



Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early

July 7, 1959 - September 29, 2021

Robert "Steve" Stephen Early, 62, of Auburndale, Florida, born in Eolia, Kentucky on July 7, 1959, entered into eternal rest on September 29, 2021. He was a longtime member of Church of the Nazarene. He served on 20 work and witness teams for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in various countries around the world. He retired from Ford Motor Company at a Journeyman Machine Repairman. He loved his family and church dearly, and enjoyed working. He is survived by wife of 40 years, Rebecca "Becky" Early; daughters, Kathryn "Katie" Early of Auburndale, and Amy Early of Sheridan, Indiana; mother, Mayme Fish of Fortville, Indiana; and sister, Patricia Stines (Greg). A funeral service will be held Monday, October 4 at 3:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 South County Road 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 2:00 P.M. Graveside committal to follow at Hopewell Memorial Gardens. For those unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed at [Facebook.com/HopewellFuneral](https://www.facebook.com/HopewellFuneral). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries at [ncm.org](https://www.ncm.org). Expressions of condolence at [HopewellFuneral.com](https://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 4. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

OCT 4. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Live-Streamed Service

OCT 4. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

VM

“ I worked with Steve he was an amazing testimony in his work life. I know he will be missed here on earth but I for sure know that he received a grand welcome into heaven.

veronia malcolm - October 07, 2021 at 10:54 AM

JO

“ As an apprentice under Steve at Lima Engine Plant, I got to know an exceptional man, who loved the Lord, his family and Mickey Mouse! I know the Lord has a place in his "Magic Kingdom" for Steve. Rest in peace.

Jan Osenbaugh - October 04, 2021 at 08:37 PM

EW

“ Becky, Katie, Amy, Mayme, & Patricia please know my heart is with you all today. Sending you love and praying God will bless you with peace and comfort. With deepest sympathy,
Aunt Eunice



Eunice Waddles - October 04, 2021 at 03:45 PM

MS

“ Thinking of the Whole Family.....so how I started knowing Steve or 'Stevey' in my chase. I was the friend-neighbor of his younger Sister that use to eat Fritos & ketchup while sitting on their Living Room floor while watching a T.V. show. I kinda liked to ask questions about the show and it drove him Crazy! Can't you just be quiet? Well I grew up a bit! He then married Becky and my 1st Son and Katie became close buddies. Our Family's remained close and our hearts hurt... Glory to Jesus we know Steve has made his way home (no longer a Hoosier or a Firecracker) Love Ya, Melanie Shetterley (Searcy)

Melanie Shetterley - October 04, 2021 at 03:19 PM

DO

“ I haven't known Steve long as he was my new neighbor here in Florida. But we had a kindred spirit and that is we are both Christ followers. We would stand out in the yard and talk for a long time about life, family and church. I will surely miss him. What a wonderful man he was! But I will see him again in heaven one day and we will continue our conversations.

Doyle - October 04, 2021 at 03:10 PM

BG

“ To the Family, our condolences to all of you. Steve was a great and genuine man that will be missed. Growing up in the Fortville Church of the Nazarene was always great memories. I remember playing football on Sunday afternoons with whoever showed up and Steve was almost always there. Great friend to our family over the years. Gone too Soon! Brad & Tammy Goff

Brad Goff - October 04, 2021 at 11:09 AM

DF

“ Dan, Robin and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.



Dan, Robin and Family - October 04, 2021 at 09:03 AM

JG

“ Jeff Early & Becky Gibson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.



Jeff Early & Becky Gibson - October 04, 2021 at 06:33 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.



October 03, 2021 at 03:22 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.



October 02, 2021 at 07:09 PM

KD

“ *Becky, Chris and I are lifting you and the girls up in prayer.
Much love from NC-
Chris & Kim Diezel*

Kim Diezel - October 02, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.*



October 02, 2021 at 02:57 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the
family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.*



October 02, 2021 at 12:26 PM

DR

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Paul & I always thought very highly of
Steve. May you feel the peace of God beyond what you can explain
Dana (Donna) Riddle*

Dana (Donna) Riddle - October 01, 2021 at 08:47 PM

EC

*Becky, please know that you and your family have been in our thoughts
and prayers. We were very sorry to learn of Steve's illness and his
passing. He is now at rest in the arms of Jesus. Eddie and Priscilla
Chrismon (Burlington , NC)*

Eddie and Priscilla Chrismon - October 02, 2021 at 03:57 PM

JH

“ Good memories about a godly man prayers for the sweet family

Joanetta hadley - October 01, 2021 at 05:47 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.



