



Stephen Paul Nickliss

April 14, 1953 - December 14, 2020

Stephen Paul Nickliss passed away Monday, December 14, 2020 in St. James Healthcare. He was born in Palmyra, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, April 14, 1953 to Stephen J. "Skip" and Domenica "Minnie" Candori Nickliss. He was raised and educated in Pennsylvania and earned his degree as a radiology technician.

He worked as a radiology and cath lab technician for 3 decades in Pennsylvania and in 2001 moved to Butte and worked for 18 years at St. James Healthcare. He retired in August of 2019. Stephen married Barbara Stengrimson Taylor in Butte on July 31, 2004 and together they made their home in Butte.

Stephen loved music and was an avid guitar player and played keyboard. He was a past member of the Genuine Article Band, and was a current member of the DammittDan Band. He thoroughly loved fly fishing, was a member of Trout Unlimited and was a loyal Pittsburgh Steelers fan.

Survivors include his wife, Barb Nickliss of Butte, sister, Janie Hanner of Pennsylvania, his children, Corey Nickliss of Pennsylvania, Matt and Ashley Taylor of Anaconda, Kellie Carter and Shawn Blair of Florence, Montana and Bobbie and Bob Voegel of Great Falls. Also surviving are his grandchildren: Kiera, Teagan, Braden Camden, Aeris, Adalyn, Mason, Brodie, Kellan and Rylan. Other survivors include his sister-in-law, Sherie (Mike) Young, brother-in-law, Terry (Jodi) Stengrimson and numerous nieces and nephews. He dearly loved his close friends both from Montana and Pennsylvania. They

meant the world to him.

He is preceded in death by his parents Stephen and Minnie, sister, Patty Kile, niece Maria and nephew Dustin.

Mr. Nickliss' remains are in Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home. Due to current restrictions, a private funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. No post service gathering will be held. Those wishing to attend his funeral virtually may log into at the following Zoom invitation link, <https://zoom.us/j/95670656699?pwd=Y3U0UGRIVVh2d3N0Tk5sZDd2dTU4dz09>.

Interment will be in Sunset Hills Cemetery in Fairfield, Montana on Tuesday, December 22 at 1 PM. Memorials in memory of Stephen may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Hills Cemetery

corner of South Division and Base Line Road
Fairfield, MT

Previous Events

Service

DEC 19. 11:00 AM (MT)

Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home
1800 Florence Ave
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-3221
<https://wayrynen-richards.com/>

Tribute Wall

BH

“ I am deeply saddened by the loss of a great friend. My condolences to Barb and her family and Steve's family.

Barb and Steve complimented each other so perfectly. I was glad to see him so happy after he met Barb. They always welcomed me when I went to visit them.

I worked at St. Joseph Hospital in Lancaster, PA and I have had the opportunity to visit them in Montana a couple of times. Always a great time. Their wedding was so much fun and Corey kept everyone laughing.

My prayers are with the entire family. Steve will be greatly missed.

Betsy Hehnly

Betsy S Hehnly - December 21, 2020 at 09:26 PM

JF

“ I worked with Stephen as a Surgical Tech student in the Cath Lab at St. James. He was a great preceptor, very patient and funny! I'd be in the office studying between cases and he'd come running in "Jan! I need you to run down to Central Supply and get me a Fallopian tube!" or an Otis Elevator...or something else to see if he could trip me up, but it never worked! I remember I got a 105/100 on the paper he graded because he gave me extra credit for something I had done particularly well. He made learning fun! My sympathies to his family and close friends.

Jan (Rieber) Fliehman - December 19, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ Steve was an inspiration regarding his optimism. Finding something worthwhile in any situation.
One of my favorite lines from Steve was " Look at the beautiful place where we are not catching fish",

Mike Daugherty - December 19, 2020 at 01:28 PM

GR

“ This is Gary Roulston from Lititz, PA. In 2006 Greg Wilson and I joined Steve, Barb and their friends Dan and Heidi for a Steelhead fishing trip to Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Although the accommodations were not quite as "luxurious" as originally represented (especially for 6 people), we all ate and drank well and we had a great time.

Another highlight of that trip was that we arrived just in time for the Superbowl between the Seahawks and the Steelers. Being Steelers fans we all dressed up in our Steelers regalia and headed to town (Forks, WA) intending to watch the game at a bar there (no TV reception at "The Hilton on the Sol Duc"). However when we stopped at the local food store to buy some beer and snacks we got such blowback there from the locals that we decided to play it safe and instead rent a motel room to watch the game (which of course the Steelers won).

Greg and I have both fished with Steve quite a bit, especially when he (and Barb) came to Camp 6X in Fort Smith. I'll miss those times with Steve and especially his rendition of "Mustang Sally" as he floated down the Bighorn in his float tube.

Please accept my condolences and best wishes to Barb and their family for the loss of Steve. He was a great guy and always fun to fish with and to be around.



Gary Roulston - December 19, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ Adding some pictures .

