



The Rev. Doctor Steven Harberts

October 29, 1946 - April 1, 2019

The Rev. Doctor Steven Harberts

Jefferson, Iowa

Date of Death: April 1, 2019

Surrounded by loved ones, the Reverend Steven Lynn Harberts passed away peacefully at home in Jefferson, Iowa on April 1, 2019.

Born October 29, 1946 in Waterloo, Iowa to the Reverend Dick and Enola Harberts, Steven

shared his birthday with his best friend and twin brother Stewart Lee Harberts of Essex, Iowa.

Steven's education began in the one-room Humke Schoolhouse in Center Township, Iowa.

Shortly thereafter, the growing Harberts family moved to Steamboat Rock before settling in

Jefferson in 1954. It was at Jefferson Elementary School – in the fourth grade – that Steven met his future, beloved wife Denise Coon. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1964, Tarkio College in 1968, and Dubuque Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity in 1972. In 2006, he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania.

Ordained as a Presbyterian pastor in 1972, Steven began his career in Christian Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, Iowa. He served there for four years before relocating to Richmond, Indiana to assume the position of Senior Pastor at Reid Memorial United Presbyterian Church. Relocating to the First Presbyterian Church of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in 1985, Steven began an esteemed career in Pastoral Care that eventually led him to Wayne Presbyterian Church in Wayne, Pennsylvania in 1998.

Retirement in 2012 brought Steven back to Jefferson, Iowa where he enjoyed fishing in

farm ponds, smoking salmon, and scootering around the town square in his signature Hawkeyes gear.

Left to carry on Steven's legacy are his wife Denise Harberts of Jefferson, Iowa, son Aaron

Harberts, and son-in-law Scott Director – both of Los Angeles, California. Additional survivors include sister-in-law Renae (Stewart) Harberts of Essex, Iowa and brothers Sidney (Maxine) Harberts of Grundy Center, Iowa, Paul (Lynette) Harberts of Rochester, Minnesota, Craig (Dorothy) Harberts of San Clemente, California, and Clark (Julie) Harberts of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Additional cherished sisters-in-law are Marianne (Roger) Carlson, Teresa (Jim) Shahan, and Gina (Tom) Harrington – all of Jefferson, Iowa. Twenty-seven nieces and nephews will also tend to "Uncle Steve's" memory.

Steven was preceded in death by his parents Dick and Enola Harberts, his father and mother-in-law Don and Mary Coon of Jefferson, Iowa, and his twin brother Stewart Harberts.

A celebration of Steven's life and his service to the glory of God will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Jefferson, Iowa at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 5, 2019 with a fellowship luncheon to follow. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Jefferson, the Jefferson Public Library, or the Greene County Early Learning Center.

Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home
515-386-2171

Cemetery

Events

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

Greene County, IA,

APR

5

Memorial Service

11:00AM

First Presbyterian Church

208 West State Street, Jefferson, IA, US, 50129

Comments



“ Our hearts go out to all the family. As a young married couple, Steve's father had a huge impact on our lives. We are sure Steve will be missed. He too, has left a wonderful legacy as did his parents.

Peace and comfort to all.
Dick and Nedra Justice
Waukee, IA

Dick and Nedra Justice - June 13, 2019 at 11:48 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Photo Memories of Steven Harberts



Scott Director - April 09, 2019 at 02:52 PM



“ Dear Denise,

Mike and I enjoyed very much talking to you and Steve at our class reunions in the past few years. I know he had to fight arthritis all his life, and that must have taken a lot of courage. It's wonderful that he had such a useful and joyous life.

With our sympathy,

Mike and Kathy (Perry) Deupree

Kathy Deupree - April 08, 2019 at 01:37 PM



“ I was very sorry to hear about Steven's passing and I hope that the family is holding up as well as possible during these sad and tough times.

