



# Stephen Raymond Graalman

AUG 22, 2022



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# Stephen Raymond Graalman

AUG 22, 2022

**S**tephen “Steve” Graalman, age 67, died peacefully on August 22, 2022, after a valiant battle against prostate cancer. Steve is survived by his wife Lori and a large loving family including brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, and his Momasan.

Steve was born in Germany to parents James and Betty Graalman, who raised him and his sister Sheri in a loving household. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Computer Science. He enjoyed his career path of multiple assignments in the IT field, where he was widely recognized as an expert in software troubleshooting.

The true love of Steve’s life was Lori. Steve and Lori shared an incredibly special bond, and the beautiful love story of their 35-year marriage was, and will forever be, a source of inspiration to all.

Steve loved to play. His hobbies included amateur road racing, boating, jet skiing, motorcycle riding, and car repair. His fun adventurous spirit was contagious, and he generously shared his talents, tools, time, toys, and advice with others. Steve’s family and friends will always remember him as a happy, friendly, smiling, supportive, larger than life role model. While everybody loved him, his nephews and nieces were all particularly fond of their Uncle Steve because he loved them unconditionally, spoiled them rotten, and did everything he could to ensure their happiness.



## Tribute Wall

**Stephen Raymond Graalman**



**Lea Hopkins Coppage** posted:

Hey, dear Lori -- I'm really sorry about your loss of Steve. Reading about him and his life and your marriage touched my heart. May you feel deep comfort, friend. I love you always and forever. -- Lea

February 15 at 8:04 AM



**Grant Carter** posted:

I knew Steve from SCCA regional racing in the Mid Atlantic Road Racing Series (MARRS) in 1990 and 1991. We raced each other many times at Summit Point, WV. Steve showed all of us he obviously wasn't afraid to go his own way, as he was the only one to race a Mazda RX-7, instead of the standard Mustang 5.0 or Camaro Z28. We had many spirited races together, and just his being there made it a blast. Steve always demonstrated great camaraderie off track too, as many a time we'd chat in his lawn chairs after we got off the track that evening. He was always quick to offer us a drink and talk about how qualifying went, always looking forward to the next day's competition. Some of the fondest memories of my life were spent with Steve on those weekends racing at Summit Point. A neighbor of Steve's and my friend from college, Mike Perozziello, told me about his new neighbor, who seemed to be an awesome guy and very helpful. As it turned out, it was Steve, of course, and Mike soon somehow discovered that we used to race together. Talk about a blast from the past, hearing about Steve instantly brought back so many great memories. It was great to hear that Steve was well liked and respected outside of racing as well, and was obviously a great person. He will be very missed.

November 15 at 12:55 PM



**Sajan John** lit a candle in honor of Stephen.

"Love is eternal — the aspect may change, but not the essence." This is for you Lori. Although I had not got a chance to meet Mr. Steve in person but I felt I had seen him through your talks and feelings for him. You and Steve loved each other deeply and when you love someone you want to keep them happy. Steve is in a better place ,as they say ,with no pain and sufferings and he is happy without it .His love and memories should keep you happy and encouraged. May his soul live in eternal peace. - SAJAN JOHN



October 26 at 5:36 PM



## Tribute Wall

## Stephen Raymond Graalman



**Linda Babb** lit a candle in honor of Stephen.

Steve and Lori, Lori and Steve. You never saw one without the other. They were the icon for love, the epitome of what God intended for the institution of marriage. I met Steve through work. Although Steve was the manager for a team of folks, he was much more comfortable in his office, solving problems and fixing code. Not that he didn't like people! He absolutely did! He always said his wife was just better at those kinds of things (with a big smile). Steve was kind, helpful and just a great guy. He has earned his wings! May he rest in eternal peace and power.



October 18 at 9:36 AM



**Lori Graalman** posted:

I'm Free Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free; I'm following the path God has laid you see. I took His hand when I heard Him call. I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day to laugh, to love, to work, to play. Tasks left undone must stay that way; I found that peace at the close of day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss. Oh yes, these things I too will miss. Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life's been full, I've savored much. Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief. Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your hearts and peace to thee. God wanted me now; He set me free.