Mike Daugherty



Mike Daugherty - December 19, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ *My first memory of Steve is of him perched on our English teacher’s desk, playing the guitar for a demonstration speech. Well, what girl wouldn’t be interested in that! But as I got to know Steve, it was clear there was a lot more to him than just guitar guy. He loved his family and friends, was generous, loving, caring, and of course, funny. We had lost touch for a while, but the past few years we were in contact again. And even 2100 miles away it was clear to see that he was still the same Steve. Well, with one exception, that being his role as devoted husband to Barb. Every single picture of them excluded such joy I have no doubt that the years with Barbara were the happiest of his life. My sincere condolences to her and the family.*



michele price - December 19, 2020 at 07:31 AM

MP

Please excuse the typo - It should have read exuded NOT excluded

Michele Price - December 19, 2020 at 11:13 AM

DB

“ *Sending love and prayers to you Barbara and family. Am so sorry for your loss. Will never forget Steve. What a sweet, funny, wonderful man. Always had a smile and a big hello! Hex will be missed. Love you. ❤️*

Deb Beauchamp - December 19, 2020 at 01:10 AM

JW

“ *3 files added to the album Steve & Jeff fishing*



Jeffrey A Watson - December 18, 2020 at 03:46 PM

JW

“ Okay this is an absolutely true story.

Steve and I had planned a two-week trip to fish in Montana. This is many years ago when we both live in Lancaster Pennsylvania. The cheapest flights were out of the Philadelphia airport. We had plenty of time to make our flight in Philly. We pulled up to the area where you unload your baggage. As we were unloading our baggage the airport gentleman asked us which flight we were on. When we told him he immediately responded saying your flights being canceled and they are rebooking people on another flight, you better hurry up and get in there to see if you can get seats. We rushed in, got in line, and when we needed to the ticket agent, they told us we could get a flight on another airline but we had to grab our bags and again rush to another airline ticket agent. This is the Philadelphia airport not a small facility. We made it to the other airline at which point they told us that they were boarding the flight at that very moment. They took our baggage, suitcases and flyrods and check them in for us. They told us to run to the boarding area that they had already announced final boarding. We ran through the airport. Just making it in time. On the other airline we had seats together but they just threw us into vacant seats on this airplane. Steve was in about the middle and I was one row from the end, back of the plane. The plane pulled out and we went into pretakeoff mood. As we were taxiing down the runway something occurred to me. I started to giggle to myself. Just about the same time as we are taxiing Steve stands up facing me at the back of the plane with his arms stretched out. He shouts to me, "My Car". What had occurred to me just a few seconds earlier was what made me laugh, because there was nothing at this point we could do about it and neither of us gave a 2nd thought, during our rushing that we never moved the car from the loading zone. If I close my eyes I can see him standing up during taxiing down the runway with his arms stretched out shouting to me, my car! As soon as the fasten seatbelt lights went out, Steve called 1 of the flight attendants and explained the situation. By the time we landed in Salt Lake. We had a game plan to retrieve the car from the impound lot that would cost \$50 a day and \$150 for the car

to be released. Luckily we had friends in Philadelphia that retrieve the car that day for us only costing \$150.

We were both extremely excited to be going to Montana to go fishing and hell-bent on making a flight to get us there the quickest way possible. Neither of us ever gave the car a 2nd thought until we were taxiing down the runway. As I said before, there are thousands of stories and they are all wonderful because spending time with Steve doing whatever fishing, hunting, floating, camping or simply running errands together was always delightful!

Jeffrey Watson



Jeffrey A Watson - December 18, 2020 at 03:39 PM

CW

“ *I trained and worked with Steve in the 1980's at St Joe, Lancaster. He always had a smile on his face. He loved to get the Junior students by sending them to Materials for an ileocecal valve! That was Steve. We lost touch, but was glad he followed his dream to go to Montana. My sympathy to his family and friends.*

Cheryl Weaver - December 18, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen Paul Nickliss.*



December 18, 2020 at 08:42 AM



“ I will always have fond memories of Steve. We all hung out together in high school and Steve was always the one to make us all laugh. I remember when I was being tested for a hereditary kidney disease a few years after we graduated from HS. He was the imaging technician who was key in diagnosing my disease. It was a devastating time but it was so good to see familiar face. His kindness and reassurance surely helped to get me through the day. God bless Steve and his family and give them all peace.

Mary Ann Anderson - December 18, 2020 at 07:59 AM



“ I’m Steve’s bandmate John Willard , I’m shocked I just played with Steve a couple of weeks prior to his passing , I’ve been looking at all things I can find about him now, he sure had some great friends and family , it’s no wonder , I think there’s a certain bond we had cause of the band , I wish I could’ve went fishin with him , he was always trying to get the band together for meals , I see his mom was maybe Italian, he sure had some great eyes and eyebrows , I really am gonna miss Steve , lighthearted, great sense of humor VERY empathetic , loving soul, I write this song called “The Rodent” , we play it at most gigs , Barb sent me a bunch of videos from a New yrs gig in Deerlodge MT , man his fills and leads on the Rodent are so sweet , his ability to just be there musically whenever we needed a lead on keys or guitar was spot on . It’s not gonna be the same love ya Steve . We’ll jam when I get there ok ? ❤️🙏❤️



john willard - December 18, 2020 at 12:58 AM

 Joey
Endy

“ *I am so very sorry.*

We used to go to NY for Steelhead. He was a great & funny guy. He would always make me laugh. We kept in touch on facebook & he would always talk about my pictures. He will be missed very much. God Bless.

