

Trout Funeral Home

Stephen W. Huston

(June 26, 1950 - October 7, 2005)

 Steve Huston, local funeral director, died Friday October 7th doing something that he loved...fly-fishing on a beautiful trout stream near Cotter, Arkansas.



Services are scheduled for 10 AM Wednesday at Grace Episcopal Church with the Rev. Kenneth Armstrong, rector, as celebrant, assisted by the Rev. Steven Mallory, deacon. Overflow seating with live video feed will be at First Presbyterian Church. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Trout Funeral Home.

Stephen Wayne Huston was born on June 26, 1950 in Henderson, Texas, the son of Jack Harold and Norman Jane (McLaren) Huston. His family lived in several locations including Tyler, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona and Fort Smith, Arkansas before moving to Ponca City in 1964. Steve graduated from Ponca City High School in 1968. He attended Northern Oklahoma College and when he won the draft lottery he enlisted in the Navy in February of 1971. After boot camp and "A" school Steve served as a Cryptological Technician with the U.S. Naval Security Group from 1971 to 1975, spending one year in Adak, Alaska, and then was transferred to Misawa, Japan.

On July 5, 1974, he married Teresa Leanne Shelley in a civil ceremony at the Akasaka Ward Office in Tokyo, Japan. Terry was a school teacher with the Department of Defense School System in Misawa. A church ceremony was held on August 17, 1974 at the base chapel there.

Steve and Terry returned to Ponca City in the summer of 1975. Terry taught at Liberty Elementary while Steve pursued his education at Central State University, Department of Funeral Service. They purchased Trout Funeral Home in January of 1977. Their twin sons, Chip and B.J., were born in February of 1977. Steve was active in numerous professional organizations including the National Funeral Directors Association and the Oklahoma Funeral Directors Association. He had served on the Regional and National Advisory Board for the Batesville Casket Company. The couple purchased Resthaven and Sunset Memorial Park Cemeteries in 1995. Steve served as President of the Oklahoma Cemetery Association and with Terry was instrumental in bringing The Wall That Heals (traveling Viet Nam Memorial) to Ponca City in 1997.

In addition, Steve was a founding Board Member and Past President of Hospice of Ponca City, committee member and participant in Drug Store

1997 and 2000, and had served on the boards of the local chapter of the American Red Cross and Northern Oklahoma Youth Services. He had also been a member of the Alumni Advisory Board of the University of Central Oklahoma. He was a communicant of Grace Episcopal Church and had served on the Vestry there. He was also a chaperone on the annual church youth group ski trip for many years.

Steve and Terry sold Trout Funeral Home and their cemeteries in 2002. Having been appointed to a five year term by Governor Frank Keating, Steve was serving as President of the Oklahoma State Funeral Board.

Steve always played an active role in his sons' lives. They shared many special moments together in Boy Scouts. From Tiger Cubs to Cubmaster of Pack 9 to Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 5 Steve lived the Scout Law and guided many young boys on the scouting road. Most importantly, he made three treks to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico with his sons and also completed Wood Badge training. Furthermore, he served as a committee member on the Cimarron Council.

Pursuing life with a special passion, Steve was never bored. He had been a wood-carver, a ham radio operator (KB5DOR), a skier and mountain climber. He was always on the go: learning new things, exploring new ideas, and finding new adventures. When faced with obstacles, he just looked at them as challenges and a good reason to learn about something new.

Steve's quick wit and sense of humor brightened many lives. He loved to laugh and his joke telling abilities and numerous funny e-mails will be missed. He would dress in zany Halloween costumes, wear crazy hats, and appeared at the Christmas Gala every year dressed in his Scottish kilt (Clan McLaren). Consequently, Steve was especially proud of his role in the local historical re-enactment group portraying philanthropist and oilman Lew Wentz. Steve also shared a unique insight into his character as he was continually adding new stories he had uncovered by talking to those who knew Wentz. His theatrical talents were also enjoyed at the annual production of Taste and Tasteless. His Forrest Gump, Dick and Jane, and George Bush routines left people with tears in their eyes...from laughing.

Steve loved music, especially Celtic and Bluegrass. At different times in his life, he had played guitar, banjo, mandolin, and hammered dulcimer. Seventeen years ago Steve and Terry discovered the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, and it became their annual September escape. For a week each year they found an extended family there with the "Carp Camp" group of musicians.

Steve possessed a love of life, and although God guided him into his profession as a funeral director, the job was just one way that Steve helped numerous people through what were often the most difficult moments in their lives.

In his pursuit of fish, Steve studied the art of flytying, entymology, and the feeding habits of trout. Using the same dedication to self-education and purpose that have always been his hallmark, Steve tied his own flies that proved to be successful time and again.

Life was meant to be lived to the fullest, and in many ways, Steve lived his personal life by the old saying “remember who you wanted to be.” This passion was evident in his woodwork, music, creative cooking, and the unique personal greeting cards he created for his loved ones.

A mentor to many, Steve was a wise, experienced conscience to others. His absence will be felt each and every day by numerous people who will wish he was still there on the other end of a telephone, an e-mail, instant messenger, or down at his shop where he would dispense his humor, wisdom, and saw dust. Our lives have been enriched by Steve’s presence in this world, and he will continue to live on in our memories. As he often said, “Grief is reaching out to someone when you need them the most and they’re no longer there.”

Steve is survived by his wife Terry of the home, sons: Chip of Little Rock, AR, B. J. and wife Michelle of Stillwater and countless other relatives and friends. He is also survived by his black Lab Bob, chocolate Lab Piper, and cats Logan and Tigger.

Casketbearers will be Glenn Dunn, Jim Highfill, Richard McLaren, Bob Renbarger, Steve Scott, and Dennis Tatum.

Honorary casketbearers will be B.S. Barnes (Phil Bandy), E. W. Marland (Mike Mott), Col. Zack Miller (John Raley), Mike Collins, John Hall, Gene Holland, Mike Shelley, and Fred Spellman.

Memorials may be made to Steve Huston Memorial Fund (to be used for youth in the community) in care of Eastman National Bank, 222 East Grand, Ponca City, OK 74601.

The family will be at the home.

Condolences may be made online at www.troutfuneralhome.com

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