



## Stephen R. Woody

September 1, 1962 - July 29, 2024

Stephen Randall “Steve” Woody, 61, of Fairfax Station, Virginia passed away on Monday, July 29, 2024 after a brave and prolonged battle with cancer. A beloved husband, father, poppy, son, brother, and friend; He will truly be missed by many.

Born September 1, 1962, in Montgomery, West Virginia to Josephine Marshall and Jack Woody, Steve spent a majority of his childhood in the state and was a proud West Virginian. Steve was a graduate of Bishop Donahue High School, Class of 1980. He went on to pursue an undergraduate degree at West Virginia University (WVU), Class of 1984, and then graduated with his Doctorate of JurisPrudence from WVU Law School in 1987. He pursued a 22-year career in the United States Air Force, serving as a Judge Advocate General, before retiring as a highly respected Colonel. Steve then transitioned to the Social Security Administration (SSA) as an Administrative Law Judge. After three years with the SSA, he went on to work for the National Transportation Safety Board (NSTB). Loving his job, he earned the distinction of being sworn in as the Chief Administrative Law Judge at the NTSB, where he finished his career.

On June 6, 1987, Steve married his college sweetheart, Lisa Bettinger, in a ceremony that remains a cherished memory for all who attended. Together over 40 years and married for over 37 years, they built a life filled with love,

laughter, and the joyous hustle and bustle of raising their two sons, Drew and Mitch, across multiple military assignments, domestic and abroad.

Steve is predeceased by his father, Jack Woody. His memory will be forever held in the hearts of his surviving family: his wife, Lisa Bettinger Woody; his sons Drew (Michelle) and Mitch (Jennie) Woody; his mother, Josephine Woody; his five sisters, Cindi Woody, Karen (Todd) Taylor, Becky Steele, Christi (Bobby) Couch, and Stacey Woody; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Steve's legacy is also carried on by his adored grandchildren: Bryson, Aubrey, and Declan. Despite Steve's distinguished career as a Colonel and Chief Judge, there was no title he cherished more than Poppy to his three young grandchildren. Each of them will remember their Poppy for his boundless energy and affection.

Relatives and friends will be received at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22315 for a visitation on Friday, August 9, 2024, from 5-8 PM. A funeral service will be held at the same location on Saturday, August 10, 2024, at 10:30 AM. The interment will immediately follow at Fairfax Memorial Park, Fairfax, Virginia 22032. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his honor to Fairfax Inova Schar Cancer Institute: <https://join.inova.org/cancerservices>.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

AUG **9**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 971-7400  
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

## Funeral Service

AUG **10**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 971-7400  
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

## Graveside

AUG **10**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fairfax Memorial Park  
9900 BRADDOCK ROAD  
FAIRFAX, VA 22032

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Stephen R. Woody*



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**Jefferson Funeral Chapel** - August 01, 2024 at 07:13 PM

JL

“ *I was honored and privileged to get to know Stephen at the NTSB, and considered him to be a professional friend, mentor, and truly wonderful dedicated man. His passion for life, his country, the law and professionalism shined through in him, and I so respected his friendship and professional decorum. He will be forever missed by his family, friends, attorney's, the NTSB, and especially myself, and may Chief Judge Stephen R. Woody Rest in Peace. Joe Lamonaca*



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**joseph lamonaca** - October 14, 2024 at 06:35 PM

SS

“ I just learned of Steve's passing and am shocked my heartfelt condolence to Mrs Woody,, Lisa, all of Steve's sisters and family. Steve was a beautiful friend. I have so many memories with Steve. We became friends during college even though we grew up only 2 miles apart. Steve was a great friend. Memories of riding around in his Pontiac firebird or my Pontiac lemans. Swimming in the Woody pool, listening to Jacks words of wisdom Playing softball and being in Steve and Lisa's wedding in Bernardsville. My friend I know you are in heaven. May you rest in peace

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**Stan Stazenski** - September 29, 2024 at 11:00 AM

RS

“ Richard S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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**Richard S.** - August 21, 2024 at 04:19 PM

SM

“ Steve was an old teammate classmate in high school. He will be missed. Steve Mele

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**Steve Mele** - August 12, 2024 at 02:35 PM

SF

“ Spiro,Bud, Wendy,James, Dan, & all your friends at London Fischer planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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**Spiro,Bud, Wendy,James, Dan, & all your friends at London Fischer** - August 12, 2024 at 12:11 PM

RK

“ We are sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Woody. He was a beautiful person and we will always remember him with such fond memories. Sending our love and prayers to your family that God may surround you with peace and comfort in the days to come.

