



Steven E. Wooddell

January 16, 1946 - October 17, 2024

Steve was born in West Virginia, and his family came from the small rural farming town of Frost, WV. After graduating high school, Steve left his small town to put himself through mortuary school and then decided to settle in the NOVA area to begin his dream of starting a business. Steve never ever forgot his roots.

In 1969, Steve opened the doors of Metropolitan Funeral Service, Inc, which at the onset was merely renting a prep room from Pearson Funeral Home. Steve knocked on doors and had doors shut in his face, but he never gave up on his dream. He utilized his best assets, which were his people skills and his unbridled work ethic. With that in hand, and his devoted wife, Molly, supporting his dream, Metropolitan grew year after year to become the largest trade service in the DMV. He bought and sold funeral homes, grew in his business acumen, launched into real estate, ran a thriving farm business with his cousin and built new funeral homes from the ground up with friends and colleagues.

Steve was devoted to his beloved daughters, Karen and Julie and their husbands John and Rick and he cherished his 10 grandchildren, two of whom preceded him in death. Steve's great joy was to entertain, mentor and help others either in time of need or to encourage them to pursue their passion relentlessly. Steve was brilliant and shared his knowledge and skills with others to push them to be their best and to never settle.

Steve loved hunting and fishing, and he loved his farm hometown of Frost. Steve surrounded himself with great people, extraordinary employees, friends of character and family all of whom were devoted to him. His good nature, incredible spirit of generosity, his desire to help others and his overall presence will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to know him.

Visitation will be held on Friday, October 25, 2024 at The King's Chapel, 12925 Braddock Rd, Clifton, VA 20124, from 3:30-6:30PM. Memorial service will be held at The King's Chapel on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 1PM. Interment will be held privately at Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

In lieu of flowers, and to honor Steve's spirit of generosity, we encourage all to give either to The King's Chapel (<https://pushpay.com/g/thekingschapel?src=hp>) in memory of Steve or to a charity that is meaningful to you.

Lastly, we would be honored if you would leave a short comment of how Steve impacted your life, words that best describe Steve, or your favorite memory of Steve in the condolence section.

Please note two details for the the Memorial Service on Saturday.

*The celebration of his life will be livestreamed and is available at <https://live.thekingschapel.org/>.

**To help mitigate parking issues at The King's Chapel there will be a parking shuttle available at Willow Springs Elementary School beginning at 11:30am to shuttle you to The King's Chapel. It will run every 15 minutes. Willow Springs Elementary School is located at 5400 Willow Springs School Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Cemetery Details

Columbia Gardens Cemetery

3411 Arlington Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT **25**. 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

The King's Chapel
12925 Braddock Rd
Clifton, VA 20124-1092
(703) 543-6201

Memorial Service

OCT **26**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

The King's Chapel
12925 Braddock Rd
Clifton, VA 20124-1092
(703) 543-6201

To help mitigate parking issues at The King's Chapel there will be a parking shuttle available at Willow Springs Elementary School beginning at 11:30am to shuttle you to The King's Chapel. It will run every 15 minutes. Willow Springs Elementary School is located at 5400 Willow Springs School Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Tribute Wall

SR

“ Our little community of frost was so lucky to have you. I am so grateful to many memories in my childhood regarding Steve. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Sierra Rodriguez - November 14, 2024 at 08:01 AM

CP

“ Please accept my condolences on the passing of Steve, your beloved father and all of the other folks who loved him. It is sad to learn of the death of my fellow classmate from Ludwigsburg American High School, class of 1964.
Candace Peterson, Texas

Candace Peterson - November 07, 2024 at 02:26 PM

PT

“ Today, don't know how or why, I was reminded of Steve, went online, and was saddened to read of his recent passing. Steve was a kind and generous person. My sincerest condolences to Karen and Julie and all those that loved him. I have fond memories, and a lifetime of stories, working at MFS for about a year in the mid-eighties during my stay in the US. Steve, thank you and Rest in Peace.
Peter Tummers, The Netherlands

Peter Tummers - October 27, 2024 at 09:08 AM

KB

Peter! Thank you for this sweet note and we have fond memories of you being here as well.
Karen

Karen Brendle - December 05, 2024 at 02:28 PM

DE

Today, I learned of my dear friend's passing. I usually wished him well on all special occasions. It was my way of making and keeping contact with him. Instead of receiving his comments, I received an obit.

