



Stephen Wagner

September 22, 1947 - October 1, 2025

Stephen Wagner, 76, of Columbus, OH, passed away on October 1, 2025.

Born September 22, 1949, in Lancaster, Ohio, Steve lived a full life marked by energy, generosity, and a deep love for both people and passions.

As a young man, he was an avid cyclist, spending countless hours on the road and within the cycling community. He worked as a mortgage lender for over 40 years, helping many families achieve the dream of homeownership. Steve was also a lifelong car enthusiast, devoting his free time to restoring and sharing his remarkable collection. His car museum was one of his greatest joys, and he loved welcoming visitors from around the world, offering tours and sharing stories about each vehicle.

Beyond his professional and personal interests, Steve gave his time and heart to others as a Special Olympics coach, encouraging and supporting athletes with his trademark patience, humor, and kindness.

He will be remembered for his drive, his generosity of spirit, and the joy he found in sharing what he loved with others.

Steve is survived by his sister, Ruth (Alan) Palo, and brother, Phillip (Mary Lou) Wagner; niece, Sanna (Jeremy Porter) Palo; and nephews, Ryan (Nichi) Wagner, Nathan (Kari) Wagner, Evan (Marissa) Wagner, and Brandon (Amy) Wagner. He also leaves behind many great-nieces, great-nephews, and godchildren whom he adored, as well as a lasting legacy in the communities he cherished — from real estate and classic cars to Special Olympics and cycling — where he formed lifelong friendships.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Christina Wagner.

A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held on Friday October 10, 2025 from 11:00am to 1:00pm and his life will be celebrated at 1:00pm. at Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home in Worthington, OH. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Special Olympics in his memory at <https://support.specialolympics.org/a/donate>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

OCT **10**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Celebration Of Life Service

OCT **10**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Tribute Wall

TM

“ 1 file added to the album Lancaster car show



Tony Meuser - November 13, 2025 at 02:53 PM

AB

“ Steve and I became good friends for a year or two back in the early 2000's. We had a lot of fun riding around in his beautiful cars and he was very nice to my family—especially to my grandmother who enjoyed riding in his beautiful 1950's Chrysler to and from the Melody Drive In Theatre many summers ago...



Alan Browning - October 13, 2025 at 05:39 AM

DH

“ We got to know Steve around 17 years ago, as we had a mutual interest in Edsel automobiles. Over the years, we were able to see Steve almost every year at the Edsel Rally. He was fun to be around; and was always entertaining. We spent a lot of time visiting over a meal, or in the parking lot after dark. One year, when the annual Rally was in Dayton, OH, we drove on over to Columbus, and met him at his museum, which was a real treat. We live near Omaha, NE, so our in person visits were limited.

We hadn't talked to him for a while, but knew he had a lot of challenges. Nonetheless, we were surprised to learn of his passing. We are sad for his family, and extend our sympathies.

Doug & Kathy Hartmann - October 12, 2025 at 08:49 PM

JB

“ I had the honor of working w/ Steve & teaching him how to drive using hand controls. He was nothing less than amazing. He was always pleasant & kind, no matter all the hardships he was going through. He was the greatest story-teller & had story after story as we drove around Central Ohio. I will miss him dearly. Rest in Peace my friend...

Jennifer Bachelor - October 10, 2025 at 02:27 PM



“ Steve was a amazing volleyball 🏐 coach I sure will miss us saying STEVE when he didn't get the ball over the net...so many memories with him he will NEVER BE FORGOTTEN R.I.H



Christy Laflin - October 10, 2025 at 12:06 PM

PB

“ I've known Steve for many years as a loan officer. Toward the end of his career, he was our Coldwell Banker in house loan officer. I will always remember him taking the time in the evening to wait at the office with me to meet a young couple I had been referred to by another client. The couple were not at all ready to buy a home. It became obvious pretty quickly they couldn't afford to buy anything. Steve sat very patiently with legal pad and pen and planned out a 1-to-2-year plan on how to achieve their dream. He was so kind and helpful and compassionate with them. I felt so badly that He had not gotten anything out of taking his evening, but he wasn't bothered by it. Also, had the opportunity to visit his car museum with my husband and son a few years back. He and I would talk cars at the coffee area at the office.

Pat Baker - October 10, 2025 at 08:30 AM

SY

“ As a loan officer, Steve was extremely active with a number of the Realtor Touring groups, such as the Midtown Area Real Estate Association and the North Area Real Estate Association. He served in several officer positions, was always the first person there and would get the coffee going . . . he will be thought of and missed.

Sharon Young - NAREA and MAREA

Sharon Young - October 09, 2025 at 05:09 PM

VC

“ Vernon Clark lit a candle in memory of Stephen Wagner



Vernon Clark - October 08, 2025 at 03:33 PM

JT

“ We met Steve at car shows. I didn't know he rode bikes until he told me, since I was with Columbus Outdoor Pursuits for 30 years. I might have been on the same rides and didn't know it. He will be missed. Janice (JET) Thomas.

Janice Thomas - October 07, 2025 at 12:43 PM

PN

“ I met Steve through my first home purchase, and pretty much every purchase or refinancing thereafter. The man was persistent! His ebullient charm made maintaining a friendship an easy thing to do. He will be missed.