*Ryan and Paige Kelley*

*John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

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**Ryan Kelley** - August 10, 2024 at 10:38 AM

DC

*Steve was a blessing to all who knew him. We will miss him so much and know that you, Lisa, will miss him so much too. There are not many men, I can say that have made this world a better place and fewer men, we can say are as kind, caring, as well as a wonderful husband ,father and wonderful grandfather, as Steve was. We were so blessed to get to know Steve as our daughter is married to Drew, his oldest son and his 3 grandchildren adore him. Carol and I will miss him and pray for you Lisa, and your family. God doesn't make many men like Steve! Wish we could be at the funeral but must stay home. Our prayers are with you, Lisa, and all of your family. Wish we could be there but my surgery is preventing it. Will be praying for all of the family and our prayers are with you all. Love Carol & Diane Cini .*

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**Diane and Carol Cini** - August 11, 2024 at 01:49 PM

DC

*Lisa, wish we could be with you but will be at the hospital. We adored Steve. Our love is with you and the family. Diane & Carol Cini*

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**Diane and Carol Cini** - August 11, 2024 at 02:14 PM

DC

*Love and prayers to you and the family .*

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**Diane and Carol Cini** - August 11, 2024 at 02:15 PM

TG

“ Tracie and Israel Ginez purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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**Tracie and Israel Ginez** - August 09, 2024 at 09:45 PM

TG

“ Tracie and Israel Ginez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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**Tracie and Israel Ginez** - August 09, 2024 at 09:45 PM

YD

“ I worked with Judge Woody at the NTSB and it was a pleasure to served as his legal assistant. My deepest sympathy for the family. Praying for strength and peace.



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**Yvette Delgado** - August 09, 2024 at 05:11 PM

TJ

“ I'm so incredibly sorry for your loss. Sending the Woody and extended family my sincerest condolences and prayers of peace and love during this difficult time.

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**Toi James** - August 09, 2024 at 05:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



August 09, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



August 09, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ The Gillers Hanans and Allens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

The Gillers Hanans and Allens - August 09, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



August 08, 2024 at 09:27 PM

DB

“ Damon, Jen, Madison and Brody planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

Damon, Jen, Madison and Brody - August 08, 2024 at 09:27 PM

TF

“ The Stankowski Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



The Stankowski Family - August 08, 2024 at 08:36 PM

TF

“ The Stankowski Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

The Stankowski Family - August 08, 2024 at 08:36 PM

GS

“ Greg S. purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



Greg S. - August 08, 2024 at 07:45 PM

WT

“ With great sympathy, Jg. Alisa M. Tapia purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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**With great sympathy, Jg. Alisa M. Tapia** - August 08, 2024 at 05:06 PM

WT

“ With great sympathy, Jg. Alisa M. Tapia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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**With great sympathy, Jg. Alisa M. Tapia** - August 08, 2024 at 05:06 PM

JS

“ Jeff & Bambi Slack purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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**Jeff & Bambi Slack** - August 08, 2024 at 05:05 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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August 08, 2024 at 04:39 PM

LC

“ Love, Steve and Chrissie. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

Love, Steve and Chrissie. - August 08, 2024 at 04:39 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



August 08, 2024 at 02:46 PM

SB

“ I have fond memories of Col Woody from knowing him at Aviano AB, Italy. He epitomized the word integrity !! My wife and I are praying for his family and for the repose of his soul !