October 16 at 9:31 AM

**LT Lois Thigpen** October 19 at 11:59 AM  
This is beautiful, Lori.



**Debbie Fischer** posted:

Steve and Lori have always been an inspiration to me. I was fortunate enough to get to know them through work. Steve always had something funny to say in keeping the situation more bearable. Once, out on a boat ride to the Eastern Shore for lunch, the way back turned a bit hair-raising when a huge storm decided to appear. Steve kept everything calm, notifying the Coast Guard with the number of "souls" on board, maneuvering the sail boat safely back at the dock. Not a worry in my mind that we weren't safe with him. Lori and Steve are forever in my heart.

October 10 at 6:48 AM



## Tribute Wall

Stephen Raymond Graalman



**Janet McDonald** posted:

I have know Steve since I was 15 in high school. He was my first love. I am so sorry for your loss Ms Lori. My heart is with you during this most difficult time.

September 5 at 6:46 PM



**R Quinn** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I've known Steve for a little over 7 years now. Soon after meeting him, he discovered I also had a personal watercraft (PWC). He was enthusiastic to have a potential riding buddy to cruise the local Annapolis area waterways. We'd meet up for rides a few times a season, and a couple times we invited other co-workers to take turns riding our skis while using Steve's other boat as our floating base to hang out. As much as Steve enjoyed riding the PWC and being on the water, I think he also really enjoyed sharing his toys with others in the office. On these PWC outings I'd get a glimpse of his racing daredevil past, whether it was racing me down the Severn river and pulling away from me, running a slalom course through some unused mooring balls, or getting some air off a wave. On one of the team outings while he was having fun on my PWC, he came barreling towards the boat as we watched. As he got closer we expected him to stop or slow down, but he didn't. He got fairly close and turned hard seemingly at the last second and through up a huge wave of water at several of us on his boat. We were surprised and soaked, but it was all in good fun. During the start of the pandemic we were all sent home for what we thought was going to be a week or two while Covid came and went. A couple weeks turned into a quite a lot longer. Since Steve was battling cancer he was away from the office for nearly a year. During that time we kept in touch and still managed to get a few PWC rides in together. There were two epic rides we were able to do, one was a trip from Annapolis to St. Michaels, and another was from Annapolis to Rock Hall. Both were great long distance cruises with great waterfront stops for a beer and a bite to eat. Besides our PWC adventures, Steve and I both enjoyed working on our vehicles. Whenever discussing a car problem or some upcoming work that needed to be done, he'd offer up his help and use of his garage. I took Steve up on his offers a few times, and was glad to have his experience when I ran into a problem. He also helped me sea trial and inspect my first boat, perform the routine maintenance the first season I had it, and this Spring helped me with my first impeller change. A few years ago, I started to run several times a week to pass time during my son's running practices and to lose some weight. Steve was always encouraging me on my running journey, and even braved a cold March morning to cheer me on during my first ever half marathon last year. I think my running in part might have motivated Steve to start working out in 2019. It was great to see him improving as his workouts progressed, and to hear him say how he actually felt better after working out.



August 23 at 1:27 PM

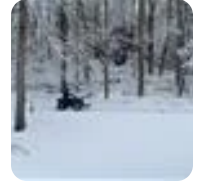


## Tribute Wall

Stephen Raymond Graalman

MP

**Mike Perozziello** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

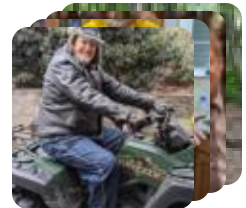


Although I only met Steve two short years ago, he made an lasting impact on me and my family. He and Lori were welcoming, helpful and friendly literally from the day we moved in next door. I was so excited when we first met Steve, Lori and our other neighbor that we were so lucky to have such a wonderful set of neighbors. Steve was one of those giving people that serves as evidence that there is still true goodness in the world. He was always quick with help, showed genuine interest in your welfare and generously offering time and deeds to make everyone's life better. He was an awesome neighbor and we wish we had more time with him as I am sure our friendship would have continued to grow. He was a great friend, always offering or performing a favor without anyone asking. We spent several evenings chatting about our common interests, often losing track of time until one of our spouses would come outside to retrieve us for dinner. He always had a spark in his eye when we would talk about his former race days and a common friend he and I had. It gave me a chuckle to watch him 'drift' on his ATV in the snow as he happily plowed snow off of the roadway for the neighborhood. On another occasion recently, he saw that I had the hood of my truck raised and he came racing over to see if he could help me fix anything (I was just changing spark plugs). It's just the kind of guy he was. I am only comforted in the belief that he is now at peace and reunited with his family. My family feels lucky to have known him and we treasure the all-too-short time we had together. He will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