Peter Nichols - October 07, 2025 at 12:09 PM

RT

“ I was one of Steve's teachers in high school; I learned, two years or so ago, from a school mate, of his condition and called him, and we kept those calls going until his passing, sometimes talking an hour or more.
He was amazing throughout, suffering setbacks one after another, but always remaining positive, and his stories of his business career, his biking, his world travels and his old car museum were so enlightening, as I remembered him as a quiet, almost shy boy in high school. When he was nearly ready for a long-anticipated self-mobility, after equipping a van to accommodate his wheelchair and passing the driving exam and come to Bremen to visit, he suffered heart surgery, setting everything back to square one...but his positive attitude continued, I'm so thankful a classmate enabled us to connect again, as his courage was inspirational.
Bob Trocchia

robert trocchia - October 07, 2025 at 09:14 AM

JE

“ My husband, Tom, and I rode with the infamous “four Steves” in the 1980s. The tallest rider, Steve had the perseverance to tackle the hills and long distances with a great sense of humor. He also had great stories. We will miss him. Jeanine Ellis and Tom Klausing

Jeanine Ellis - October 06, 2025 at 01:32 PM

PK

“ I am truly sadden to learn of Steven’s passing. What a wonderful, kind, and giving person. A true “ car guy” too, who ran the top most recognized car museum in Columbus.. he is and will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, Steve.
Pete Kengeter

pete kengeter - October 05, 2025 at 04:52 PM

GR

“ Steve was a wonderful man professionally in the Clintonville real estate market place where I knew him, as well as in other neighborhoods. I enjoyed his stories, his laughter and his car museum. His restored homes were always a pleasure to see.

Gail E Rinehart - October 05, 2025 at 12:56 PM

EV

“ Steve was an incredibly kind and generous person. His life was full of amazing stories and diverse interests, and I always cherished my visits with him at his museum. I will deeply miss him.

- Evan Brandao

Evan - October 05, 2025 at 12:33 PM



“ Steve was a long time car buddy and would often plan "covered bridge" tours for the group. He will be missed. Rick Lindner

Rick Lindner - October 05, 2025 at 09:24 AM

BB

“ Sorry to hear of Steve's passing- Steve was an awesome cyclist back in the day, I could rarely keep up. I remember his wit and humor during some long slogs on TOSRV and MDC. I also enjoyed reconnecting at an AYH reunion where he shared his wonderful antique car collection, another shared passion. Long may you run, Steve! -Brian Blair

Brian Blair - October 05, 2025 at 09:17 AM

WC

“ Steve and I met during his first season of bicycling in 1975 and were inseparable for the next decade and more. We were so close that, even after I left Ohio and moved to California, I asked him to be the best man at my wedding. He readily agreed and became a part of my extended family.

Steve will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Wayne Clark - October 05, 2025 at 09:16 AM

LH

“ Linda Harrison lit a candle in memory of Stephen Wagner



Linda Harrison - October 04, 2025 at 06:35 PM

LH

Thoughts and prayers to his family and friends. May he rest in peace 🙏

Linda Harrison - October 04, 2025 at 06:36 PM

JB

So sorry to hear of Steve's passing. I had the opportunity to work with Steve at two different Financial Institutions. He was a great guy to work with and always had great and usually funny stories to tell. I will miss you my friend.

Jack Buckley - October 07, 2025 at 10:21 PM

SS

“ We were friends and cycled a lot of roads together.

Stephen Stierman - October 04, 2025 at 05:57 PM

MK

“ I appreciated Steve in many capacities -- friendship, bicycling, mortgages, cars. May his memory be for a blessing.

Melodee Kornacker - October 04, 2025 at 01:38 PM

DW

“ So sorry to hear of Steve's passing. I and friends rode many long bike rides with Steve in the 80's. He was a great guy to be around, funny and full of energy. Sorry I didn't get to see his car museum due to his illness at the time. I'm sure it was fabulous. Rest in peace.

David Walker - October 03, 2025 at 09:50 PM

ND

“ Steve and Pat became good friends and bonded over their love for old cars. The old car bug gave Pat an extra hobby that helped keep him busy. Steve was getting coffee with us pretty often and would contribute his stories and insights of cars and mortgages with us. Was sad that Steve got hurt, he was a good dude. Sad to see this, but hopefully he's out of pain finally. Hope he's got all the cars and single digit license plates he can handle and riding his bike again. Prayers from Nick and the rest of the crew

Nicholas DeWitt - October 03, 2025 at 08:08 PM

TM

I'm so sorry to have learned about Steve's passing well after the Celebration of his life. I played volleyball with Steve in a city league back in the 80s and became fast friends with him after a discussion about him going to a church as a kid that my grandfather preached at. He had great stories, volleyball talent, and shared my intense love of all things "cars". I went down to southern Ohio with him when he bought his beautiful black '57 Tbird convertible and followed him home. Then later I bought a '65 Tbird convertible and he went with me in that to the Lancaster car show, a day full of fun memories. I have that photo to share with any friends or family who might want to see it. We fell out of touch for many years but I recently reconnected with him hoping to visit his museum when I learned of his paralysis. Never did get to see the museum but loved hearing how he'd regale visitors with so many cool stories. He will certainly be missed!

Tony Meuser - November 13, 2025 at 02:18 PM