Sal Bova - August 08, 2024 at 02:06 PM

HW

“ Heather Goguen and Carol Wilson purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



Heather Goguen and Carol Wilson - August 08, 2024 at 12:01 PM

MF

“ *Mr. And Mrs. Alfred Crews Jr. & Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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**Mr. And Mrs. Alfred Crews Jr. & Family** - August 08, 2024 at 11:47 AM

MF

“ *Mr. And Mrs. Alfred Crews Jr. & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.*

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**Mr. And Mrs. Alfred Crews Jr. & Family** - August 08, 2024 at 11:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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August 08, 2024 at 10:35 AM

NB

“ *Natalie B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.*

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**Natalie B.** - August 08, 2024 at 10:04 AM

LF

“ Love, The Dagley Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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Love, The Dagley Family - August 08, 2024 at 07:36 AM

LF

“ Love, The Dagley Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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Love, The Dagley Family - August 08, 2024 at 07:36 AM

JH

“ Lisa

*It is with the deepest sympathy that I write this note, but I feel a strong need to tell you, Drew and Mitch and anyone willing to listen, how much I admired and respected Steve.*

*Despite both being career Air Force JAGS, we met for the first time late in our respective careers. I joined him as one of only two Air Force JAGS working for General Peter Pace the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Within a few short weeks, Steve made me prouder to be an Air Force JAG as we worked side by side with Army, Marine, and Navy JAGs serving a Marine General. We were truly the few and the proud that worked unthinkable hours and Steve worked the hardest. I watched as he worked night and day for weeks on end dealing with the crises called Katrina. As things go in Chairman's Legal when the Chairman needs answers to problems that confront the Nation, he depends on his JAGs to ensure that all the rules are followed. Steve was "The Man" when anyone needed anything on Katrina...and there were lots of people who need things. He was not only a workhorse but he was a calming influence and voice of reason that ensured that it was done right and by the book. Steve did not cut corners.*

*Once Katerine settled down, we started to have more time together and I learned what great pride he took in being from West Virginia. As a small-town boy who grew up in Southern Illinois, I knew all about pride in home and Steve lived it more than anyone else I ever knew. I still chuckle when I think about him telling me that he had to explain to people that "West Virginia" was another state. Whenever I watch sports today, I cheer for the Mountaineers, unless they are playing the Salukis, and think of Steve and all of you. He was truly a pound son of West Virginia.*

*After we moved on from the Pentagon, I remained in touch because I felt he was a kindred spirit. I was please to teach him how to make beer and have the chance to get to know you, Drew and Mitch. I*

*remember the last time I was in DC and “invited” myself to dinner. Steve picked me up at the metro and we simply had Pizza together at your house and I could tell the pride he had as we caught up and he talked about how the boys were doing and how wedding bells were ringing. Having spent time with both Drew and Mitch I knew his pride was well deserved and you both had every reason to be proud. (Thanks for giving me that time with him)*

*In closing, know this, Steve Woody is one of the finest officers, JAGS and persons I have ever met. I share your loss deeply and I weep for you all but I promise I will celebrate his life and love soon and have a beer or two in his honor. Joe Heimann, Colonel, USAF (ret)*

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**Joseph L Heimann** - August 07, 2024 at 11:32 PM

MF

“ *Mark Christman and family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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**Mark Christman and family** - August 07, 2024 at 09:06 PM

TF

“ *The Ison Law Firm purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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**The Ison Law Firm** - August 07, 2024 at 08:30 PM

FF

“ From Leone West and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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From Leone West and family - August 07, 2024 at 06:33 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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August 07, 2024 at 05:53 PM

CK

“ Chris & Kim planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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Chris & Kim - August 07, 2024 at 05:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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August 07, 2024 at 04:23 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



August 07, 2024 at 03:43 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



August 07, 2024 at 01:22 PM



“ Admin Team at Frye Regional MC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

**Admin Team at Frye Regional MC** - August 07, 2024 at 01:22 PM



“ Nancy and Greg purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



**Nancy and Greg** - August 07, 2024 at 10:54 AM

MI

“ *Modular Office Renovation Experts, Inc. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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**Modular Office Renovation Experts, Inc.** - August 06, 2024 at 06:34 PM

