



## Stephen P. Bennett

June 27, 1949 - February 26, 2019

Stephen P. Bennett age 69, passed away Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at his home in Westerville, Ohio. Steve was born in Portsmouth, Ohio on June 27, 1949 to the late Jim and Naomi (Lynch) Bennett. Graduate of Thomas Worthington High School, Class of 1967 and The Ohio State University, School of Natural Resources in 1971. Veteran U.S. Army, 523rd Military Police Company at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland as an MP. Steve began his career with Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources in 1974. He left Ohio for two years to serve as a Superintendent with the West Virginia Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, and returned to Ohio in 1977 to become an assistant park manager at East Harbor St. Park. After a 1981 stop as the camp manager of the Green Springs 3-C camp, Steve became the park manager at Hocking Hills State Park in 1982 and was there until May 2002. He finished up his career with the Division of Parks and Recreation as the Park Manager at Lake Hope State Park, retiring in December 2002. Steve was a member of Genoa Baptist Church where he faithfully served as an usher. Preceded in death by his parents; and brother-in-law, Roger Stephens. He married Karen (Schrolucke) on October 11, 1975, and she survives; daughter, Lisa (Dave) Wilcut of Las Vegas, NV; son, Jim (Katie McKinley) Bennett, Bay Village, OH; grandsons, Elijah and Benjamin Wilcut, Graham and Daniel Bennett; sisters, Judy Chester of North Canton, OH and Margie Stephens of Loudon, TN; sister-in-law, Janet (Pat) Hagerty of Bradenton, FL; seven nieces and nephews. Friends may call Monday, March 4, 2019 from 4

p.m. to 8 p.m. at RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High St., Worthington, OH. Funeral service 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Pastor Joe Stoll, officiating. Interment Union Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions, if desired, may be made in Steve's memory to Genoa Baptist Church Building Fund, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, OH 43082. To leave a condolence for the family please visit [www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com](http://www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Union Cemetery

3349 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, OH 43202  
(614) 267-5471

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 4.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home  
515 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-4006  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Funeral Service

**MAR 5.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home  
515 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-4006  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen P. Bennett*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I will always cherish the memory of the many Christmas Eve dinners that my wife Jenny and I shared with our friends Steve and Karen. Steve was my buddy and I will miss him terribly. But I REJOICE in the fact that we will see him again. God bless you Karen! Jenny and I are praying for you.*

**Patrick Fields** - March 04, 2019 at 03:30 PM



“ *I worked for Steve many years ago when he was assistant manager at East Harbor State Park. We have stayed friends with he and Karen for many years. I've always held Steve in the highest regard. He was a great family man, a good boss, and a wonderful friend. I'm sure he's at peace in a good place now, and I'll never forget him.*

**Jim Wilson** - March 03, 2019 at 11:57 PM



“ *Kathy Hyman, Shari Berry and families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Stephen P. Bennett.*



**Kathy Hyman, Shari Berry and families** - March 03, 2019 at 10:08 PM

LI

“ There really are no words to express the depth of emotions our family is experiencing. Dad’s patience and commitment to prioritizing the needs and best interests of others above his own contributed so much to who I am and where I am today. As a parent myself now, I realize how easy it would be to steer my kids into choosing a college close to home, accepting an in-state job offer (or at least the same time zone!), or considering a career move that would make visits with grandkids more frequent and logistically simpler. Dad didn’t do that. He weighed decisions with the objectivity I have come to recognize and appreciate about him throughout my life. There will never be a day I don’t miss him, but we have been born again to a living hope in Jesus Christ. It is with confidence in Him that I can say, as we’ve said so many times before when our vacations and visits would end, “I’ll see you soon.”  
Lovingly, Lisa and family

Lisa - March 02, 2019 at 02:16 PM

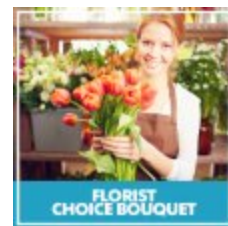
BT

“ Sorry to hear about Steve's passing. We remember him from his time at Green Springs CCC Camp. Cheryl and Bill Thomas

Bill Thomas - March 01, 2019 at 11:11 AM

DR

“ Dick and Betty Bennett; Brad, Stephanie and Rachel purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Stephen P. Bennett.