August 23 at 1:27 PM

GB

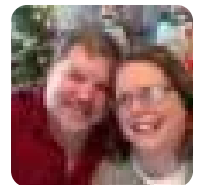
**Gail Banwell** shared 4 photos to the **Family Memories** album.



August 23 at 1:27 PM

BA

**Baker** shared a photo to the **Family** album.



August 24 at 12:54 PM



## Tribute Wall

## Stephen Raymond Graalman

BL

**Barri Lusk** posted:

Steve Graalman is one of the Good Guys! What a man! As a husband, his love and best friendship with Lori is the stuff of legends and a shining example. So few people ever experience even 1 year of what he and Lori shared together for 35 years. As an uncle, he brought fun, love, generosity and wisdom. I'm so happy my two girls benefitted from having Steve as their uncle. My favorite memory with Steve began in 2004 when my family went to visit the Graalmans. Steve wanted to take us to his favorite seafood restaurant to prove to me that Maryland blue crabs were better than the blue crabs in my home state of Louisiana. We had quite the debate going. By the way, crabs are my favorite food of all time. On the (very fast) drive to the restaurant, one of my daughters got sick and we had to turn around before we ever made it to the restaurant. Alas, that debate was never settled. Later that year to my surprise, a shipment of one dozen of the best crabs I've ever eaten arrived on my doorstep for my birthday! And for the last 18 years on my birthday, Steve has sent me one dozen Maryland blue crabs to enjoy. It's my annual reminder just how delicious they are and more importantly what an all around Good Guy and brother-in-law Steve really is! You will be greatly missed, Steve.

August 24 at 11:57 AM

MS

**Marin Snyder** posted:

I have many fond memories with my Uncle Steve during summer trips to Lake Lure with the family! As a little girl at time, I remember him being tall but not intimidating because he was always so kind and fun. I've always looked up to Aunt Lori and Uncle Steve's marriage as one of true love, best friendship, and devotion. It serves as an example for my marriage now. He is loved and missed dearly.

August 24 at 11:43 AM

DB

**Deb Baker** posted:

Knowing Steve and Lori for 34 years, we'll remember how Steve always had a smile and an easy laugh. Thinking Lori had a lot to do with that, they were so much in love. We enjoyed our weekend breakfasts and our blended family get togethers at Easter and Father's Day. Steve had a rough time these past six years, but they remained optimistic and enjoyed life to the fullest. Lori was an amazing caregiver and made things so much easier for him. We'll miss him and hope you can find peace, Lori. Love you.

August 24 at 11:00 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Stephen Raymond Graalman**

JL

**John Lusk** posted:

So many great memories come to mind when I think of Steve—his big smile and “unique” laugh in most all of them. I really enjoyed eating Ledo’s Pizza with him and Lori and had so much fun chasing groundhogs together in his backyard. But I especially loved the way to loved and took care of my sister Lori. He will be dearly missed but very fondly remembered.

August 24 at 10:23 AM

DC

**Don Coronel** posted:

RIP Steve. I’ll always have 45 years of memories of college, laughing, racing, boating etc to hang on to. I wish we had more memories to look forward to. I love you, my friend

August 24 at 3:07 AM

JM

**Janet Mcdonald** September 5 at 6:59 PM

I too shall miss him Don. He was a one of a kind man. It was nice meeting you through him. My son still talks about the 'cool dentist' he went to!

JL

**Jana Lusk** posted:

Uncle Steve’s bear hugs and contagious smile will be very missed. The way he loved everyone around him, but especially Aunt Lori is an inspiration to me. I remember as a little girl looking at their marriage and wanting that for myself some day. Their love still inspires me today!