*It truly broke my heart He handled my husband's remains
Five plus years ago. We knew Steve through a mutual friend and had
him visit several times.*

*I felt a special attachment to his girls and a special affection for Steve.
May God grant his family peace. Mrs Edward Earley*

Dinah Earley - June 16, 2025 at 08:43 PM

NC

“ *Ludwigsburg American HS, Stuttgart, Germany
Class of 1964*



Nona Camack - October 27, 2024 at 07:36 AM

MI

“ I have so many memories of Steve as a young man working at Metro 1979-1983. He gave me my first real job and taught me how to work hard. His “I buy you fly” comment at lunch time resulted in a lot of free lunches!

I still use the comment today with my own employees.

I can't even count how many Redskins games he gave me tickets for and boy what a time to be a Redskin fan.

As God's will I would become friends with Molly, Julie and especially Karen and family at Christian Assembly and The Kings Chapel. It's so obvious that Steve's love for life and generosity has been inherited by his girls.

My heart and prayers go out to all of you as you miss and grieve your dad and grandpa. May God's peace and love cover and comfort you.

Mike and Stacey Ipsan

mike ipsan - October 27, 2024 at 03:40 AM

WS

“ Julie, Karen and families: I just heard that Steve had passed away. I'm so sorry. I haven't seen any of you for quite awhile, but I have fond memories of attending a Redskins game with your Dad. The hunting trips with your Dad and Grand dad were a great treat for my Dad. Thinking of you and sending prayers.

Wendy Wooddell Sur

Wendy wooddell Sur - October 26, 2024 at 04:29 PM

AW

“ My sincerest condolences to Karen, Julie, and family (Metro family included). Working at Metropolitan Funeral Services for eight years, it didn't take long for me to realize that Steve was not only a great boss but also an exceptional businessman. I remember how often Steve would be there to observe, delegate, and assist wherever needed, making sure everything ran smoothly. He had a remarkable way of balancing the roles of leader and mentor, knowing when to be firm and when to show his gentle, kind side.

I learned so much from my time under Steve's leadership—lessons I carry with me to this day. Even in those moments of high stress due to increased call volume, Steve's example made me willing to go above and beyond, just as he would.

Steve made being a part of the Metro team absolute privilege and blessing. Karen and July, sincerely, my thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. May you find comfort in the incredible legacy Steve has left behind, both professionally and personally.

Anthony Wilson

Anthony Wilson - October 26, 2024 at 11:23 AM

MB

“ Sending love to Karen, Julie and the entire family. Steven Wooddell was an amazing man & business owner. He was definitely a great mentor to me. Very kind and always willing to help. I worked at Metro after working for several funeral homes. Steve taught me how to be a skilled embalmer. He was very patient, kind and understanding. As a woman breaking into the funeral industry, most men were not quick to train or teach women to be skilled embalmers but that was not Steve. He allowed us women to learn and do everything the men were allowed to do. Steve was the first person to allow me to drive the hearse when others wouldn't because they felt woman shouldn't drive the hearse. Steve played an important role in my confidence as a woman in a male dominated industry at the time. I believe he had a soft spot in his heart for being fair to women in the industry believing we could produce the same results or better than some of the men. This meant more to me than he will ever know. He made me feel I could do anything I put my heart & mind to, and I will always remember him for that. I will miss the great conversations, that wonderful smile and infectious laugh. I honestly believe because he was a girl dad he was dedicated to empowering women as he did with his own daughters. He will be missed but never forgotten.

A TRUE LEGEND IN THE FUNERAL INDUSTRY.

Melanie Boney, Funeral Director

Melanie Boney - October 26, 2024 at 08:58 AM

GI

“ Karen, Julie and Family,

We were heartbroken to hear about the passing of your father. Please accept our deepest condolences during this difficult time.



Steve was a remarkable person who touched the lives of many. We are so grateful for Metropolitan; it afforded us the opportunity have a more "normal" life knowing we could rely on him and you all to help us when we needed you the most. His kindness and spirit will be greatly missed.

If there's anything we can do to support you or your family, please don't hesitate to reach out. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.