Dick and Betty Bennett; Brad, Stephanie and Rachel - March 01, 2019 at 10:24 AM

DM

“ *Our Thoughts & Prayers to the Bennett Family, He will be greatly missed!! God Bless! <3*



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**Debbie McCabe** - February 28, 2019 at 11:32 PM

KM

“ *Kathy Molihan lit a candle in memory of Stephen P. Bennett*



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**Kathy Molihan** - February 28, 2019 at 08:35 PM

DM

“ *Duane M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Stephen P. Bennett.*



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**Duane M.** - February 28, 2019 at 08:33 PM



“ I knew Steve for over 20 years and was Lucky enough to call him boss for 8 short months at Lake Hope State Park No one could have had a greater boss in that short time span. He also was a friend and someone I have the highest respect for. A True Leader. Wishing Karen and Family all my love and prayers. Your in my thoughts

*Kathy Molihan and Family*

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**Kathy Molihan** - February 28, 2019 at 08:24 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen P. Bennett.



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February 28, 2019 at 07:47 PM

WP

“ Here's wishing heart-felt condolences to Steve's family members. As former owner of the Wind Chime Shop and Christmas Treasures Gift Shop and a member of the Dogwood Trail group, I had numerous interactions with Steve. He was very supportive of private businesses in the area.

He gave myself and several others permission to erect our signs on park land at the intersection of Ilesboro Road and SR 374. Members of the Dogwood Trail group volunteered our time and labor for numerous maintenance projects in all of the parks and Steve often joined us with broom or shovel in hand. He appreciated our efforts and we appreciated the excellent manner in which he managed the parks.

Steve supported the above group's project to clean up litter in the parks by erecting signs in all of the parks that read "Please Pick Up Litter" with metal hooks holding plastic bags donated by the Kroger Company.

At one of the winter hikes held in January of each year, the Dogwood Trail group and myself were honored by receiving a reward at Cedar Falls State park. Steve caught me off guard by asking me to say a few words. All I said was "On with the hike!" He later chided me (in his typical good-humor manner) for not saying more.

Steve was certainly an excellent park manager. Never did I hear anything to the contrary. His former office was in the lodge, that burned to the ground several years ago, and always had an open door to anyone wishing to speak with him. His smile, humor and friendly demeanor were a positive plus to our community.

William "Bill" Phillips

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William L. Phillips - February 28, 2019 at 02:27 PM

JM

“ While we did not know Stephen well, he had to have been a fine man to raise such an outstanding daughter as Lisa. We want to offer our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers to the entire family as you mourn Stephen's passing. Ron & Joan McBryde

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**Joan McBryde** - February 28, 2019 at 01:37 PM

MH

“ I also had the privilege of working with Steve while managing the state nature preserves in the Hocking Hills for 20+ years. He was truly a gentleman and treated everyone with respect. I remember he had a dry sense of humor as well. One of the finest individuals I knew in ODNR. He will be missed!  
Mark Howes

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**Mark Howes** - February 28, 2019 at 01:31 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Stephen P. Bennett.



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February 28, 2019 at 12:29 PM

RJ

“ Just wanted to Send My Thoughts and Prayers for the Family of Steve...He was a Great Man ,He always had a Good Smile,and a Friendly " Hello" , as I knew Him from Hocking Hills,Manager of Old Man's Cave State Park....I worked for Hocking Forest,and had several occasions to do work(From removing a dangerous tree,or helping with a rescue of someone who had fallen off a cliff or yearly rescue training)...He Loved His Family, the Outdoors & Nature...Sorry I haven't seen or been in contact since retirement.....But I Always knew I had a Friend in Steve...I have loads of Memories ,as Most who knew him do also...He will be missed...God Bless the Family and Friends... !!! AMEN...RICK JONES



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**Rick Jones** - February 28, 2019 at 10:31 AM

CS

“ Jim very sorry to hear about your father. Thoughts and prays are with you and your family.

Charles

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**Charles See** - February 28, 2019 at 10:08 AM

DJ

“ Devona Kneece & Janet Jenkins purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Stephen P. Bennett.



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**Devona Kneece & Janet Jenkins** - February 28, 2019 at 10:01 AM

PS

“ I had the pleasure of working for Steve from 1982 thru 1985 and he always made me feel like he was working for me. Even in emergency situations his classic line was always "what can I do for you". We worked many more years as fellow managers til 2002 and he was always there when I needed a helping hand. Steve had three areas of focus, work, family and hunting/fishing. Even through our many years of work and great friendship, I only saw Steve lose his temper one time. We were turkey hunting and he took a shot and missed, Steve started jumping up and down and yelling "I cant believe I missed". I often wonder what that turkey thought of such a man. I know that Steve is one of the greatest individuals I have ever known.

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**Philip Stanley** - February 27, 2019 at 07:55 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Stephen P. Bennett.



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February 27, 2019 at 03:47 PM