



## Steve Techam

July 27, 1945 - September 3, 2025

The funeral service celebrating the life of Steve Techam of Deer Creek will be held at 11:00a.m. on Saturday, September 20, at the Joyful Spirit Methodist Church in rural Wadena with Pastor Ricardo Alcoser presiding. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery in Deer Creek, MN.

~~~~~ You are invited to watch the service via live-stream by going to Schuller Family Funeral Homes' Facebook Page or YouTube Page ~~~~~

On September 3, 2025, Stephen “Steve” Techam, beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away peacefully at the age of 80, at home with his wife and family by his side.

Steve was born on July 27, 1945, in Minneapolis, MN, to Herman Techam and Mary Techam. He grew up in Hopkins, where he graduated from Hopkins High School. His love for learning and teaching led him to Bemidji State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education.

During his school years, Steve was a dedicated athlete, competing in both high school and college wrestling. His passion for the sport continued throughout his life, and in 1973, he founded the Verndale High School wrestling program, leaving a legacy that touched generations of students. In

recognition of his contributions, he was named Minnesota High School Coach of the Year in 2001 and was inducted into the Minnesota Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2005 and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2021.

Beyond athletics, Steve found joy in hunting, fishing, and connecting with nature. He was also a dedicated community member, serving on the Lions Club, the church board, and the Wadena-Deer Creek School Board, where his leadership made a lasting impact. Steve played an instrumental role in helping rebuild the Wadena-Deer Creek School following the tornado that ripped through Wadena in 2010, ensuring the students and community had a safe and renewed place to learn.

While attending Bemidji State, Steve met the love of his life, Katherine Fleener. They were married on December 30, 1967, and shared a devoted, enduring partnership that lasted throughout his life.

Steve will be remembered for his kindness, compassion, and unwavering dedication to those he loved. Loyal to his family, community, athletes, and students, he lived each day with integrity and instilled that same value in those around him. To his family, he was a source of calm strength and steady encouragement, always offering support with a warm smile.

He carried that same spirit into every relationship - whether with friends, peers, students, or fellow community members - always meeting others with generosity and respect. Steve cherished time spent traveling with his family, often weaving history into their adventures, and delighted in journeys with friends, especially salmon fishing trips to Alaska. His passions for wrestling, hunting, fishing, and travel were woven into the fabric of his life, but it was the people he shared them with who made those moments most meaningful.

Above all, Steve leaves behind the example of a life well-lived - guided by

faith, family, and integrity - that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Kathy; daughters, Melissa (Lance) Westerlund and Lori Techam; and his granddaughter, Olivia Westerlund. He is also survived by his siblings, Gene Techam, Robert "Bob" Techam, Dan Techam, and Diane Techam.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Mary Techam, as well as his sister, Kathy Day, and brother, David Techam.

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

30301 550th Ave.  
(1 mile west and 1.5 miles north)  
Deer Creek, MN 56527

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Joyful Spirit Methodist Church  
61847 State Highway 29  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Visitation

SEP **20**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Joyful Spirit Methodist Church  
61847 State Highway 29  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Service

SEP **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Joyful Spirit Methodist Church  
61847 State Highway 29  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Graveside Service

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SEP **20**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Oak Hill Cemetery  
30301 550th Ave.  
(1 mile west and 1.5 miles north)  
Deer Creek, MN 56527

# Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Steve Techam*



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**Schuller Family Funeral Homes** - September 15, 2025 at 12:26 PM

SC

*Great guy, coach, & was great to me as a coach & wrestler who often competed with his teams. He showed class & sportsmanship in my experiences with him, RIP, Steve.*

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**Steve Carr** - September 26, 2025 at 09:57 AM

FL

“ *We just found out about Steve. He is often thought of. We have a lot of fond memories of Steve & family. Our deepest condolences to the Techam family.*

*Frank & Laura*

*Walsh's Bay Store Camp*

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**Frank & Laura** - May 03 at 02:27 PM

WS

“ Steve is such an incredible amazing man with a big smile that always radiated God's love ❤️ You always knew he genuinely cared! You'd have to have great patience to teach new driver's and he did! A great teacher and was so fun to watch him coach wrestling, he was never still:) Always wanted the best 4 everyone! Our sincere sympathy to his family. So grateful it's not goodbye, that by God's gift of Salvation we can be reunited in heaven..AMEN! Our love and prayers 4 strength n comfort are with you each.