MI

“ *Modular Office Renovation Experts, Inc. planted a <a href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518">Memorial Tree</a> in honor of Stephen R. Woody.*

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**Modular Office Renovation Experts, Inc.** - August 06, 2024 at 06:34 PM

JP

“ *Lisa (Anthony and I call you "Huggy,") I, Joanne, 90% of the time, shared something comical with Steve.  
I could count on Steve to grab the lines for me; from the finger on our Dock  
D.  
Joanne and Anthony*

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**Joanne P.** - August 06, 2024 at 03:19 PM

DI

“ *Dale and Karen Ewing and Installnet planted a <a href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518">Memorial Tree</a> in honor of Stephen R. Woody.*

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**Dale and Karen Ewing and Installnet** - August 06, 2024 at 11:47 AM

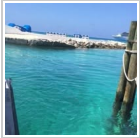
DI

“ Dale and Karen Ewing and Installnet purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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**Dale and Karen Ewing and Installnet** - August 06, 2024 at 11:47 AM



“ Lisa - I am so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers, love and hugs your way.  
Beth Cain

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**Beth Cain** - August 05, 2024 at 08:46 PM

JM

“ Dear Lisa, Boys, and Family. We are so sorry for your loss of such a fine man. Love, Judy and Uncle

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**Judy Parker and Russell Marshall** - August 05, 2024 at 03:07 PM

CH

“ Chubb planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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**Chubb** - August 05, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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August 05, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about the passing of Col Woody. Col Woody was my first true boss after law school. He was a good man and excellent mentor. May his memory be for a blessing.*

*Josh Slomich*

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**Josh Slomich** - August 05, 2024 at 12:09 PM



“ *Beth, Witt, Nick and Janice planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.*

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**Beth, Witt, Nick and Janice** - August 05, 2024 at 11:52 AM



“ *Beth, Witt, Nick and Janice purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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**Beth, Witt, Nick and Janice** - August 05, 2024 at 11:52 AM

CS

“ Chris and Julia Stella planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

Chris and Julia Stella - August 05, 2024 at 11:29 AM

CS

“ Chris and Julia Stella purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



Chris and Julia Stella - August 05, 2024 at 11:29 AM

LM

“ Liam and Jaclyn MacDonald purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



Liam and Jaclyn MacDonald - August 04, 2024 at 08:59 PM

MJ

“ MSgt (Ret.) Rudolph P. Gibbs, Jr. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

MSgt (Ret.) Rudolph P. Gibbs, Jr. - August 04, 2024 at 08:38 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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August 04, 2024 at 08:38 PM



“ *Captain John S. Beach Marina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.*

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**Captain John S. Beach Marina** - August 04, 2024 at 06:04 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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August 04, 2024 at 06:04 PM



“ *Love, Bart Wager and Jan Wager purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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**Love, Bart Wager and Jan Wager** - August 04, 2024 at 03:53 PM

AM

“ Alice, Gayle, Jenn, and Melaney purchased the *Serene Retreat* for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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**Alice, Gayle, Jenn, and Melaney** - August 04, 2024 at 11:22 AM

MF

“ Margo F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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**Margo F.** - August 03, 2024 at 05:06 PM

RB

“ Robert and Becky purchased the *Magnificent Life Spray* for the family of Stephen R. Woody.



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**Robert and Becky** - August 03, 2024 at 10:47 AM

CW

“ Chuck and Joanie Wilcox planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen R. Woody.

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**Chuck and Joanie Wilcox** - August 03, 2024 at 03:33 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Stephen R. Woody.*



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August 03, 2024 at 03:33 AM



“ *Lisa and family, so sorry to hear the passing of Steve! I treasure the time we shared recently and the opportunity to say goodbye! A life well lived and a life of service! He was courageous in his fight against cancer and set an example of facing pain and suffering for all of us! Prayers for everyone in the days to come. Treasure the memories you shared! Love to all!*

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**Bob Couch** - August 02, 2024 at 10:00 PM