



Steven G. "Steve" Austin

October 26, 1955 - May 17, 2024

Steven "Steve" Grant Austin, age 68, of Hampshire, Illinois passed away peacefully on Friday, May 17, 2024, surrounded by loved ones.

Steve had an unwavering drive to help others within his family, career, and community. He endeavored to enjoy life, create lasting memories with family, and check off every item on his bucket list.

He was born on October 26, 1955, the son of A. Gail and Mary-Ellen (Spere) Austin. He grew up on a farm in Davis Junction, Illinois, attended Holcomb Grade School and Stillman Valley High School, and later moved to Lindenwood. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Education at Illinois State University and went on to complete a Master's Degree in Science at the University of Illinois.

Steve married his sweetheart Kathy Conner in 1977. They started building their family in Thomson and eventually moved to Hampshire, where he finished his teaching career. Throughout his 34 years of teaching, he was an agriculture, vocational arts, science, reading, and careers teacher. He became involved with FFA during his own years in high school and was a dedicated FFA Chapter Advisor during his career. He taught hundreds of young people, and through his work with FFA, mentored dozens of them to regional and state recognition for excellence. Teaching wasn't merely a passion for Steve

but part of his identity. He believed in connecting with students, to help them grow, across all backgrounds and circumstances.

Steve was also known for his 44 years of work with the Lions Club, fulfilling nearly every officer position at some point over the years, some of them multiple times. He had a deep sense of community and sought to foster connections through his selfless dedication to volunteer work.

A handyman at heart, Steve took pride in building and repairing anything around the house. He would drop everything to help his children with their own homes and projects.

Steve was always planning his next travel adventure. He loved researching destinations, local sites and history, and memorable excursions. He visited multiple countries, successfully hit all 50 states, and drove most of the rustic roads in Wisconsin. Yet, Steve was always drawn back to his favorite: the beautiful beaches and sunsets of Florida, where he vacationed with family and friends for 40 years. He enjoyed spending time with his sixteen grandchildren, playing cards and board games, and cheering on his favorite teams: the Cubs, Bears, and Blackhawks.

Steve is survived by his wife, Kathy; two sons, Michael (Jillian) Austin and Mark (Katy) Austin; daughter, Jennifer (Brett) Miller; grandchildren: Jonathan, Lauren, Penelope, William, Annabelle, Grant, Ellen Marie, Margaret, Levi, Amelia, Ruby, Violet, George, Alice, Payton, and Paige; sister, Patricia Austin; sister-in-law Sheila Conner; cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Steve was preceded in death by both parents; stepmother, Lorraine; sister, Regina; brother-in-law, Kevin; and stepsisters, Jeannene and Verla.

A memorial and celebration of Steve's life will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at 11:00 am, at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. In honor of

Steve, the family asks that donations be made to the Hampshire Lions Club, an organization close to his heart.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN 22. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
43W301 Plank Road
Hampshire, IL 60140

Memorial Service

JUN 22. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
43W301 Plank Road
Hampshire, IL 60140

Luncheon

JUN 22. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
43W301 Plank Road
Hampshire, IL 60140

Tribute Wall

LF

“ I’m sorry for your loss of Steve, he was a wonderful man and great teacher.
Our prayers and thoughts are with you all during this difficult time.
May God give you love, courage, strength and peace. 🙏
Rest in peace Steve 🙏

Lori & Steve Sarto & Family - June 22, 2024 at 09:55 AM

JK

“ James & Laura Wallis, Katie, & Kevin. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Steven G. "Steve" Austin.



James & Laura Wallis, Katie, & Kevin. - June 21, 2024 at 10:36 AM

JK

“ James & Laura Wallis, Katie, & Kevin. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven G. "Steve" Austin.

James & Laura Wallis, Katie, & Kevin. - June 21, 2024 at 10:36 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Steven G. "Steve" Austin.



June 20, 2024 at 10:52 PM

JS

“ Jeff & Alissa Schumacher purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Steven G. "Steve" Austin.



Jeff & Alissa Schumacher - June 19, 2024 at 11:37 AM

JS

“ Jeff & Alissa Schumacher planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven G. "Steve" Austin.

Jeff & Alissa Schumacher - June 19, 2024 at 11:37 AM

PA

“ All of my life, Steven's love and loyalty sustained me. His sense of humor and fun loving spirit permeated every gathering. Being the last surviving member of my nuclear family is devastating. Every memory of growing up, vacations as adults with our growing children, nights of cards, oldies playing in the background, laughing til our sides hurt, his strong hugs, all these and thousands more memories will be with me forever. If anyone in this world deserved to live healthy and happy to 100, it was him. I will miss him everyday, every breath I take.

Patricia Austin - June 19, 2024 at 10:43 AM

RL

“ Sending my deepest condolences and prayers to Kathy and family. Steve was such a great guy. He will be missed dearly. Hugs
Robin Lovejoy

Robin Lovejoy - June 18, 2024 at 09:19 PM

KC

“ Steve was a very strong and positive influence on thousands of agriculture students across the state of Illinois for decades. His influence lives on in those students and their families. Hampshire was blessed to have him as a teacher in our community.

Kathleen Carr - June 18, 2024 at 01:17 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Steven G. "Steve" Austin.



June 13, 2024 at 10:08 AM

JA

“ I am sorry for your loss.

I have so many great memories of Uncle Steve over the years. He was always so nice to me whenever I was out at Grandpa Austin's farm. Riding in the tractor with him and just hanging out was so great.

Uncle Steve's influence extended far beyond our family. His dedication to his students and his ability to inspire them to be better people are testaments to his character. We are all the better for having known him.



Jim Adams - June 03, 2024 at 08:09 PM

BS

“ Kathy, My deepest sympathy to you and boys. I have many memories of Steve and all the FFA functions we did as alumni. He will be missed by many. Beulah Swanson

Beulah Swanson - May 25, 2024 at 10:03 AM

FF

“ Ferro family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Steven G. "Steve" Austin.



Ferro family - May 24, 2024 at 11:24 AM

JS

“ Kathy & Family,
Our heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Steve was a great guy. We remember all the FFA Alumni Pancake breakfasts and Christmas Tree sales. Steve will be missed.
Joe & Sandy Seyller



Joe & Sandy Seyller - May 22, 2024 at 10:51 AM