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**Wayne and Sheila Stave** - September 21, 2025 at 09:24 PM

TA

“ Terry &Landa Ackerman purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Steve Techam.



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**Terry &Landa Ackerman** - September 19, 2025 at 01:26 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steve Techam.



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September 18, 2025 at 10:45 PM

LS

“ Love, Steve, Shelly and Kait Stasiewicz purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Steve Techam.



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**Love, Steve, Shelly and Kait Stasiewicz** - September 18, 2025 at 09:31 PM

LS

“ Love, Steve, Shelly and Kait Stasiewicz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steve Techam.

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**Love, Steve, Shelly and Kait Stasiewicz** - September 18, 2025 at 09:31 PM

KA

“ Kim Anderson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



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**Kim Anderson** - September 18, 2025 at 05:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Steve Techam.



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September 18, 2025 at 11:49 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Steve Techam.*



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September 17, 2025 at 09:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Steve Techam.

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September 17, 2025 at 09:41 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Steve Techam.*



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September 17, 2025 at 09:34 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Steve Techam.

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September 17, 2025 at 09:34 AM

SG

“ Seth Gouldin lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Seth Gouldin - September 16, 2025 at 01:19 PM

CB

“ Cindy and Quan Banh purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Steve Techam.



Cindy and Quan Banh - September 15, 2025 at 09:33 PM

CB

“ Cindy and Quan Banh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steve Techam.

Cindy and Quan Banh - September 15, 2025 at 09:33 PM

JB

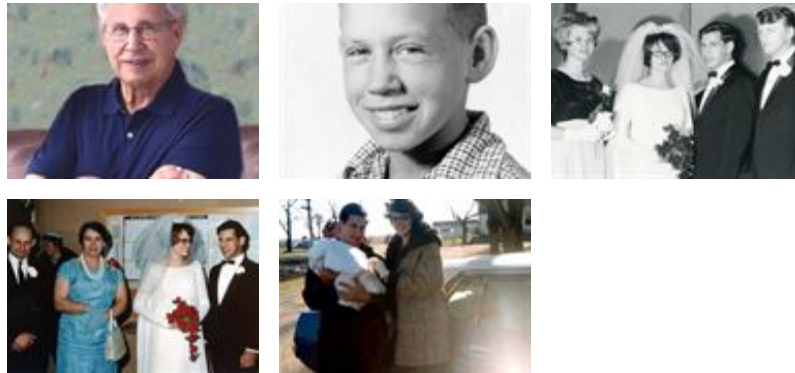
“ Steve, Thank you for your dedication to the education of our children. I enjoyed visiting with you when you were on the WDC school board. And - the salmon you gave me was delicious! Thanks. Rest in peace.



Joyce Boyne - September 15, 2025 at 12:22 PM



“ 42 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - September 15, 2025 at 12:18 PM

ME

“ Marty and Suzy Ellis purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of Steve Techam.



Marty and Suzy Ellis - September 10, 2025 at 09:19 PM

ME

“ Marty and Suzy Ellis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steve Techam.

Marty and Suzy Ellis - September 10, 2025 at 09:19 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the album *Stephen Techam*



Thomas R Brokl - September 10, 2025 at 08:32 PM

JP

“ Sorry for your loss. He will be missed. His legacy lives on forever. God needed him home. May you all be blessed with peace and comfort. Deepest Sympathy.



Jackie perius - September 10, 2025 at 03:14 PM

DW

“ Kathy and family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Debbi Derby Williamson



Debbi Williamson - September 09, 2025 at 09:26 PM

JW

“ Jim & Kathy Wilhelmi lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Jim & Kathy Wilhelmi - September 09, 2025 at 09:15 PM

SK

“ Sally Kopp lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Sally Kopp - September 08, 2025 at 07:08 PM

MF

“ Mike and sarah madsen and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Steve Techam.



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**Mike and sarah madsen and family** - September 08, 2025 at 05:28 PM

MF

“ Mike and sarah madsen and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steve Techam.