The Kalas Family & Staff

George Kalas, III - October 25, 2024 at 12:42 PM

TH

“ Karen, Julie, and family,

When praying for you all, the Lord brought to my mind a sweet memory of Steve when I was asking for advice on a difficult decision I had to make. He paced back and forth as he shared his thoughts on my options. When I thanked him, he gave me that mischievous side-smile he had that always warmed my heart. I still see that smile. My prayer is that God pour out His grace, peace, and love over you all during this time. I love you.

Tami House - October 25, 2024 at 11:45 AM

AH

“ *The Ames Funeral Home Family and Staff send our prayers and condolences. Steve was an awesome friend to us and shared many memories of the business through the years. His soft spokeness and compassion for people will be missed. May God bless you during this time and in the days to come.* ”

Ames Funeral Home - October 25, 2024 at 11:19 AM

JA

“ *Such an amazing, compassionate, pillar of the industry and more. May his memory be the hug needed in times ahead. My condolences to his family, his friends, coworkers and to all who knew him.* ”

Jamie Arthurs - October 25, 2024 at 10:31 AM

ML

“ *An ICON of the funeral industry, Steve will be remembered and missed. My condolences to Karen, Julie and family.* ”



Marty Lee - October 25, 2024 at 09:47 AM

LM

“ Steve was blessed with a lot of friends and I was blessed to be one of them. Among his many pursuits was football. We had so much fun on the van rides to RFK and cheering on the then called redskins, now commanders. He loved hosting those parties. He was generous with his time and financed so many people and causes. His heart and generosity knew no bounds. Yes I was lucky to call him my friend and will miss him terribly. My heart felt prayers go out to his girls and family to find peace in the days ahead through God’s love.

Lynn Moseley - October 23, 2024 at 11:49 PM

CB

“ Karen, Julie, and Family,

I and my mom were saddened to learn of the passing of your father. I have good thoughts on my working for, and working hands-on with, Mr. Steven E. Wooddell, who hired me on the spot (after Karen agreed, of course). I chuckle even now. Steve was a wonderful man always willing to share his wisdom, business acumen, and charisma. The good Steve has done will be evident for years to come in so many lives - business partnerships, human and pet families served, opportunities granted, ... May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived. You are in our prayers for comfort to come with each passing day. Peace to you.

Charles F. Bowman (“CB”)

Charles Bowman - October 23, 2024 at 06:12 PM

AC

“ I didn't know Papa Steve, but I have heard so many stories from my sister Velma that not only made me laugh but also evoked a feeling of respect. Her stories about him taught me that life trials should not stop you from living your best one and if you're going to do it....DO IT WELL!

Andrea N. Castleberry - October 23, 2024 at 04:20 PM

AC

Velma also said that Papa Steve would always feed her. And they talked about ice cream. She said that with him, if you were a friend, you were family !!

Andrea N. Castleberry - October 23, 2024 at 04:43 PM

LM

“ Heres to a man who lived life with gusto, captured hearts and inspired those he touched. You will be sorely missed my friend.

Linda Mastervich - October 23, 2024 at 03:19 PM

BH

“ Bryan Hunter

I worked at Metro for about 10yrs, Steve and Karen was absolutely amazing to work for.

I just want to take a moment to reflect on my former boss, Steve. He wasn't just an incredible boss, but also a genuinely wonderful person to work for. Steve always led by example, showing kindness, professionalism, and respect in everything he did. He made every workday better and always had time to listen, offer guidance, and inspire those around him. I'm grateful for the time we worked together. Thanks, Steve, for being the kind of boss who made a lasting impact on my life.

And to Karen and Julie, thank you for sharing your dad with all of us for so many years. You ladies was indeed blessed to have such an amazing father!!

Please accept my condolences and know that you all are indeed in my thoughts and prayers.

*Much Love,
Bryan Hunter*

Bryan Hunter - October 22, 2024 at 11:42 PM

FW

“ Steve was a wonderful person I took over his landscaping at his house & business in Alexandria. He was a wonderful person to me in everything I did for him . God bless and the lord be with your family .Let God be with you.

Frank Woodward - October 22, 2024 at 08:19 PM

NT

“ Though the death care business brought us together, we were much more than business acquaintances. We were hunting buddies. Steve was a always a country boy at heart and had the heart of a country boy. Whether in a duck blind or his Redskins suite; Steve was the consummate host. He was always ready to open his home to us and treated us like we were family. He was generous and had his eyes open to see and help those in need.