I'm a long time member of Wayne Presbyterian Church and while I only knew Steven from being up in the pulpit, my Mom got to know him well. She went through some challenging situations in the 90's and I know that the church helped her through those times. Being from Des Moines herself I know that she and Steven had their own midwestern connection that she got a kick out of. She was very fond of Steven

and John Galloway and their support and guidance meant a lot to her. My Mom passed away in 2005 and Steven took part in her service at the church and I know that meant a lot to her.

With Deepest Sympathies

Bill North

William North - April 08, 2019 at 08:33 AM



“ Dear Denise and family,
My deepest sympathy in the loss of your wonderful husband. Steve grew up in the Presbyterian Manse across the street from us when we lived on E. Park. Since he was a teenager he coped with painful arthritis. But he fought on with grace and determination. God Bless you and yours. Hugs and prayers for the days and weeks ahead.
Love, Valerie and Mike

Valerie Ogren - April 07, 2019 at 07:56 PM



“ Rev. Harberts was the soul of our church (First Pres of Ft. Lauderdale) he was always the person present for those who were the most in need and was perhaps the greatest example of Christ-like behavior I have seen in any person, clergy or lay. He helped me through one of the hardest times of my young life, and with his patience and wisdom taught me how the act of forgiveness could transform life for the forgiver as well as the forgiven. It is perhaps the greatest lesson I have ever been taught, and I think of the words he said to me all those years ago more than any sermon I have ever heard.

Nick Newell - April 04, 2019 at 11:58 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Photo Memories of Steven Harberts



Scott Director - April 04, 2019 at 11:40 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Photo Memories of Steven Harberts



Scott Director - April 04, 2019 at 04:49 PM



“ 22 files added to the album Photo Memories of Steven Harberts



Scott Director - April 04, 2019 at 03:55 PM



“ I will remember the beauty and thoughtfulness of Steven’s congregational prayers — often his phrasing was so profound or touching to me that I would open my eyes and reach for my pen. I am grateful for his taking me to a deeper level of God’s presence. Blessing to you, Denise. So glad you had this good man to share your journey.
Carey davis

Carey Davis - April 04, 2019 at 02:50 PM



“ 24 files added to the album Photo Memories of Steven Harberts



Scott Director - April 04, 2019 at 01:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Photo Memories of Steven Harberts



Scott Director - April 04, 2019 at 11:34 AM



“ We have missed Denise and Steven terribly since they left Wayne Presbyterian. They are a special couple with many gifts: Denise with the gift of hospitality and Steven with his cooking and his wonderful pastoral care to our members. At one memorial service for the deceased who had called Steven R2 for Right Reverend, the deceased said he would see Steven on the other side. It is a comfort to know that Steven is united with him and Steven's parents and brother. With our love and sympathy, Jim and Elaine Sullivan

Elaine Sullivan - April 04, 2019 at 10:33 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of The Rev. Doctor Steven Harberts.



April 03, 2019 at 05:35 PM



“ Denise - greetings from Wayne, PA. Casey shared the news last night at a meeting. I remember Steven fondly at Wayne, especially as I served as a deacon under his leadership. The deacon socials were known throughout the church as fun events and everyone looked forward to Steve's smoked salmon!
My prayers and those of many at WPC are with you and Aaron as you mourn his passing. I'd bet there is some wonderful fishing going on in heaven right now!

Best,
Rick Davis

Rick Davis - April 03, 2019 at 03:31 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of The Rev. Doctor Steven Harberts.



April 03, 2019 at 11:07 AM



“ I got to know Steve through the Masons. He had a terrific sense of humor. Always enjoyed visiting with him, especially harassing him when I could catch him out on his "scooter". Things were "always good" with Steve. He will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Les Fister - April 03, 2019 at 10:37 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of The Rev. Doctor Steven Harberts.



April 03, 2019 at 07:32 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Photo Memories of Steven Harberts



Aaron Harberts - April 02, 2019 at 05:08 PM