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**Mike and sarah madsen and family** - September 08, 2025 at 05:28 PM

RZ

“ Roberta Wagner Zluticky lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



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**Roberta Wagner Zluticky** - September 07, 2025 at 12:32 AM

GP

“ Gerald and Peggy Porter lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



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**Gerald and Peggy Porter** - September 06, 2025 at 09:25 PM



“ As a boy growing up in Verndale with no father in the 80’s....He was the only stable thing I knew come wrestling season. I’ll never forget being cold, scared & only 30” tall and having him reach down & shepherd me down the hall to wrestling. Not having a father does something to a young boy. Getting my face ground into the mat & turning & seeing Mr. Techem on the side cheering me on was my first glimpse of what having a father must of felt like. I’ll never forget him.....

**Brent Genereux** - September 06, 2025 at 04:00 PM



“ John and Anita Beringer lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



**John and Anita Beringer** - September 06, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ Many great battles on the wrestling mat against BHV wrestlers! Always well coached kids! A coached to be admired across the whole State.  
Tom Ellison Alexandria Wrestling.



**tom ellison** - September 06, 2025 at 09:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathy prayers and peace.

**Ginny Hestekind** - September 05, 2025 at 09:21 PM

MW

“ One of my favorite teachers and lots of memories being a wrestling cheerleader. Condolences Kathy and family, he will be missed. Rest in peace, Steve.

Mary Dee and Tom Weber - September 05, 2025 at 09:04 PM

Kathy Hastings

“ Kathy Hastings lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Kathy Hastings - September 05, 2025 at 08:27 PM

HJ

“ Sending love and prayers.

Helen Jackson - September 05, 2025 at 07:34 PM

LR

“ Linda addie respiratory lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Linda addie respiratory - September 05, 2025 at 06:04 PM

SE

“ Sheila (Mudek) Erickson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Sheila (Mudek) Erickson - September 05, 2025 at 05:23 PM



“ JoshnMiranda Peterson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



JoshnMiranda Peterson - September 05, 2025 at 04:27 PM

MS

“ Mike and Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Mike and Lea Snyder - September 05, 2025 at 03:27 PM

CR

“ Chris Randall lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Chris Randall - September 05, 2025 at 02:09 PM

DA

“ *Kathy and family,  
My deepest sympathy to all of you. Thinking  
and praying for you during this difficult time.*



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**Debbie Anderson** - September 05, 2025 at 01:39 PM

KJ

“ *Kathy Johnson lit a candle in memory of  
Steve Techam*



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**Kathy Johnson** - September 05, 2025 at 12:23 PM

CK

“ *Cassie Klimek lit a candle in memory of Steve  
Techam*



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**Cassie Klimek** - September 05, 2025 at 10:29 AM

JJ

“ *Thinking of you Kathy and the girls. May you  
find peace and comfort from God knowing  
Steve fought the good fight and he is looking  
down upon you with love. With sincere  
sympathy from John and Judy Pokorney*



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**John and Judy** - September 05, 2025 at 10:23 AM

JB

“ *Judy Beaver lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



**Judy Beaver** - September 05, 2025 at 10:10 AM

KL

“ *Ken and Nancy Lawson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



**Ken and Nancy Lawson** - September 05, 2025 at 09:02 AM

SC

“ *Steve and Jeri Cottrell lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



**Steve and Jeri Cottrell** - September 04, 2025 at 10:15 PM

DM

“ *Dixie Murray lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



**Dixie Murray** - September 04, 2025 at 07:47 PM

JK

“ Joe Kern lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Joe Kern - September 04, 2025 at 07:36 PM

JS

“ Thoughts and prayers for Kathy, Lori and Melissa.



Janice S - September 04, 2025 at 07:27 PM

SO

“ Sharyl Olson sent a virtual gift in memory of Steve Techam



Sharyl Olson - September 04, 2025 at 07:26 PM

BW

“ We are sending caring hugs to the whole family. Steve was an amazing teacher, coach, mentor, and friend.

