



Stephen Jackson Blake

March 7, 1946 - April 12, 2023

Stephen J. Blake, 77, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on April 12, 2023, after an 11 year battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Steve was born March 7, 1946, to the late Roger T. and Ragna E. Blake in Pauls Valley, OK. He attended Pauls Valley Schools and upon graduating in 1964, he attended the University of Oklahoma where he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. Upon graduation from OU in 1968, Steve went into the U.S. Army as an officer. He was on active duty for two years - 12 months of which were spent in Viet Nam. While serving he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three clusters, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Army Commendation Medals and the Bronze Star Medal.

Upon returning from his tour in Viet Nam, he began his career in finance working for Capitol Federal Savings & Loan in Oklahoma City. After 21 years in the S & L industry, he went to work for the Oklahoma Finance Authorities retiring in 2012 as President of the Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority.

Steve was a lifelong Methodist and a longtime active member of the First United Methodist Church of Oklahoma City until he was unable to attend due to health constraints. In his active years he served one time or more on almost every committee and was an active volunteer.

His family always came first. Steve married Sandra Moore in 1973. He was a devoted husband who deeply loved and appreciated his wife of almost 50 years and his children, Stephanie and Chris. He was a caring and encouraging father who was very proud of his children and grandchildren. He could think of no better way to spend time than to be with them. His most treasured memories were the many family cruises taken over the years.

Steve is survived by wife, Sandie; daughter Stephanie Russell (Jamie) and son Christopher (Shelly), granddaughters Lula Russell, Selah, Aliyah and Moriah Blake; and grandsons Max and Zeke Russell; sister Beverly Evans (Ralph); brothers Joe Blake and John Blake (Susanne). He was predeceased by his parents and brother Pearce Blake.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church, 131 NW 4th St, Oklahoma City.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Steve's name to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 230 East Ohio Street, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60611 or to First United Methodist Church-OKC, 131 NW 4th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

LIVESTREAM SERVICE

<https://subsplash.com/firstunitedmethodist-17/media/mi/+n6j62bq>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **15**. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Oklahoma City
131 NW 4th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Tribute Wall

LB

“ Sincere condolences to the Blake family. Steve was always a joy to visit with. Praying for God’s strength, peace, and comfort for all who love him. 🙏🙏💕



Libda Barry - April 14, 2023 at 11:59 PM

DS

“ Steve was a valuable member of the OKC IPF support group. He was a teacher, a supporter, and an inspiration to others battling this terrible disease. Steve and Sandie's love for each other was a gift to many. Steve, you are already missed.

Donna Stamp - April 14, 2023 at 11:02 PM

GB

“ Prayers to your family for comfort during this difficult time. Steve and Sandie have been a beacon of light in our support group, Steve will be missed 😭.



Gary Boling - April 14, 2023 at 08:09 PM

VT

“ So sorry to hear about Steve. Great memories in school. He was a great guy 😞

vermelle Thomson - April 14, 2023 at 01:04 PM

LS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Stephen was such a nice man. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏



Laurie Hill Sloan - April 14, 2023 at 10:34 AM

DH

“ I worked with Steve for many years at ODFA/OIFA. Steve worked tirelessly for the welfare of the citizens on the State he loved. He was brilliant and had a soft spoken way about him, I a very sorry for his family and close friends; Steve will be greatly missed by all.

David Hinkle - April 14, 2023 at 09:39 AM

JT

“ Steve was the kid brother of our “Papa John”, and one of five Blake kids, with three brothers and a sister. I call Papa John “Dad”, since he’s been there for me the better part of my life (my father passed away when I was 14). I thought it was sad Steve □ finished doing taxes and paperwork just before he died. Apparently, Steve □ led taxes for others too, including Papa! So hey- lots of paperwork, and taxes to do. Papa told me one the last things Steve sent was a text saying “OK- it’s done” in reference to taxes and paperwork.

That last message reminded us how diligent and thoughtful Steve was. Steve’s text also reminded us of when Christ said “it is □ finished” on the cross. When Christ said that, it meant he paid the price for all of our sins even before we committed them. It is hardly a fair comparison, but the willingness to do unpleasant things for others is there, and it is meaningful. The good news is that Steve was a Christian, and has graduated from the pains of this life to see his King and reap the rewards of God’s Grace. Maybe knowing what Christ did for him was why Steve liked hosting Easter events at his house. The Bible says the wages of sin is death, but Christ even defeated death for the rest of us, and we will see Steve again! When we see Him the circumstances are not likely to be unpleasant.

One of the wonderful truths of Scripture is found in □ Romans 8:1: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” We are saved by Grace and not by works. When you know what someone else has done for you, it is hard not to be compassionate towards others who find themselves in the same situation. Since death and taxes are certain, it may behoove us to share the grace we find through Christ a little more frequently than we do. Especially so they can see Him too after they pay their taxes and get their wages. God bless you Steve! You are a blessing and example to all of us!

Many condolence to your family on behalf of mine, who enjoyed an Easter or two with you and yours. With love- Jet, Myrna, John

Pearce, and Daniel (John Trubey and family).

John Trubey - April 13, 2023 at 06:01 PM