man who left an amazing impression upon me. One of the most remarkable men I have ever known in business and in friendship. I send my sincere condolences to the family, to his vast array of friends and to his co-workers. This earthly world lost a wonderful person that God created. But God took him home and he has now seen the face of God. I will miss you dearly Steve ... thank you for all the things you taught me, all the ways you shared your kindness and for all the wonderful emails that I will forever cherish. Rest in Heavenly peace Steve.*

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**Debbie Flinchum** - May 04, 2023 at 06:03 PM

CL

“ Thoughts and prayers with all of Steve's large family. As his classmate at West Point, so long ago I grew to appreciate Steve's ability to find humor even in the most challenging moments of our cadet experience. He was one of those rare individuals who improved the lives of all around him. I laughed when I read how he met Judy on the highway, and am not surprised that such a spontaneous introduction led to a lifetime of happiness and partnership. My memories of cadet days with Steve have not and will not dim with time.

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**Christopher Leins** - May 04, 2023 at 09:31 AM

AB

“ Judy you and the family are in my prayers, I had great respect for Steve. May the Lord continue to grant you peace.  
Andy Bell

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**andy kelvin bell** - May 04, 2023 at 07:58 AM

DD

“ Dear Judy, Prayers sent for you & your family, asking God to give you the strength & courage to face each & every day, as well as keeping the best memories of Steve front & center. Sincere regards,  
Doug Danko (TOTL 79).

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**Doug Danko** - May 04, 2023 at 04:09 AM

DB

“ Judy, I am so sorry to hear about Steve's death. Remember all the good times we at when Jim and I had an office in the building. Steve was so interesting to talk with because he something about everything. He will be missed. My love, thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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**De Lis Melton Browne** - May 03, 2023 at 06:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..*



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May 03, 2023 at 10:15 AM



“ *Elaine Magann Sarvis lit a candle in memory of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr.*



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**Elaine Magann Sarvis** - May 02, 2023 at 08:51 PM



“ *Becky, Ed and I are so sorry to hear of your father's passing. We have such fond memories of our years in Conway.*

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**Zoe Ann Cerny** - May 02, 2023 at 08:13 PM



“ *My daughter . Desiree' Costante, was hired by Venture and Steve had very kind words about her.. I stopped in work to see her on a fairly regular basis and was lucky enough to make Steve's acquaintance. He was so nice to Desiree' and myself when I saw him . He always had a great story or two to tell us when I would visit. Desiree' was very lucky to be hired by Venture and to have worked under Steve , which I told him during a visit . My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and very sad for them that he is gone ! Debby Brennan*



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**Debby Brennan** - May 02, 2023 at 05:42 PM

YB

“ Your Friends at United Bank purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..



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**Your Friends at United Bank** - May 02, 2023 at 03:33 PM

OI

“ Oliver's Restaurant, Inc. lit a candle in memory of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr.



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**Oliver's Restaurant, Inc.** - May 02, 2023 at 02:05 PM

MS

“ Steve was one of the finest men I was ever blessed with knowing. Praying for Judy, Kerry, Dina, Becky, Jake, and the grandchildren and great grandchildren. May his legacy of love of God, family, and others live on through all of them.  
Mary Fran Smith

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**Mary Fran Smith** - May 02, 2023 at 12:28 PM

JL

“ Well Done, Steve! Be Thou at Peace 🙏 (Jack De Leon TOTL '79)

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**Jack De Leon** - May 02, 2023 at 10:14 AM



“ *Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr..*



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May 02, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ *Dina and John, Dina I had the pleasure of meeting Steve many years ago. He was such a kind and gentle soul. God bless you all.*

*Debbi Britton*

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**Debbi Britton** - May 02, 2023 at 08:55 AM



“ *Lyn Snyder lit a candle in memory of Stephen Sugg Powell Sr.*



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**Lyn Snyder** - May 02, 2023 at 08:36 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of such a good friend's passing. He was a pillar to the community and will be missed by all. Mark and Phoebe Athey*

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**Mark C Athey** - May 02, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss, Judy*

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**Loretta Vandiver** - May 02, 2023 at 12:59 AM

MC

“ I was very sad to learn the passing of my friend Steve Powell. I enjoyed getting to know him over the years while serving on the board of The Shepherds Table Together. His drive, and can do attitude was an inspiration to me. I would look up to him for guidance and advice. And the thing about Steve was he was always willing to offer a helping hand. God, family, friends, and his community were important to him. He was loved by many, helped anyone he could, and will be missed. I am great full that our paths crossed on this journey of life. God bless.

Maddie Carranza - May 01, 2023 at 10:40 PM



“ Dina, John, and family,  
Thinking about you all during this sad time  
and sending love to everyone 💔💔

Dorothy Jordan Dunn



Dorothy Jordan Dunn - May 01, 2023 at 09:31 PM

LS

“ Judy and family.

I am so very sorry to hear of Steve's passing. I wish I had known him When we were in the Azalea Garden club together many years ago. I really got to know Steve when we served on The Shepherds Table board together. He really was an asset.

What a kind and generous man.

You all are in my prayers.

Lynn C. Smith

lynn Chestnut Smith - May 01, 2023 at 06:47 PM

SM

*Judy and Family*

*It was with surprise and much sorrow as I read about Steves passing on Facebook tonight. I had thoughts of him frequently wondering how he was doing. I had missed serving on the Waccamaw Youth center board with him! I never heard he was ill . He was such a dedicated servant to others. I'm so sorry for his suffrage. I was blessed to have known him thru the years and so appreciative of all I learned from him. God bless you all and my prayers are with you!*

*Sonya H Martin*

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**sonya martin** - May 02, 2023 at 01:29 AM

KC

“ *What a great guy! We were heart broken when we heard of his passing, he will surely be missed, We have known Steve for around 24 years and have done business with him as well as knowing him personally. Our prayers to Judy, Jake, Becky and the rest of the family.*

*The Covingtons*

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**Kevin Co** - May 01, 2023 at 05:44 PM

NH

“ *So sorry to hear this. One of the nicest men I ever met. He was such an inspiration to so many. Naomi Holt R.N.*

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**naomi holt** - May 01, 2023 at 05:37 PM

DS

“ *My heart goes out to the family in this difficult time. Steve was a living legend and a larger than life figure to me. May his brilliance live on through his works and family.* ”



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**Dan Sennema** - May 01, 2023 at 05:25 PM