Julie and Karen, Steve was so proud of you and your children. My deepest sympathies to your family.

Ned R. Thomas, Jr.

Ned Thomas - October 22, 2024 at 03:26 PM

RP

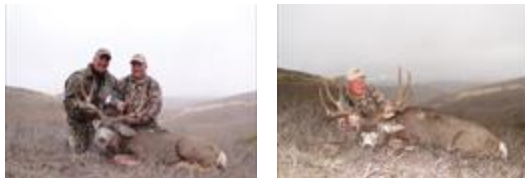
“ Ruth Pegeron lit a candle in memory of Steven E. Wooddell



Ruth Pegeron - October 22, 2024 at 03:25 PM

NT

“ 2 files added to the album Ned Thomas and Steve, Cowboy Island, CA Elk 10/2010



Ned Thomas - October 22, 2024 at 03:05 PM

NT

2 elk, 2 mule deer; 2 happy hunters!

Ned Thomas - October 22, 2024 at 03:29 PM

TR

“ Steve gave me my first professional job, where in my short time learned so much and took those skills with me in my continued success in my career. My mother worked for him as well and loved working for him. The Franklin-Tuthill family appreciates all he did for those who have passed on. Condolences, Trudy Franklin and families.

Trudy - October 22, 2024 at 01:34 PM

RH

“ Steve gave me my first job in funeral service in 1981. He was a patient mentor and inspired me to some day work for myself. In the twilight of my 40+ year career I'll never forget the simple lessons I learned from him. I am forever grateful.

Russell Harman - October 21, 2024 at 07:45 PM

JB

“ May God Bless Steve, his Family and staff at Metropolitan. We will remember his help and kindness over the years. The Barranco Family & Staff

John Barranco - October 21, 2024 at 10:51 AM

JJ

“ One of the finest men I have ever met. He helped me continuously in my career since 1981! A great father and father figure to many of us. May his memory be eternal!

Jim Govoni & Jeffrey Journey - October 20, 2024 at 04:24 PM

MD

“ During the COVID-19 pandemic Arlington County began a four-phased reopening plan that lasted through July 1, 2020. Shortly after on Wednesday, July 29th, 2020, around mid-day, I visited the Metropolitan Funeral Service office in search of employment. When I entered the front parking area there was no one in sight. I didn't realize I could have just opened the door and entered so after my knocks went unanswered, I turned around and looked back onto Vine Street and wondered what to do next. I noticed down on the street an older gentleman walking a pretty pup and I wondered if he had any connection to the funeral service. I approached him and asked, “Sir, any chance you may work here and know if this company needs help?” He replied, “They might need help, I can't be sure; walk in and wait there is a lady coming and you can ask her, I think her name is Karen.”

Through my association with MFS, Mr. Wooddell [Steve] encouraged I progress from associate to licensed embalmer and now to ActDuty U.S. Navy Licensed Mortician. We will remember Steve with great fondness and appreciation for all he did for us as the nation came through that difficult period. He was always generous, faithful, conscientious and fun. He provided a tremendous service to the funeral service community throughout the national capital region and his contributions many which extend to distant points will have a long-lasting impact. Be assured of our prayers and remembrances.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Diaz
Arlington, Virginia

M. Marcel Diaz - October 20, 2024 at 01:02 PM

WB

“ Julie & Karen - I am so sorry for the loss of your Father and my friend of many, many years. Steve always had the welcoming, warm smile which put many people at ease. Steve's character, integrity, honesty, respect and empathy for others is beyond reproach. I will miss him dearly. My deepest sympathies to you both and the extended Wooddell families. William G Buck

William G Buck - October 20, 2024 at 09:54 AM

WW

“ Julie...so sorry for your loss. Tammy and I know how hard you Cared for him during his final days. We both remember Steve as a nice Friendly guy who loved to hunt and fish. Now that he is in heaven, he will Be able to hunt and fish forever. May God help you endure your loss and Bless you during your hours of sadness. Love. Bill and Tammy.

