



Steven A. "Steve" Graves

March 22, 1946 - November 30, 2022

Steven "Steve" A. Graves, a dedicated entrepreneur, a devoted family man, and a U.S. Army veteran who served his country valiantly in the Vietnam War, passed away on Nov. 30, 2022, in Harrisburg, Pa. He was 76, and he left a legacy of love for all who had the honor of meeting him.

Born in a modest, farming community in Greensboro, N.C., Steve came into the world on March 22, 1946, during the height of segregation. But he was protected from the turmoil of the times by his tight-knit family. Steve was the center of his mother's existence—the only son of the lovely Odessa Graves.

Cousins say that even as a baby, Steve had game. He was born with beauty and charisma. His cherubic face and warm smile would often stop women in their tracks to pinch his cheeks and play with him. Steve was a family favorite—and that didn't change as he grew up. It even saved him from chores at times.

Steve was also a favorite in his community and at school. As a teen, he commanded a room when he entered it. He was athletic, tall, dark, and handsome with an easygoing spirit and quick wit. He had dreams of leaving the South someday and possibly traveling to the North. The progress of the civil rights movement igniting around him inspired him to want a life away from his family's farm.

When Steve was in the eighth grade, The Greensboro Four, had staged the city's first sit-in at Woolworth's Department Store for refusing to serve Blacks. And by the time that Steve graduated in 1964, the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 had passed ending segregation in public places and banning employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, and national origin. Steve had options that his forefathers had never imagined.

Steve decided to join the Army to see the world, build a career, and a future that could help his family to prosper. He served his country selflessly in the Vietnam War where he lost good friends in the jungles of Asia. After he was discharged from the Army, he used the skills that he had learned in the military to find employment. He had become adept at operating machinery, cooking, and leading his peers with humor and integrity. He was what is now known as an "influencer" before the term had even been used.

Steve pursued his education because he had a life plan: He wanted a business of his own. But first, he would need money. Steve moved to Florida when he was in his 20s to attend a trade school. He graduated as a certified heavy machinery operator. His skills were in demand. He had military-style discipline, an unwavering work-ethic, and a commitment to service excellence.

Steve was soon hired as a machinery operator in Albany, N.Y. and was later called to Harrisburg, Pa., the city that was becoming the Northern home of his close-knit family from Greensboro. He joined his relatives in Harrisburg, making his mark as the family glue. He became the heart of the Graves and Rankin clan. He opened his home and his kitchen to his family no matter the hour. He hosted cookouts and reunions that kept distant cousins interacting like siblings, and made aunts and uncles as revered as grandparents.

His professional life also flourished. Steve was hired by Carolina Freight and

worked for the transportation and logistics company until his retirement. He also worked with his cousin by marriage Allen A. Dodd who renovated and rented homes. Steve quickly developed his own clientele and launched Stevie G's Home Remodeling Company, which serviced homes across the Harrisburg area. The business is now being operated by his son, Steven "Stevie" A. Graves Jr.

Steve Sr. loved God, good times, down home blues, jazz music, laughing, and most of all his family and friends. He never met a stranger. If you encountered him, you wouldn't soon forget him. From his perfect afro to his trend-setting suits, to his winning smile and workman's pants splattered with paint from a hard day at work, he was memorable. He made people feel happy.

Steve was a loyal member of the Harrisburg Elks and the American Legion Post 733. He also attended several churches.

He leaves to mourn his passing a host of relatives and friends. He is survived by his wife, Alfreda Graves; his daughters, Mary Mcintosh (Leslie), Stephon Thomas, and his son, Steven A. Graves (Meb); his grandchildren, Ruby, Tauhidah, Adalya, Steven, Kalli, Ayla, Arayia, Aunyail, Adasha, and Aryona; his great-grandchildren, Roman and Jaxson; his adoptive children, Taha Wahid, Warren Ritter, Tabatha Lee-Thomas and Shawn Ingram; his "sister/cousins," Joan Hestor, Cynthia Cole, Dianne Rankin-McMillan (Phillip), and Linda and Brenda Rankin; and his "brother/cousin," Charles Rankin.

Steve was preceded in death by his mother, Odessa Graves; his "sister/cousins," Janie Dodd and Madeline Malone; and his "brother/cousins," Kenny, Terry, and Lenny Rankin.

