



Stephen Paul Schmieder

March 18, 1960 - March 11, 2023

Stephen Paul Schmieder, 62, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, March 11th, 2023, at his residence. Mr. Schmieder was born on March 18th, 1960, to William Paul and Catherine Schmieder.

Mr. Schmieder is survived by his wife Martha Gordon Schmieder; sons Will Schmieder and Carlton Schmieder; sisters Karen Ellis (Keith) and Mary O'Halloran (Matt); nieces Jill Varnagatas, Haley Ellis, and Erin O'Halloran; and Nephew Liam O'Halloran.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Paul Schmieder and mother, Catherine Schmieder.

Stephen, who went by Steve, graduated from Athens High school in 1978. He went on to attend Auburn University for a period and finished his degree from UAH in Industrial Engineering. He continued his education with a master's degree in industrial engineering also from UAH.

Retiring in 2020, Steve concluded a 34-year career at NASA, serving mainly as the Solid Rocket Motor Nozzle Subsystem manager where he provided direct contributions to the success of the Space Shuttle, SLS and Artemis programs. Steve was always supporting others, sharing experiences in health diagnosis – a true beacon of hope.

Outside of work, Steve had a passion for the outdoors. He was very proud of being an Eagle Scout. He loved spending time on the water, whether it be boating, skiing or just enjoying a peaceful day on or by the Elk River with his family. He also enjoyed snow skiing out West and collecting the ski maps. He enjoyed watching his sons play whatever sports they were involved in at that moment. In his free time, you would catch him in the back yard listening to his extensive playlist throwing the tennis ball for the family dog, Max.

A memorial service will be held at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home in Athens Saturday, March 25th, at 2:00 pm. Visitation will take place from 12:00-2:00pm at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to Hospice of Limestone County or St. Paul's Catholic Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **25**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home
322 Hwy. 31 N.
Athens, AL 35611
(256) 232-1051
info@limestonechapel.com
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

Memorial Service

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Tribute Wall

ML

“ I just found out today. I am crushed. We worked together supporting the Shuttle office. Steve was my hero, always even-keeled through all of the turmoil, happy, and optimistic. A master of his craft. He called me, or dropped by my office every year to wish me happy birthday. I shared the date with his much beloved son, 'little man'. We both attended early Mass at St Paul, for years. Lord bless your humble and worthy servant, Steve, and grant peace to his family.

Michael Mc Lean - October 28, 2025 at 06:40 PM

EW

“ Our sincere condolences to the entire family. So grateful to have had the pleasure of meeting Stephen. Praying for you all.



Erika Dance and Angela White - March 20, 2023 at 04:30 PM

MP

“ Condolences to Martha and the family. I was very sorry to hear about Steve. We crossed paths often at NASA and he was always friendly and spoke.

Mike Perry - March 20, 2023 at 07:51 AM

JV

“ I was so sad to hear the news of Steve’s passing. Our friendship went way back, almost 45 years ago, to our fun times on The Elk River. Bought my first slalom waterski from him! Fun times on 4th of July’s, boating/skiing, cookouts to letting the kids all play together. Got to see him on his and Martha’s visit to Auburn two years ago. He was truly a good person through and through. Praying for Martha and the boys. Farewell to my favorite River Rat.

Julie Vaught - March 19, 2023 at 09:33 AM



“ Amazing Grace 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Stephen Paul Schmieder.



March 17, 2023 at 12:47 PM

SL

“ It was such a great privilege to have worked with such a kind soul, Steve. I could always count on that gentle kind smile and a kind word. May God return his kindness to you 10-fold and comfort your family.

Stephanie Lacy-Conerly - March 17, 2023 at 12:39 PM

TC

“ Steve was a great roommate while we were at Auburn University. Lived together for about two years and had some really great times. We called our house on Burton Street “The Ice House “ because it was impossible to heat. We moved down to Auburn together and it was awesome having a friend from home. One of the nicest and most considerate people I’ve ever known. See you on the other side brother! War Eagle 🦅

Todd Christopher - March 16, 2023 at 08:33 PM

TM

“ My heart is heavy. Steve was such a wonderful person. He was a friend, whose friendship I’ll cherish forever. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.



Terry Minor - March 16, 2023 at 03:29 PM

JP

“ WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE KNOWN STEVE. HE WAS ALWAYS KIND AND FRIENDLY TO US. HE WAS ALWAYS SMILING, EVEN WHEN DISCUSSING HIS ILLNESS DURING THE LAST YEARS OF HIS LIFE. HIS ATTITUDE WAS ALWAYS UPBEAT. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO BE IN HIS PRESENCE. WE WILL MISS HIM.

jack priest - March 16, 2023 at 12:41 AM

DR

“ I had the pleasure of working with Steve for several years on Shuttle Motor and Booster. I will always remember his smile. I am so sorry for your loss, but I am confident that Steve has left you all with many good memories as he has for his colleagues.
David Ricks

David Ricks - March 15, 2023 at 03:41 PM

JS

What an intelligent and humble human being. God bless you and your family

John simmons - March 18, 2023 at 02:59 PM

LH

“ *I am a fellow metastatic prostate cancer patient who had the privilege of getting to know Steve while we were being treated at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Steve was a real fighter who used every tool available in an effort to slow down this terrible disease. I enjoyed having coffee and dinner with Steve while we were in Houston. He was a strong man who loved his family very much. I will miss Steve and pray that God's comfort is with you at this time. With sincere sympathy,*

Bob Hawsey Maryville, TN

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home - March 15, 2023 at 11:57 AM