Bill and Karin Wagner - September 04, 2025 at 06:28 PM

BM

“ *Barb Masog lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



Barb Masog - September 04, 2025 at 06:22 PM

RS

“ 📖👤♂ *Steve had such a quiet gentleness within his Strength!*  
💙🙏 *God's Comfort To You Through Your Journey!* 🙏💙

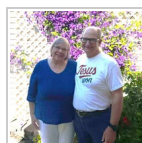
Rosalie Milbradt Schmith - September 04, 2025 at 06:19 PM

RS

“ *Rosalie Milbradt Schmith sent a virtual gift in memory of Steve Techam*



Rosalie Milbradt Schmith - September 04, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. I was a member of his first wrestling team at Verndale High School and learning in his social studies classes. He was also a good assistant football coach. Blessing and prayers for his family.*  
*Randy Baker*

Nancy Baker - September 04, 2025 at 06:12 PM

DH

“ *Such a great guy to know!*

Diane & Larry Hahn - September 04, 2025 at 05:21 PM

MA

“ Makenna Anderson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Makenna Anderson - September 04, 2025 at 05:12 PM

MH

“ Marladene Heinen lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Marladene Heinen - September 04, 2025 at 05:04 PM

PT

“ Steve and Kathy have been friends, neighbors and church family for a great many years . God has blessed us with getting to know such a wonderful person and now he needs to bring his angel home. Steve will truly be missed and our prayers go out to his family



Phyllis Drum & Teri - September 04, 2025 at 04:20 PM

DC

“ Dawn Captain lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Dawn Captain - September 04, 2025 at 04:09 PM

RU

“ *What a kind man.  
He will be missed by many!*

Ruth - September 04, 2025 at 03:55 PM

PA

“ *He was a very Precious God fearing man who loved kids He enjoyed getting to know people he will be Greatly missed*

Polly Anderson - September 04, 2025 at 03:51 PM

KP

“ *Karen R Priebe lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



Karen R Priebe - September 04, 2025 at 03:29 PM

SP

“ *Mr Techam was a wonderful teacher. He was someone to look up to.*



sara paulsen - September 04, 2025 at 03:06 PM

DI

“ *Our hearts are deeply saddened by your loss but we know Steve is with the Lord, home and completely healed. Our grief is not empty but full of hope at being reunited in Heaven.  
With love and care, The Hinkle family*

Diane - September 04, 2025 at 03:02 PM

JC

*Our prayers and sympathy are with you all, Kathy, Lori, Melissa and Lance and Olivia. Steve was a kind, gentle man and loved people.*

**Jim and Sandy C** - September 05, 2025 at 01:06 PM

RW

“ *Roger L Wiese lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



**Roger L Wiese** - September 04, 2025 at 02:11 PM

M(

“ *Monica & Randy Kallhoff (Terveer) lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



**Monica & Randy Kallhoff (Terveer)** - September 04, 2025 at 02:07 PM

M(

“ *Our sympathys to the Techam family, keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. Mr. Techam "Steve" was a great Social Studies teacher in Verndale High School. He will be missed by many. May the memories the family shares get them through this difficult time.*

**Monica & Randy Kallhoff (Terveer)** - September 04, 2025 at 02:07 PM

BD

“ *Bob and Kathy Derby lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



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**Bob and Kathy Derby** - September 04, 2025 at 02:00 PM

MW

“ *I recall the rivalry between our wrestling clubs. It made our meets very exciting. Despite this, Steve would still shake hands and share a quick story with the wrestlers. It didn't matter where you were from.*

*My sympathies go out to his family and friends.*

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**Mike Mohs (Wadena Wrestler)** - September 04, 2025 at 01:23 PM

LB

“ *Linda Borntreger lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



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**Linda Borntreger** - September 04, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ Steve was a great mentor to me in all my years of teaching. He was always the voice of wisdom and reason. He actually saved me \$15,000 dollars when he told me about a government program that would cover the cost of my masters degree. It was obvious that Steve loved to teach and coach and would do anything and everything for his students and athletes. Prayers and hugs to Kathy and his family. RIP to a wonderful, thoughtful man!