October 01, 2021 at 05:23 PM

MW

“ I worked with Steve at Ford Indy he was dedicated to everything he did he was exceptional and he definitely was a good electrician and union brother.He will look down from heaven with that compassionate smile he always had.

max welty - October 01, 2021 at 05:06 PM

MW

He was a Machine Repairman

max welty - October 01, 2021 at 05:12 PM

BT

“ Steve was a Wonderful man that loved God and his Family. I am so sorry to all those he has left behind. Praying for all of you. 🙏
Barb Terrell in Indiana.

Barb Terrell - October 01, 2021 at 03:18 PM

BT

Steve was a Wonderful man that Loved God and his family. I am so sorry to all those he has left behind. Prayerz for all of you. Barb Terrell in Indiana

Barb Terrell - October 01, 2021 at 03:20 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.*



October 01, 2021 at 02:33 PM

JL

“ *I worked with Steve for about 4 yrs. In the assembly line at Lima Engine. He was a good guy, and loved his family dearly , I am sorry for your loss, but I know for sure if anyone is standing next to God in heaven it is Steve!*

John bingham, Machine repair, Lima - October 01, 2021 at 02:26 PM

JB

“ *Jason and Teri Brown purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.*



Jason and Teri Brown - October 01, 2021 at 01:40 PM

GC

“ Steve had such a big heart and he was great to work with, I used to tell him that he was my favorite machine repair until I saw his partner Trey then he was my favorite machine repair, I will treasure those great memories. My prayers and condolences to his family which he talked about all the time ❤️

Gwendolyn Chambers - October 01, 2021 at 01:22 PM

RS

“ Steve was like a son to Linda and me, we lived next door for 12 years. We went to church together and we're able to go to Portugal on a mission trip with him. Since he was friends with our son Mark he spent many day and nights in our home. Steve always made a good impression on every one he met. He will be greatly missed. May God give his family comfort at this time. Ron and Linda

Ron Searcy - October 01, 2021 at 11:49 AM

PG

“ Becky,
I am so very shocked and sad to hear of Steve's passing. We all have so many fond memories growing up together and having fun at church and softball. You will all be in my prayers.
Paula (Long) Gardner

Paula Gardner - October 01, 2021 at 11:26 AM

TC

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Steve. My sympathy goes out to the family. And I pray for you to have Peace to bring comfort. Courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.

Tony Ciacelli - October 01, 2021 at 11:13 AM

PS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Patricia Stines - October 01, 2021 at 10:44 AM

PS

I will miss you brother. I wanted you here longer but I know you're safe and at peace. Until we see you again enjoy your ultimate retirement. Love you,

Patricia Stines - October 03, 2021 at 06:33 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Steve" Stephen Early.*



September 30, 2021 at 11:42 PM

WT

“ *He was always friendly at work. So sad that he didn't get to enjoy his retirement. Gone to soon. God Bless Steve's family in their time of grief.*

Wendy Thompson - September 30, 2021 at 10:10 PM

PS

“ Steve was a great friend and mentor for me during my apprenticeship and afterward at Lima Engine. He always had a smile and positive feedback to give. He was a great conversationalist and enjoyed many various discussions about anything & everything but always spoke very highly about his family. I hope you find comfort in great memories and the knowledge he's enjoying eternal life in heaven 🙏💕

Penni Sharp - September 30, 2021 at 09:05 PM

JC

May you forever walk hand and hand with the Lord

Joe Clementz - September 30, 2021 at 11:54 PM

ME

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss you and your family are in my prayers*

Marcia Estes - September 30, 2021 at 08:39 PM

RE

“ *Dear Becky, Katie and Amy,
We have been heartbroken at your unexpected too early loss of your husband and father, Steve. He was truly a churchman and we will never forget his example of loving and living for Jesus every single day!*

-Pastor Phil & Sara Edwards

Rev Phil & Sara Edwards - September 30, 2021 at 08:31 PM

DM

“ *Many years of fun memories with Steve and Becky, including Disney, Daytona and many others.
Our deepest condolences to Becky, Katie and Amy and family.
We will miss you Steve.
Keith and Debi McCoy*

Debi and Keith McCoy - September 30, 2021 at 08:04 PM

EC

Becky, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Eddie and Priscilla Chrismon from Burlington, NC

Eddie and Priscilla Chrismon - October 04, 2021 at 03:05 PM