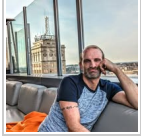
Joey Endy - December 17, 2020 at 11:14 PM



“ *Corey Nickliss purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Stephen Paul Nickliss.*



Corey Nickliss - December 17, 2020 at 10:28 PM



“ Steve Nickliss was my Dad. No matter what, no matter when, if I had to vent or I needed him to protect me from even myself... He was always there.

Yeah, he's funny... Yeah he can be the life of any party.. but I got to see the vulnerable side. Like the time we accidentally caught a bat at speedwell forge fly fishing and he was so heartbroken because we had to mercifully kill it because it swallowed the hook midair and he started crying.

When I graduated high school, he was there for me and was so proud, when I graduated college, I was told that he wouldn't stop talking about it to his colleagues. Even through the pandemic, he ALWAYS would find a way to see the light in it, and knew just what to say to make someone smile.

I learned compassion from him, I learned that being too serious is boring, and that classic rock is the go to when all other music genres fail the mood.

He may have been proud of me, but I'm so much more proud of him. He pulled himself out of a dark place when moving to MT... And when he met Barb? His light exploded to a blaze.... He told me his dream when I was 14, and then when I was 37 he referenced that conversation, held his hands up when we were standing on his porch, and said... This is what I meant..

I love you Dad... I will miss you... And my condolences to Barb Nickliss and the Taylor family, I love you as well, and I hope to see you soon!



Corey Nickliss - December 17, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen Paul Nickliss.*



December 17, 2020 at 08:15 PM



“ *Steve played his guitar in a pink tutu while I sang “Ohio” during a May Day show our senior year of high school. He was in the previous skit with no time to change, hence the tutu. He always made me laugh and will be missed. My sympathies to Barb and his family.*

Marcie Bowling - December 17, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Paul Nickliss.*



December 17, 2020 at 07:14 PM



“ *Barb, I'm so sorry. I have many great memories of our RTR weekends, that I remember anyway. Great friends, food, drink, music and a lot of laughter. I will forever see Steve beating on his cow bell during the show. Lots of love to you.*

Susan Story - December 17, 2020 at 05:52 PM

CF

“ Oh Barb I am so sorry to hear about Steve. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Working with Steve was like working with the brother from another mother. We had lots of laughs as well as some tears. One of my favorite stories was when Kim and I told him that tequila caused kidney stones! Please know that my heart is breaking for you. Love Cindy

Cindy Fawcett - December 17, 2020 at 05:33 PM

JW

“ I could write a book about Steve, our adventures, moving to Montana and going without saying hours upon hours of fly fishing together. For now, suffice it to say I loved this man like a brother. I am heartbroken for his wife and all of us who knew and loved Steve. I think everyone should share a story, a memory, and experience that they had with Steve.

I will return to this tribute wall at a later time with one of the thousand stories about this remarkable, human that we will all miss in oh so many ways.

Jeffrey Watson

Jeffrey A Watson - December 17, 2020 at 03:16 PM



Well said Jeff! There are to many great storys about this guy to pick just one! His ability to make others laugh is what I will miss the most. Loved fishing and talking fish with him too!

Joshua Gesler - December 17, 2020 at 05:21 PM

JW

Barb, we were so sorry to hear about Steve. Jim remembers the adventure of his first elk and deer hunting. There was also the incident of setting his pants on fire when he was trying to keep warm with a can of sterno as he was sitting in a rock pile waiting for the elk. He was part of a great crew when I worked with him and he taught me a lot about the Cath Lab. I also remember how he fell head over heels in love with you!! Our deepest condolences to you and your families.

Jim and Judiann Williams - December 19, 2020 at 09:57 AM



My heartfelt condolences to you Barbie and both your and Steve's family.

my thoughts

I met Steve while working at St. Joes hospital in Lancaster. He and I hit it off and had a common interest in fishing and became best friends.

Fishing was secondary to how much I cared for Steve and I cried when he and his dog Halford left Lancaster in a Uhaul truck with his Trooper in tow. As sad as I was at that time I was happy for Steve as I knew that his heart was guiding him west.

When he married Barbie that confirmed to me that using his heart as a compass was appropriate. I told Steve that he married the best in the west..

The pictures I have taken over the years are primarily of fishing but they fail to show the depth of Steevies character.

He had a heart of gold that wrapped you up and hugged you constantly. More people should be as compassionate and understanding as Steve. That is what I will miss the most.

His humor will not be forgotten as well as his inventive cooking which was top notch.

Rest peacefully my friend.

See you later..

Mike Daugherty

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Mike Daugherty - December 19, 2020 at 11:34 AM