Family and friends are asked to honor Steven A. Graves' legacy by embracing

his passion for life and laughter, and his love for family gatherings. Be the glue that bonds generations as he did.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

Cemetery Details

Indiantown Gap National

Indiantown Gap Road
Anville, PA 17003

Previous Events

Flower Delivery

DEC 12. 8:30 AM (ET)

Bethany A.M.E. Church
912 S. 21st Street
Harrisburg, PA

Viewing

DEC 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethany A.M.E. Church
912 S. 21st Street
Harrisburg, PA

Service

DEC 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethany A.M.E. Church
912 S. 21st Street
Harrisburg, PA

Tribute Wall



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Graves through his daughter Mary. When I met him, he was polite and joyful with laughter. My love and hugs to his family and friends.
Marian Sweigart

Marian Sweigart - December 12, 2022 at 03:18 PM



“ I send sincere heartfelt condolences to Steve's family. A friend and a book of knowledge. I know when he came into this world the mold was broke. There will never be another. No more pain, you can now rest my friend. Kathy BurneyPoole

Kathy BurneyPoole - December 12, 2022 at 09:52 AM



“ Classic Charcuterie Snacks Gift Set was purchased for the family of Steven A. "Steve" Graves.



December 12, 2022 at 08:10 AM



“ Kind, Funny..met no strangers...was like a Big Bro.. my deepest and sincerest condolences to the families... It was always good to see him when he used to come on 15th Street talking trash..lol... memories 🙏🙏

Leesa Williams - December 11, 2022 at 03:09 PM

VR

Condolences and Prayers to the family! Steve was funny and loved people! 🙏🙏❤️

Love Vivian L. Roberson- Greensboro, NC

Vivian L. Roberson - December 12, 2022 at 11:02 AM

RT

“ Rev. Dr. Cynthia Cole and Lisa Taylor purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Steven A. "Steve" Graves.



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Cole and Lisa Taylor - December 11, 2022 at 07:27 AM

RB

“ To the Family, Steve was a special Soul that People always gravitate to, he was truly a nice kind spirited Man that will truly be missed, my deepest condolences may he rest in peace.

Robin Burke - December 10, 2022 at 11:32 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven A. "Steve" Graves.



December 10, 2022 at 05:16 PM

RE

“ Pookie & Stevie, I am sorry for the lost of your father. Steve was a true character. When I was with Charles(Charlie)he stayed on me BUT if I needed anything he'd be there. He was *THAT* glue for *EVERYONE*. I hadn't seen him for yrs but one day I was visiting my family and he happened to be her neighbor. We carried on like no time lapsed. Rest well King
❤️❤�



Renita - December 10, 2022 at 02:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Steven A. "Steve" Graves.



December 09, 2022 at 09:25 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven A. "Steve" Graves.



December 09, 2022 at 08:31 PM

SW

“ To the entire family, I share in your loss. I send my sincere condolences to each and everyone of you. I will truly remember and cherish the wonderful memories of Steve as I was a part of your loving family and shared the fun filled family reunions, cookouts and just a great time in the presence of Steve, he always was a Joy to be around. Rest in Heavenly Peace Cuz. Weeping May Endure for a Night, but Joy Comes in the Morning! Cousin Stephanie Williams, Austell, Georgia.



Stephanie M Williams - December 09, 2022 at 02:24 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven A. "Steve" Graves.



December 09, 2022 at 12:21 PM



“ My Condolences To The Graves And Rankin Family My Heart Is Really Saddened This Was A Man Who Was Like A Father To Me He Taught Me So Much In Life I Can't Thank God Enough For Bringing Steve Into My Life Rest In Glory Steve Love You Forever 🙏🙏🙏



Michael Poole - December 09, 2022 at 10:19 AM

JW

Rest In Peace Steve my friend James Wooding

James Wooding - December 11, 2022 at 01:35 PM



“ Mary and family I'm deeply saddened to hear of Steve's passing. sending love and prayers 🙏 of comfort to the family. Steve was the kind of person that never met a stranger, within minutes of being in his presence he'd have you laughing and chatting like old friends. Thanks for the memories Steve, all the spontaneous cookouts etc. Rest in paradise my friend, you and Roi (your partner in crime) behave yourselves up there. again my heartfelt condolences to the family



Georgia Chisolm - December 09, 2022 at 08:46 AM



“ Georgia Chisolm lit a candle in memory of Steven A. "Steve" Graves



Georgia Chisolm - December 09, 2022 at 08:16 AM



Mary and family I'm deeply saddened to hear of Steve's passing sending love and prayers 🙏 to the family. May memories of a life well lived comfort you all, rest in paradise my friend ❤️

Georgia Chisolm - December 09, 2022 at 08:24 AM

JR

“ We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your love one Steve. Love and prayers to family. Sorrowfully submitted by, James "Sloke" Roberts and the entire Roberts family



James Sloke Roberts - December 08, 2022 at 07:02 PM



“ *Alfreda and family. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Sherry Robison Holloway

Sherry Robison Holloway - December 08, 2022 at 06:01 PM