



David Edward Stephan

April 12, 1947 - October 21, 2025

David Edward Stephan, 78, of Huntington, Indiana, and Austin, Texas, passed away on October 21, 2025. He was born on April 12, 1947, in Huntington, Indiana, to Lester and Zelma (Schoeff) Stephan.

David graduated from Andrews High School in 1965 and attended Huntington University, where he met the love of his life, Mary Karen Mills. They married on August 12, 1967, beginning a beautiful 58-year journey together. Early in their marriage, they left university to pursue life and work, but their dream of completing their education never faded. At age 50, David and Mary returned to Huntington University together, fulfilling that dream and receiving their diplomas in Business Administration.

David was a dedicated farmer who grew up working alongside his father, Lester, on the family farm. After his father's tragic passing in a farming accident, David continued the farming legacy with his stepfather, George Bitzer, and later had the joy of farming alongside his son, Joe. He took great pride in raising cattle and cultivating soybeans, wheat, and corn, pouring his heart into the land he loved.

A man of deep Christian faith, David placed his trust in Jesus Christ, member of St. Paul's Church, College Park United Brethren Church, and Austin Ridge Bible Church during his time in Texas. His faith moved him to action, leading

him across the world on mission trips to the Philippines, Guatemala, Honduras, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, Africa, where his kind heart and wonderful sense of humor drew people to him from every culture.

David's adventurous spirit and love for people led to one of his most treasured relationships. Through his son Mark's work in eastern Turkey, David formed a deep bond with a Kurdish family, the Kulgus, who welcomed him as part of their tribe. He visited often and helped their son, Erdal (Eimy) Kulgu, through university, embracing him as family. This relationship exemplified David's generous heart and his ability to build bridges across cultures.

David was a cancer survivor who faced life's challenges with courage and grace. He was always eager to try new things, and his great sense of humor and genuine kindness endeared him to everyone he met. In recent years, he and Mary enjoyed splitting their time between Indiana and Austin, Texas, treasuring time with family in both places.

David was the proud father of three sons and leaves behind a legacy of love in his family. He is survived by his wife, Mary Karen Stephan; his sons Joseph (Kathy) Stephan and Mark Stephan; his sister Patti Jo Kindler (Jeff); seven grandchildren: Katie (Andrew) Eckerley, Jacob (Liza) Stephan, Zoe (Nathan) Richardson, Wyatt (Bailey) Stephan, Lauren (Chase) Gray, Lucas (Savannah) Johnson, and Larissa (Ben) Rodkey; and twelve great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his son Michael Stephan (May 2020), his daughter-in-law Sharon (Bolin) Stephan, his father Lester Stephan, his mother Zelma Stephan, his stepfather George Bitzer, and his brother Daniel Stephan.

Visitation will be from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Saturday, October 25, 2025 at St. Paul's County Line Church, 3995 North 1000 West, Andrews, IN. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, October 25, 2025 at St. Paul's

County Line Church with Rev. Gary Dilley officiating. Burial will follow the service in St. Paul's County Line Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of David to St Paul's County Line Church Cemetery Fund, and Potawatomi Wildlife Park.

David's life was marked by faith, family, and a heart for people everywhere. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the land he tended, and the family he loved so dearly.

Please sign the online guest book at www.baileylove.com.

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of David Edward Stephan.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's County Line Church
3995 North 1000 West
Andrews, IN

Service

OCT **25**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's County Line Church
3995 North 1000 West
Andrews, IN

Burial

OCT **25** (ET)

St. Paul's County Line Cemetery
3995 North 1000 West
Andrews, IN

Tribute Wall



“ Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary has created this video tribute in memory of David Stephan.



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - October 24, 2025 at 03:21 PM

JR

Mary and family.

Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Sorry we can't make it today. Ron is having a small surgery on Friday and they don't want us around people so he has less chances of getting sick. Other wise we would be there. Hugs and prayers.

Janet Ruppert - October 25, 2025 at 10:46 AM

RS

God Bless you David and Mary...and family. We love you, brother and i too am sorry that i missed your celebration of life. All good memories: elementary school, junior high and high school and then college too; visiting your Dad's farm, playing in that "sort of" scary hay mow (tunnels .and caves, etc.); singing in choirs, playing brass in the band and playing some sports together too and visiting you and Mary over the years. (Once a friend....always a friend.) See you in Heaven someday, good friend, thanks to Jesus' undying Love for us. P.S. Quartets/Mrs. Stookey & Mrs Stoffel. Baling hay, Bitzers, Bippus, W & W Locker, Goebels, Schenkels, new State Highway 105, Theobalds and Chuck & Charlies just down 24.

Rodger W. Smith - October 28, 2025 at 03:31 PM

CH

“ Joe, Kathy and Family,
We are so sorry for your loss!
Prayers for peace and comfort.
Chrissy & Monte Chamberlain Family

Chrissy - October 27, 2025 at 09:17 AM

SC

“ Saygin C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edward Stephan.

Saygin C. - October 25, 2025 at 11:34 AM

AF

“ Apil Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of David Edward Stephan.



Apil Family - October 24, 2025 at 07:26 PM

JR

“ Jerry & Didi Robertson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of David Edward Stephan.



Jerry & Didi Robertson - October 24, 2025 at 07:18 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of David Edward Stephan.



October 24, 2025 at 05:37 PM



“ Vicki M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edward Stephan.

Vicki M. - October 24, 2025 at 04:27 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Edward Stephan.



October 24, 2025 at 02:29 PM



“ Cynthia Isabel Ramirez Madriz purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of David Edward Stephan.



Cynthia Isabel Ramirez Madriz - October 24, 2025 at 11:12 AM

SI

“ Dear family,
We are so sorry to hear about Dave. He was a fun guy to talk to.
We won't be able to come to visitation or the funeral because we're
in Seattle right now.

Eber II and Sally

Sally and Eber Morgan II - October 23, 2025 at 09:02 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of David Edward Stephan.



October 23, 2025 at 07:35 PM

KF

“ Kody & Alyssa Case and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in
honor of David Edward Stephan.

Kody & Alyssa Case and Family - October 23, 2025 at 07:35 PM

VD

“ Valerie DiFabio purchased the Full Of Love Bouq
uet for the family of David Edward Stephan.



Valerie DiFabio - October 23, 2025 at 01:00 PM

NI

“ Dear Mary & Family,

The Ivanecky family extends our deepest condolences on David's passing. He was a wonderful man, and we cherish the memories we shared with the Stephan family.

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” —
Matthew 5:4*

Nick - October 23, 2025 at 11:39 AM

Person icon

“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David Edward Stephan.



October 22, 2025 at 07:36 PM

DM

“ Douglas and Maryann Morgan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edward Stephan.


Douglas and Maryann Morgan - October 22, 2025 at 07:36 PM

RB

“ Dearest Mary & family,
How truly sorry we are of Dave's passing but rejoicing his is now with his Heavenly Father!
He was such a blessing to everyone!
Rod also sends his condolences.
Ramonda Bickel and family

Ramonda Bickel - October 22, 2025 at 05:23 PM

RN

“ Thoughts and prayers for the family  Tim & Renee and Andy Ness



Renee Ness - October 22, 2025 at 04:50 PM