william white - October 19, 2024 at 03:52 PM

MB

“ I really do not have one real outstanding memory about Steve, the reason being is that he was a great, caring, get involved type of guy. I have known him for over 45 years through my father-in-law in the 70's and then through the funeral business. Karen & Julie, our hearts have broken when we heard you dad passed away. Randy and I loved your dad for who he was to Randy's dad, a great friend. He also through the years have advised me personally on some business ventures. I think a good time was when he had a 4th of July party on the roof of a building downtown many years ago and it was TOP KNOTCH. Again, he was a wonder person to everyone and I never heard a bad word about him. Be proud of your Dad, love you guys, Mark & Randy Brohawn

Mark G. Brohawn - October 19, 2024 at 01:22 PM

KB

“ Steve was like a Dad & Older Brother to me over the 40+years that I knew him. He was the epitome of a loyal and faithful friend. Never judgemental, he always provided wise counsel and guidance. He was always there for me, and my family. He blessed me in so many ways and I know that his friendship was a gift from God. The Lord blessed him with a loving heart and he was genuinely thankful for God's blessings throughout his life. He cherished his daughters Karen & Julie, and adored his many grandchildren. What an awesome man!! I will miss him greatly, but I will see him again on the corner of First & Glory!

Kim Beasley

Kim A. Beasley - October 19, 2024 at 11:07 AM

MG

“ Karen and Julie- I was saddened when I got the news of Steve's passing. He was a man who always made you feel like you were a friend. I always wonder why bad things happen to good people. Whenever I would call down to Metropolitan and he answered the phone his main concern was if I had gotten my morning or afternoon nap yet. (Funny). From this day going forward I will be taking a nap every day in his honor. He will be missed by many. Rest in peace Steve.

Mike Gibbons

Michael Gibbons - October 19, 2024 at 09:47 AM

SD

Dear Karen and Julie and the entire Wooddell and Related Family, My late husband, Jim, and I had the good fortune of meeting Steve at a Redskins game in the late 70's. My husband's love of hunting and football cemented a lasting, meaningful and wonderful friendship with Steve and his family. Through the ups and downs of our lives, Steve and his family continued to be steadfast in true friendship. Steve's impact on those around him was profound. He taught us about the importance of friendship, loyalty and genuinely caring about others. Steve is the kind of person who doesn't just say "what can I do to help" he is on your doorstep helping in amazing ways without being asked. His unwavering loyalty, kindness and friendship will continue to be a blessing and precious gift that I will treasure forever. RIP, my friend, Steve!

*Your very sad friend,
Sheila Dryden*

Sheila Dryden - October 21, 2024 at 11:20 AM

RB

I was saddened today when I got the news of Steve's passing. Great man, always treated me the very best. I remember one time I came up to work on the equipment and Steve insisted that I stay with him at his house and not in a hotel. you will be missed by many.

*Enjoy the fishing and hunting,
Randy Bryant*

Randy Bryant - October 21, 2024 at 04:19 PM

KT

Julie and Karen, I am so sorry to hear about your Dad's passing. I did not have the pleasure of meeting him but from all I have heard and from my work with you both, I know he was a very special man and wonderful father.

*Wishing you peace and wonderful memories,
Katy Torre*

Katy Torre - October 22, 2024 at 12:45 PM

JT

To echo the comments of my industry colleagues, Steve was a plethora of knowledge and expertise. With each conversation, I always felt I was speaking with a friend. He was indeed a mentor and reflected that which is best in funeral service. It was my honor to have met him.

Jeffrey Titcomb - October 22, 2024 at 02:23 PM

CB

I met Steve in 1979 when I relocated to Manassas, VA from NYC. At that time MFS did most of the cremations in the area as most funeral homes did not have crematoriums. MFS also helped with many of our death calls in DC. Steve was always there to help and always had a smile for you. I always liked and respected who he had become. A perfect professional. My sympathy and condolences go to Karen and Julie and your family. May he Rest In Peace.

Cliff Blasius - October 23, 2024 at 01:58 PM

DK

Karen, Julie, Dennis and the entire MFS team, so sorry to hear about Steve's passing. I always loved to call and hear "Big Daddy's" voice, he was generous with his advice, friendly with his words and fun to be around, I will miss him! Dana Kennedy

Dana L. Kennedy - October 30, 2024 at 09:04 AM