



Stephen John O'Brien DDS

December 29, 1953 - March 24, 2020

Stephen John O'Brien, DDS was born December 29, 1953 in Butte, MT to Jack and Veronica O'Brien; he was the youngest of five children. He died peacefully at home March 24, 2020, surrounded by his children and holding his wife's hand.

Steve grew up in Butte, and attended Butte Central, an All-boys' Catholic School. He spent many summers roofing homes to save for his college tuition and at 19, he went to a dance with friends and met the love of his life, Lois Loughran.

In 1973, he attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. There, he met the people who would become his lifelong best "pals"- Danny, Tony, Don, John and Greg- all members of a larger group of friends called The Shasta Boys who still get together once a year. In 1976, he graduated with a BS in Biology. Steve and Lois returned to Butte to be married in June 1977.

Shortly after, Steve and his new bride made the big move to San Francisco, where he was accepted to The University of the Pacific Dental School. It was there that they met their best friends, Michael and Debbie Long. Lois worked hard to put him through school; they didn't have much at the time, but their hard work and devotion to each other laid the foundation for the loving and strong family they were going to create.

Upon graduation from dental school in 1980, Steve and Lois returned to Butte to open a dental practice. After a fateful phone call from Dr Long (during which his friend bragged about the warm CA weather), Steve packed a pregnant

Lois up in their VW Bug and moved to Fresno. He opened his practice in Clovis the same year he became a father for the first time in 1981.

Over the next 6 years, Lois gave birth to two more children and together they built a successful dental practice.

When he wasn't at work, Steve was home with his family. It tickled him to see how much his oldest daughter was like him. He never missed one of his sons baseball games and could always be found courtside at his youngest daughter's college basketball games. He truly was their biggest fan.

Steve loved the outdoors. Some of his fondest memories were hunting with his son, fishing with his brother-in-law, Dave, or golfing with his pals at The Fort.

Alongside his wife, Steve was the ultimate host. If you were ever lucky enough to enjoy a dinner party at his home, you experienced Steve at his most charming. He told the best jokes-some appropriate, many not--and he was always the life of the party.

In 2015, Steve's youngest daughter, Dr Kaitlyn O'Brien, joined his practice. Working side by side with her brought immense joy and pride to his life.

Most recently, Steve experienced his newest great love: grandchildren.

Ranging in ages from four months to five years, all five of his grandchildren had a special bond with their grandpa.

As anyone who knew him can attest, Steve was loving, honest, faithful and most of all, he was special. There was no one like him. He valiantly fought an aggressive form of brain cancer for 11 months. His absence will leave a hole in our hearts forever.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Jim O'Brien, and grandson, George.

Steve is survived by his devoted wife of 42 years, Lois, daughter Erin Morzenti (Steve), son, Timothy O'Brien (Noelle), daughter, Kaitlyn Kearney (Jimmy), five grandchildren-Skylar, Sullivan, Charlotte, Donovan, and Sydney- and countless other family, friends and loyal patients.

A special thank you to his doctors, LiLi, MD, Nhat-Long Pham, MD at Clovis

Community Cancer Center; His private physician, Michael Dayton, MD; His caregivers at Hinds Hospice; His loyal office staff, especially Edna Rios, Marcy Moore, Cathy Giomi and Jessica Carpenter.

To our family, Dave and Mitzi Richards, Russ and Janice Cavalla and friends, Mike and Debbie Long: your friendship and love carried our family through this difficult time; And to his faithful wife, Lois: you were his partner in life and never left his side during his illness. Your love for each other was truly a remarkable gift shared with all who have been lucky enough to know you.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that all memorial contributions be made by check payable to UCSF Foundation and should include Brain Tumor Center (B0628) in memory of Stephen John O'Brien, DDS in the memo line or cover note. Your gift is tax-deductible and will support UCSF's Brain Tumor Center efforts in Glioblastoma research.

Checks should be mailed to:

Lockbox / Item Processing Operations

MUFG Union Bank N.A.

1751 Harborbay Parkway, Suite 100

Alameda, CA 94502

Attn: UCSF Foundation Lockbox 45339

If you would like to make a gift online, please visit makeagift.ucsf.edu/BTC and indicate that the gift is in memory of Stephen John O'Brien, DDS.

Services to be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

RP

“ *Lois & family this is very sad news for me to hear. I haven't seen Steve in a long time but always thought of him. We were great friends during our Butte Central days with so many good times & memories together!*
Prayers & love!
Ron Petritz

Ron Petritz - April 06, 2020 at 12:07 PM

EO

Thank you for your nice message Ron. My mother says hello and told us a couple funny stories about you and our dad. He was the best of the best.
-Erin Morzenti (Steves oldest daughter.)

Erin O'Brien - April 07, 2020 at 01:41 AM

SB

Lois and family, My heart breaks for you at the loss of your husband and father. Steve and I were friends since the 1st grade. We went to grade school and High School together. Our sisters were classmates and used to pal around together bringing us along because they had to babysit us! It was the beginning of a great friendship. I missed seeing him at the last couple of class reunions it was always so fun to touch base and find out what fun and interesting things he was up to. May God keep you in the palm of his hand and let the memories of your wonderful life heal you all. Love and prayers to you all, Sus McIntyre Bristow

Sus Bristow - April 09, 2020 at 06:42 PM