



Bruce Whitney Stephens

May 15, 1937 - July 14, 2018

ADRIAN—Bruce Whitney Stephens, age 81 of Adrian, passed away Saturday, July 14, 2018 at the Lenawee Hospice Home surrounded by his loving family. Bruce was born May 15, 1937 in Defiance, OH to Donald and Catherine (Whitney) Stephens. On April 20, 1968, he married Rhea Fischer at North Blissfield Immanuel Lutheran Church. They just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

He graduated from Oakwood High School in Oakwood, Ohio. After graduation, he attended Adrian College where he received his BA degree. While attending Adrian College, he was an SAE Fraternity member and played basketball. He was inducted into the Adrian College Hall of Fame. He received his Master's Degree from Siena Heights University and a specialist degree from Eastern Michigan University. He started teaching in Ohio and then Madison School district as a science teacher, driver's education teacher, counselor and athletic director. He took part in the beginning of the Vo-Tech Center of Lenawee and later became principal until his retirement in 2001. His community involvement has been in the noon Rotary Club, member and President of the YMCA of Lenawee County, member and president of Lenawee Country Club. He was proud to be a faithful blood donor to the Red Cross, contributing over 14 gallons of blood. He also enjoyed being on the committee for Strokes for Students annual golf event.

Bruce's activities and interests were gardening, raising tea roses, travel, handball, golf, ran 7 marathons including the Boston Marathon and for over 40

years was part of the Adrian High School football chain gang. He was an avid sports fan, Go Bucks!

Bruce was a member of the First United Methodist Church and served on the church Board of Trustees.

Survivors include his wife Rhea and three sons, Jeff (Tarja) and their children, Tomas and Mia of Pembroke Pines, Florida; Greg (Erin) and their children, Jake and Josh from Chelsea, Michigan; Brad (Sharon) and their children, Sage and Trey from Castle Rock, CO; his sister Sara (Alan) Styles of Kalispell, MT and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother in law.

Visitation for Bruce will be on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at Wagley Funeral Home from 3-8 p.m. A memorial service will be at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at First United Methodist Church, Adrian with Pastor Drew Hart officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of Lenawee or the First United Methodist Church. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and the church. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 17. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Memorial Service

JUL 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1245 West Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Bruce Whitney Stephens*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Bill and I send our deepest sympathies to you and your sons. How very special it was to celebrate 50 years of marriage! Bruce was a man who held his thoughts until he had something to say-and then it meant something. He will be remembered for his many contributions to the community and for the execeptional family he raised.*

Marcia Wright - July 17, 2018 at 04:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bruce Whitney Stephens.*



July 17, 2018 at 11:09 AM



“ *Rhea:*

I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this most difficult time.

Helen Smith - July 16, 2018 at 09:47 AM



“ *So very sorry Stephens family, such great memories of your dad!*

Amanda (Pellowe) Pelak - July 15, 2018 at 07:04 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Bruce Whitney Stephens.*



July 15, 2018 at 05:04 PM



“ *Rhea... we are thinking of you and your family during this time. Bruce was an outstanding educator and many of us learned many ideas from his wit and wisdom. RIP Wayne and Cecelia Carpenter*

Wayne Carpenter - July 15, 2018 at 12:18 PM



Rhea and family, my heartfelt condolences from Minnesota. I worked with Bruce at Vo-Tech for over 12 years. He was a great guy. He and Rex taught me to play handball. We played many games and I never beat him. He often gave me that sly grin and would say "you came so close". Bruce was a positive influence in my early professional career in education. Thoughts and prayers to you all at this time of loss. Ernie Pines

Ernie Pines - July 16, 2018 at 10:02 AM



Bruce was a real inspiration as my High School Basketball Coach. He taught me a lot about basketball and how to prepare for my future. He was one of my favorite teachers, individual friend and best coach. My condolences to the family, John West

John West - July 16, 2018 at 01:46 PM



Rhea, our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family at this time of loss. Sue and Eddie Murphy

Sue & Eddie Murphy - July 16, 2018 at 05:33 PM