August 23 at 4:36 PM

GT

**Gail Turner** posted:

Many afternoons I would be coming home from work and Steve and I would be at the entrance at the same time, we would make small talk and catch up with our news. Steve always had a laugh and was upbeat, Meade and I were lucky to have Steve as a neighbor. He looked out for us at 1331. Feeling your loss Lori, remember the good times.Gail, neighbor

August 23 at 3:01 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Stephen Raymond Graalman**



**Z Meade Turner** lit a candle in honor of Stephen.

Steve was a wonderful neighbor we would talk for hours in our driveway about boating ,football and what ever was happening. He always took care of snow removal on our main road I loved his four wheeler. We left for a long weekend and I got a call from Steve he said you left your garage door open and he said I will close it for you. What a good neighbor we will all miss him.MEADE TURNER



August 23 at 2:59 PM



**Lois Thigpen** posted:

I love you, SuperBro!

August 23 at 1:36 PM



MB

**Mason Banwell** posted:

I have so many good memories of Uncle Steve, from him showing all the cousins how to corner in his M3, to taking trips up the Severn River on the boat or jet ski. My favorite memory though, was when Uncle Steve took an interest in my passion - Lacrosse. I was attending the Naval Academy Lacrosse Camp, and Uncle Steve came to see what it was all about. He found which field our team was playing on, and was taking in the scene with his Camera. As luck would have it, there was a turn over and the ground ball rolled RIGHT in front of him. I don't think I even realized he was standing there, but I was dead set on winning possession. As I sprinted toward the ball, opposing players rushed to stop me. Uncle Steve got row seat to me hitting my opponent at full speed with my shoulder - almost knocking him into Uncle Steve. I got possession of the ball, and was able to transition our team to offense where we eventually scored. After the game I remember trotting over to Uncle Steve and hearing his side of the story - complete with animated reenacting of the hit and him having to dodge falling players from the play. It was a memory that would not have been anywhere near as special if it had not been for Uncle Steve being there. Getting to share that experience with him made it unforgettable. Steve always had a way of making us, his nephews and nieces, feel special and loved. We will miss him deeply, and will cherish the memories of him along with the lessons he shared.

August 23 at 1:27 PM

GB

**Gail Banwell** August 24 at 4:55 PM

My brother-in-law Steve was a motorhead. That's a real thing. I knew that Steve liked to race cars - was pretty good at it; liked to repair cars - pretty good at that, too; liked to drive his ATV "the Grizz" through snow, across streams, and into the mud - and enjoyed getting unstuck as much as anything else. And - oh yeah - he jumped wake on his jet ski and thrilled at reaching port in his cabin cruiser after a late-night, mid-Chesapeake gale took out an engine (repaired at sea, of course). One of the wonderful things Steve Graalman did for me was note that some people are just motorheads. They "come this way." Furthermore, he explained, this trait was a defining feature of my tough-to-comprehend younger son. Steve was a terrific uncle. He participated, laughed, listened, and understood. He and my sister safely supervised the escapes of the younger generation from boring old parents. He delivered lines like, "Well, if that's the story you're telling me, okay - but think carefully about the story you're telling yourself." For my motorhead kid, Steve was non-stop inspiration. A mechanic's tool kit as a gift to a middle-schooler, along with a broken pressure-washer to take apart and figure out. Chances to operate the jet ski, drive the boat, get the Grizz stuck and unstuck, work in the garage. . . Reminders that having real fun (and boats, ATVs, garages, tools, race cars, jet skis) seems to require a real job, which seems to require real work at school. Our years together rolled too quickly by. My younger son, Steve's motorhead nephew, has an engineering degree, just bought a house, owns motorcycles and a jet ski, and will soon be married. His older brother survived his years of high-school and college athletics, is well employed, and will soon celebrate his fourth anniversary. Steve's wisdom and joy live on as these newer adults celebrate adventures he inspired. Thank you, my much-loved "big brother." Keep an eye on us down here.



R Quinn shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 28 at 4:40 PM



On our trip to St. Michael's JULY 2020



Steve taking a spin on my SeaDoo SEPT 2019



Mike Perozziello shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 25 at 10:21 AM





Gail Banwell shared 4 photos to the **Family Memories** album.

August 24 at 5:14 PM



Would-be Gloucester Fisherman



Riding The Grizz



Family Weekend May 2022



Niece's Wedding



**Baker** shared a photo to the **Family** album.

August 24 at 12:54 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Stephen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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