*Kelly Youngbauer*

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**Kelly Youngbauer** - September 04, 2025 at 12:47 PM

CL

“ Carmen Lockhart lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



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**Carmen Lockhart** - September 04, 2025 at 12:26 PM

DK

“ My deepest sympathy. You are all in my thoughts and prayers 🙏



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**Debbie Kern** - September 04, 2025 at 12:12 PM

RA

“ *Rita Anderson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



Rita Anderson - September 04, 2025 at 12:02 PM

CR

“ *Kathy and family,  
With deepest sympathy for the loss of a truly remarkable man. As a teacher and a friend Steve blessed my life in so many ways. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.*

Cathy Riewer - September 04, 2025 at 11:23 AM

SD

“ *RIP Mr Techam 🙏  
Sending my deepest condolences to Kathy, Lori and Melissa. You're all in my prayers for comfort and strength in the many days that follow.*



Shelly Dukowitz - September 04, 2025 at 10:53 AM

BL

“ *Becky Zeise Lovgren lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



Becky Zeise Lovgren - September 04, 2025 at 10:19 AM

JM

“*Mr. Techam" was a great teacher, patient drivers ed instructor, and passionate advocate & role model for those of us who were just starting out and learning how to live life at Verndale HS. He and his entire family have had a huge positive impact on my family and so many others; our collective thoughts and prayers go out to them. Heaven, you are even better place today - please take good care of Steve for us... until we meet again!*

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**Jason Melquist** - September 04, 2025 at 10:18 AM

SH

“*My condolences to Kathy, girls, and family. Steve was a huge influence and inspiration to me at church camp for being a wrestler. I enjoyed the many conversations. He will be missed.*

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**Scott Hart** - September 04, 2025 at 10:16 AM

JW

“*Jill Westra lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



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**Jill Westra** - September 04, 2025 at 10:07 AM

NB

“*Very genuine man, teacher, coach and friend ! Sending Prayers and Condolences to Kathy and families ! Sincerest Sympathy, Brad and Nancy Braaten*



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**Nancy Braaten** - September 04, 2025 at 10:05 AM

SR

“ I admired him as a great teacher and when I was a substitute teacher he always had a bright word and a positive attitude. Loved working with him. His battle is over and is in comfort with Jesus Christ.

Sue Rocheford - September 04, 2025 at 10:04 AM

TS

“ Tina Stokes-Olson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Tina Stokes-Olson - September 04, 2025 at 09:57 AM

LH

“ Leo Haisman lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam



Leo Haisman - September 04, 2025 at 09:56 AM

DS

“ Sorry to see the passing of Steve. He was a great coach to be around during my sports broadcasting career. Always had a fun story or two about his teams, individuals, or hunting. Thinking of you Kathy, RIP coach, teacher, mentor, thanks for the wonderful memories.

Dan Skogen

Dan Skogen - September 04, 2025 at 09:54 AM

PD

“ *Patty Desrocher lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



Patty Desrocher - September 04, 2025 at 09:34 AM

JJ

“ *Jon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



Jon Johnson - September 04, 2025 at 09:07 AM

NP

“ *Nancy Peterson lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



Nancy Peterson - September 04, 2025 at 09:07 AM

GC

“ *Gary and Marcy Collins lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



Gary and Marcy Collins - September 04, 2025 at 08:51 AM

NG

“ *Condolences to Kathy and the girls. Steve was a great man, always kind. I enjoyed coaching against him and he helped me a lot. He will be missed.*

Norm Gallant - September 04, 2025 at 08:07 AM

GD

“ *Keeping Steve's family in our thoughts and prayers. May God's love bring peace and comfort to all.*



George & Julie Deiss - September 04, 2025 at 06:07 AM

JC

“ *So saddened to hear of Mr. Techam's passing. He was one of our favorite teachers. Always kind and patient. He helped so many students during his career giving them guidance and friendship. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Techam and family. 🙏*



Jim and Janell Carr - September 03, 2025 at 08:45 PM

HR

“ *Mr. Techam...was there ever such a teacher who was so passionate about Social Studies, and yet, personable in the way he taught?*

*All three of us kids had him as our teacher, and his class was my saving grace my junior year as it was truly and remarkably interesting along with the students who studied under him.*

*He loved Mrs. Kathy and both of his girls very much.*

*Our prayers go out to the family and those whose lives were enhanced by his presence.*

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**Heather VB Rohwedder** - September 03, 2025 at 08:12 PM

BB

“ *To Kathy, daughters, and families--Lifting you all in prayer!!*



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**Barb Brown** - September 03, 2025 at 07:45 PM

LM

“ *Linda McIntire lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



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**Linda McIntire** - September 03, 2025 at 07:32 PM

DM

“ *Dick & Jane Malone lit a candle in memory of Steve Techam*



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**Dick & Jane Malone** - September 03, 2025 at 06:51 PM