



Stephen Albert Rybicki

June 23, 1941 - December 25, 2022

Stephen “Steve” Albert Rybicki Jr. - eldest son of Stephen “Steve” John Rybicki and Mary A Mrachina passed away on Sunday, December 25th, 2022.

Steve was born in Hamtramck, Michigan on June 23rd, 1941. A graduate of U of D high school class of 1959, he later earned a BA in English from U of D College, and his MLS from the University of Michigan. Steve worked for several years at Detroit Public Library before spending 52 years as a librarian and instructor at Macomb Community College, where he continued to work up until the time of his death.

Steve maintained a passionate interest in photography throughout his life - both professionally and personally. He was enthusiastic about writing poetry, and was eager to share his images and words with those around him. His greatest love in life however, was spending time with his family and friends.

Steve is survived by his beloved wife Clarice; beloved children James “Jim” (Kate) and Christina (Bob); adored grandchildren Patrick, Charlie, Sabrina and Chloe and Liam; and blessed great-grandchild Patrick Jr.

The family will be having a memorial to celebrate Steve’s life this spring. For detailed information please contact his daughter Christina at

srybickimemorial@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Steve was a very special man. He loved poetry and books. He was always interested in others.
Steve will be missed. I know I shall miss him. My condolences to his family.

Lesley L. Lambright - January 19, 2023 at 06:23 PM

JK

“ Working with Steve in the 1970's we added hundreds of books to the MCC libraries. Twenty years later, Steve regularly conducted introduction to library research lectures for my composition classes. Very briefly, I was Steve's supervisor when I filled in as MCC's library director. So, I got to know him in a number of settings. He was a cheerful and skilled collaborator and one of MCC's finest. I am sorry to learn of his death and wish my best to his family. R.I.P. Steve.

john krnacik - January 19, 2023 at 05:54 PM

IO

“ This is such sad news. Steve was one of the kindest people I have every met. Truly a heart of gold. I was blessed to have Steve as a colleague at Macomb and will cherish his works of poetry he shared. May he rest in peace!

Ilene O'Neil - January 19, 2023 at 03:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen Albert Rybicki.*



January 17, 2023 at 03:11 PM



“ *I, and all of the Macomb family, are saddened to hear of Steve's passing. He was a kind man, who always had time to talk and lend a hand where necessary. Steve will hold a special place in the hearts of so many, and will be greatly missed.*

Brenda Alward - January 06, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ *This is heartbreaking news. Steve was a close colleague, a fine poet, and a great human being.*

Clark - January 05, 2023 at 06:56 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Steve's family. I am heartbroken to learn about his sad demise. I know him as very kindhearted human being who always talked with me about my family, vacation and photos I shared with him. I will truly miss seeing him in the library.*

Pragna Gusani - January 05, 2023 at 08:05 AM

TB

“ To Clarice, Jim, Christina, and family,

I am so terribly sorry to hear of Steve's unexpected passing. He was a kindhearted and caring person and I've enjoyed working by his side in the library for the past 25+ years. Day to day, Steve would often share photos, family news, thoughts, poems, and interesting articles I should read. I will miss seeing him in the morning at the reference desk, bidding him good evening at the end of the day, and catching up on the latest happenings when we would next see each other.



Teresa B. - January 04, 2023 at 09:47 AM

JK

“ His tag was Captain Caddie. I call'd him Sensei. Steve and I would share our poetry via email or whilst brooding over our Polish Plates at Polonia on Yemen. Being 12 years older than I, I knew him first as my brother Ralph's school chum. Ralph caddied with Steve at The Detroit Golf Club.

I'm posting one of the earlier poems I wrote to and for Steve, circa 2014.

CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN

*I FEEL YOUR HAND SO GENTLY UPON MY BACK
TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW
CREEPS IN IT'S PETTY PACE FROM DAY TO DAY
AND I HAVE NOT THAT DAMNED SPOT UPON MY PALM
BUT MY CAPTAIN'S KINDLY TOUCH COMPORTING CALM*

*NO PUSH
NAY, NOR EVEN URGENCY
THESE CANNOT BE SUPPORTED
BUT STEP BY STEP
MY FERVENT PLEA
SO FEW CAN HEAR REPORTED*

*MY MENTOR'S EAR
I HOLD AS NEAR
MY HEART IN FULL ALLOWS*

*DIPPING OUR OARS
THE WINE DARK SEA
WE CLEAVE BENEATH OUR BOWS*

I miss you, Steve.

Sogni d'oro

Ton serviteur

Joseph Kolinski

joekolinski81@gmail.com

Joseph Kolinski - January 04, 2023 at 07:54 AM

J1

Joseph: may I share this work with his friends at the Beach Art Center here in Florida. And, if I may, attach your poem to a work of art at our coming "Poets and Art" show in the Spring? John Michael McNamara, '59, john223309@cs.com

John Michael McNamara 1959 - January 15, 2023 at 08:15 PM

MM

“ Growing up on Turner, Steve was our neighbor. Many years later, I saw him again at my mom’s funeral. I appreciated that very much. Sending love to his family, Mary Kolinski Moritz

Mary Kolinski Moritz - January 03, 2023 at 09:11 PM

NA

“ Steve meant so much to all of us at Macomb. He was the kindest, nicest person I have had the pleasure to work with. I hope the love we all felt for him makes your loss a little easier to bear. He truly was one of a kind.

Nancy - January 03, 2023 at 09:51 AM

HC

“ Steve and I both worked at Detroit Golf Club , I as a caddie for c.years and he with his father who spent years there in the Pro Shop working with members golf clubs. Both had high school at the High. Up after graduation we went to different Colleges. We kept in touch with reunions etc. I always admired his love for learning! Take care old friend.

Henry chambers - December 31, 2022 at 04:30 PM

JV

“ To Clarice, James and Christina, children and grandchildren,

Steve and I met the summer before high school when we were both 14 years old as caddies at the Detroit Golf Club. We soon learned that each of us planned to attend U of D Jesuit High School in the fall. Being good caddies was important to both of us so we were diligent and worked hard. When only 17 years old Steve was named Captain Caddie #1 which meant the best caddie. As each caddie had a rating number, I was Captain Caddie #9. Both of us had the caddie-bond of stories to be told later in life.

In high school we shared the same group of friends. I remember after graduation being at Steve's house with our group and Steve's dad gave each of us a bottle of beer. (Wow! we were only 18 years old).

Our closer friendship rekindled after our 50th high school reunion. Steve would gather several of our classmates for lunch. We learned we shared an interest in art, Steve's in poetry and mine in painting. I have a file full of printed copies of his poems. I painted an interpretation of two of his poems, "Full Moon" and "Point Pelee", both of which he really enjoyed. I am truly saddened by the loss of a great friend. Please know you have my sincere condolences.

Jim Velthoven

James J Velthoven - December 31, 2022 at 01:41 PM

JN

“ Steve was my sister Kate’s father in law. What a great human being Steve was!! I guess I’ve known Steve for almost 40 years. He was such a kind, thoughtful, interesting, and insightful man. Always had intelligent, thought provoking, and open minded contributions to any conversation. He always treated me well, and always expressed a sincere interest in how I was doing. It was always a pleasure having him around at family gatherings. I’m certain that he took at least a couple of thousand pictures of me and my other family members over the years!! He was the photographer at my wedding as well. I will miss him. My deepest sympathies go out to Clarice, Jim, Christina, Patrick, Charlie, Sabrina, Patrick Jr, Chloe, and Liam. God bless you all in this difficult time.

John Nichols

john Nichols - December 31, 2022 at 01:27 PM

CA

“ Clarice and family: I am so deeply sorry for the loss of Steve. I met Steve at 17 years old (I'm now 46) working with him at Macomb. I am in tears at this heartbreaking loss, but wanted to share some thoughts. Steve always talked about family and friends. He loved the library and all things book-related, but even in the middle of those conversations he'd mention those he held near and dear. He was one of the most caring and gentle souls I ever knew. Rarely a day went by where he didn't say "how are you feeling" or "I've been thinking about you." Every group meeting ended with him saying "I love you guys." When I had my heart surgery, Steve was the one to make sure I had the right surgeon, questions answered, and recovery resources. When I saw him months later in finally returning to work, I thanked him for saving my life and he said "oh no, this place had no life without you here!" He always shared in the joy of others and took the focus off himself. In his 50 year anniversary at Macomb he said "ah, it's okay, don't mention it." Steve's humility made him one of a kind. He was an exceptional friend and exceptional colleague. Any down moment he'd sense and would send a poem to brighten my spirits. I'll read those poems forever now and think of all of his warm smiles and great advice. God Bless his family and know what a difference he made to so many people.

Sincerely,
Cassandra

Cassandra - December 31, 2022 at 12:34 PM

JI

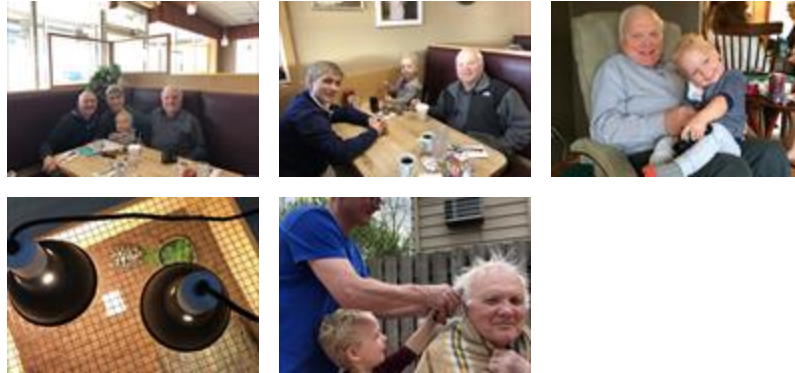
“ My Dad, the story teller. ❤️



Jim - December 31, 2022 at 11:28 AM

JI

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Jim - December 31, 2022 at 11:22 AM

JI

My Dad getting a “Covid” haircut. 🤪

Jim - December 31, 2022 at 11:33 AM

PD

“ Steve was a beloved colleague of all of us Macomb Community College folks. I loved that he shared his poems with me. They always gave a thoughtful slant to events, feeling, memories...a time for reflection and humor. He was quiet mostly but so steady and reliable as our Retiree newsletter editor. I think of Steve having a poetic soul....sensitive, kinda wry and in a less mundane cosmos than many of us. I miss him, but knowing he’s in a spirit- only dimension can be a comfort to those who love him. Paula Drewek

paula drewek - December 30, 2022 at 08:26 PM

Jl

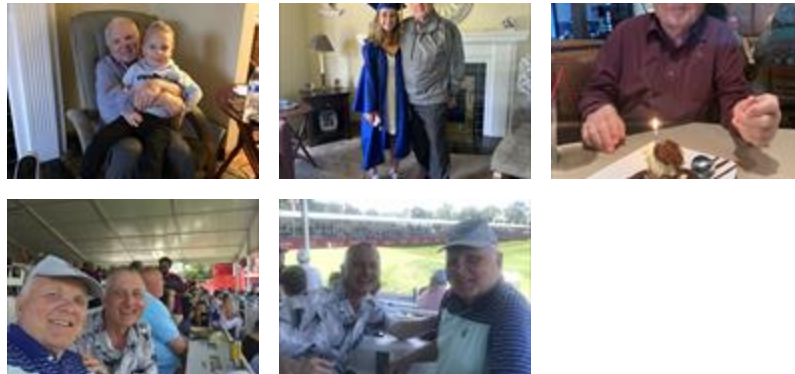
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jim - December 30, 2022 at 05:49 PM

Jl

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Jim - December 30, 2022 at 04:11 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Albert Rybicki.



December 30, 2022 at 01:31 PM

JH

“ Terri and I are saddened by Steve's passing. I appreciated the email contacts that Steve fostered and the poems he shared with me and with other U of D High friends -- those were the days! Our prayers to the Rybicki family.

Yours in Christ, Jim Haag

Jim Haag - December 30, 2022 at 12:48 PM

JN

Steve was my sister Kate's father in law. What a great human being Steve was!! I guess I've known Steve for almost 40 years. He was such a kind, thoughtful, interesting, and insightful man. Always had intelligent, thought provoking, and open minded contributions to any conversation. He always treated me well, and always expressed a sincere interest in how I was doing. It was always a pleasure having him around at family gatherings. I'm certain that he took at least a couple of thousand pictures of me and my other family members over the years!! He was the photographer at my wedding as well. I will miss him. My deepest sympathies go out to Clarice, Jim, Christina, Patrick, Charlie, Sabrina, Patrick Jr, Chloe, and Liam. God bless you all in this difficult time.

John Nichols

john Nichols - December 30, 2022 at 02:28 PM

HC

A good friend whom I knew for years after our graduation. Though we went separate ways you to Michigan schools and me to Indiana University, we reconnected at the reunions.

Henry chambers - December 31, 2022 at 04:38 PM

HC

Henry neglected to add that besides the High we both worked at Detroit Golf Club he with his dad and me as a caddie igniting a love for golf that continues today in Sacramento.

Henry chambers - December 31, 2022 at 04:53 PM

LK

I last saw Steve at 50th UDHS reunion in 2009. (Wow, Tempus sure does Fugit!) Anyway, it was a very happy reconnection for me. I recalled that his way with words was obvious even in high school, and reminded him of that.

When Steve entered a room, the room became a kinder, gentler place. I believe the same can be said about his entering this life.

Larry Kratz, '59.

Larry Kratz - January 01, 2023 at 06:52 PM

JK

*His tag was Captain Caddie
And oh, how we would brood together
Over our Polish Plates at Polonia
I'm placing one of the earliest poems I wrote to Steve
Just below
I call'd him Sensei*

CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN

*I FEEL YOUR HAND SO GENTLY UPON MY BACK
TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW
CREEPS IN IT'S PETTY PACE FROM DAY TO DAY*

*AND I HAVE NOT THAT DAMNED SPOT UPON MY PALM
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*MY MENTOR'S EAR
I HOLD AS NEAR
MY HEART IN FULL ALLOWS*

*DIPPING OUR OARS
THE WINE DARK SEA
WE CLEAVE BENEATH OUR BOWS*

*Sogni d'oro, Steve
from your protege
et serviteur*

*Joseph Kolinski
joekolinski81@gmail.com*

Joseph Kolinski - January 03, 2023 at 05:13 PM

EV

Steve had a kind, calming presence. I got to know him when I worked at the Center Campus Library and occasionally I would bump into him at Vince and Joes. My condolences to the family. Eva

Eva - January 05, 2023 at 08:35 AM

DS

Steve was a fine and gentle man. His light shone upon students and faculty alike. He was unfailingly dedicated to learning, literature, libraries, and listening. And his poetry enlightened us with wisdom and warmth. No doubt he has gone "gentle" into that light of enduring faith. Donna Schouman

Donna Schouman - January 08, 2023 at 08:44 PM