



## Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD

April 5, 1942 - April 10, 2023

Dr. Marvin Graydon Stephens, Jr. DDS MSD, age 81, passed away on Monday, April 10, 2023 in Tyler. He was born on April 5, 1942, in Fort Worth to Marvin Graydon Stephens, Sr. and Emma Charlotte Woods Stephens.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Marvin Methodist Church with Dr. Doug Baker officiating, with reception and visitation immediately thereafter in Pirtle Hall. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Marvin graduated from Paschal High School in Ft. Worth in 1960. He went to Texas Tech University where he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. After graduating he joined the Marine Reserves. Then he attended Baylor Dental School in Dallas, followed by Baylor School of Orthodontics.

During those years in dental school, he met and married Penny Kennard in 1970. They later moved to Tyler, to start an Orthodontic practice, and raise three amazing children.

Marvin had many accomplishments in his lifetime, but he was most proud of his three children, Trey, Cory, Brooke, and a granddaughter, Marlee. He attended every soccer game, baseball game, dance recital and graduation.

One of his children Dr. Cory Stephens, even followed in his footsteps and became an orthodontist and practiced with him.

In addition to his children's activities, Marvin enjoyed many leisure hours at the family "lake place." He drove the boat and taught many a kiddo how to ski and tube. And he would grill the best burger ever on his grill made of two bathtubs welded together.

Marvin wanted to be constantly "on the go." He cherished the memories of hunting weekends on the ranch, with his sons, Trey, Cory and their many guy friends, and Uncle Jerry. He also had special times with his daughter, Brooke, on their many travels, and he planned the family ski trips to Snowmass in Colorado for many years. He never missed the Stephens' family gathering each year in Fort Worth at the Fat Stock Show and Rodeo. He loved being with family!

And, man-oh-man could he play poker! He spent many hours playing with his various poker groups. You better not bet against him!

Marvin, in his younger days, was an avid runner. He ran and ran until his knees finally wore out. Then, he began attending weekly workout sessions at a gym with his trainer, Mike.

Marvin was not a big man, but he had a big heart! He loved life and always tried to stay positive. He loved the Lord and was an active member of Marvin Methodist Church, for many years, serving as an usher and Sunday school teacher in the youth department.

Dr. Marvin, as they called him in his orthodontic practice, was a well respected "boss" who truly loved and cared about all of his employees. "His girls," as he called them, say they are going to really miss seeing him walk through the

door in his scrubs, so eager to see his patients.

Marvin has been very active in various organizations through the years. He served as President of The Smith County Dental Society, The Baylor Orthodontic Alumni Association, The Southwest Component of the E.H. Angle Society of Orthodontists, The Robert E. Gaylord Study Club, and The Texas Tweed Study Club. He was an active member of the Charles H. Tweed International Foundation of Orthodontic Research, the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society, the National Orthodontic PAC Committee and a Regent member of the AAOF Orthodontic Research Foundation. Locally, he was a charter member of the Tyler Centurion Club and a longtime member of the Tyler Lions Club, also a long time member of the Order of The Rose of The Tyler Rose Festival.

Marvin was preceded in death by his son, Marvin Graydon Stephens, III (Trey), his nephew Kevin Stephens Lehmann, and his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Graydon Stephens, Sr. He is survived by his wife Penny Kennard Stephens of Tyler, his son Dr. Cory Stephens of Austin; daughter Brooke Marie Stephens of Northlake; granddaughter Marlee Blythe Stephens of Dallas; sister and brother-in-law Dr. Jerry and Janie Lehmann of Austin; and niece Dr. Melissa Lehmann of Austin; and many beloved cousins.

Marvin tried to live by the saying, "Pray more, worry less!" (Matthew 6:34) He will be missed!

Pallbearers will be Joel Bates, Arick Lester, Peyton McKnight, Blake Norrid, Casey Stanfield and Bo Wolf. Honorary pallbearers will be all past and present employees and staff members of Stephens and Stephens Orthodontics, Baylor Department of Orthodontics Faculty, Dr. Jay Arnette, Dr. Edward Brown, Dr. Peter Buschang, Dr. Phil Caldwell, Dr. Phil Campbell, Dr. James B.

Holton, Dr. Phil LaHaye, Dr. Eddie Owens, Dr. Dan Pearcy, Dr. Ron Perkins and Dr. Larry Tadlock. Deceased Honorary Pallbearers include, Dr. Don Cope, Dr. Robert E. Gaylord, Dr. Ralph (Jack) Jackson, Dr. Tom Matthews and Dr. Bob Northway.

If desired, memorials may be made to Bethesda Health Clinic, 409 W. Ferguson, Tyler, TX 75702 ([www.bethesdaclinic.org](http://www.bethesdaclinic.org)); St. Paul Children's Clinic, 1350 E. Richards, Tyler, TX 75702 ([www.stpaulchildren.org](http://www.stpaulchildren.org)); Marvin Methodist Church, 300 W. Erwin, Tyler, TX 75702 ([www.marvin.church/give](http://www.marvin.church/give)); The Robert E. Gaylord Endowed Chair in Orthodontics at the Baylor Oral Health Foundation, 3600 Gaston Ave, Suite 1151, Dallas, TX 75246; or a non-profit of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook  
Tyler, TX 75702

# Previous Events

## Service

APR 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

Marvin Methodist Church Chapel  
300 W. Erwin St.  
Tyler, TX 75702

## Visitation and Reception Following Service

APR 22.

Marvin Methodist Church - Pirtle Hall  
Tyler, TX

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD*



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**Stewart Family Funeral Home** - April 19, 2023 at 12:44 PM

MP

“ For the past few months I have been exchanging emails with Marvin about his trip to Croatia and our next visit. Last email arrived on April 4th 2023. He said :

*"Thanks my brother but like I told you it will probably not be this year but I will come ". And then I received an email from Becky saying that he passed. At first, I didn't take seriously. I guess it was just unimaginable to me. As time passes, I am remembering all of our encounters and times spent together all around the world- USA , Japan, Croatia...He did so much for me to feel welcomed among american colleagues, not to feel left out , to become a member of ADSC , AAO, and EHASO... I am becoming more and more aware of who I have lost.*

*Thank you , dear brother, you have been the goodness and kindness that is rare to find.*

*So , why I say "brother" ?*

*One evening, during ADI symposium in Nara , Japan , in his room in one hotel in Deer park he , Crazy Horse and me were hanging out , talking and drinking whiskey as we did many times ago. in one moment , Marvin says : " I think that three of us should call each other brother. Because we ARE brothers. I feel it." That's how it started.*

*Thank you for the friendship, kindness and love that you gave me.  
Rest in peace..*

*See you up there , brother....with a glass of whiskey*

*Your brother MARKO from Croatia*

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**Marko Perković** - April 25, 2023 at 12:25 PM

BS

*Thank you so much for this, Marko. Dad and I had talked about maybe going to see you this year, then decided on our trip to Ireland, instead, since neither of us had been there. But we hoped to get to go to Croatia next year. I'm sad that we won't be able to take that trip together, but do hope that one day I will get to come see you myself, God willing!*

Brooke Stephens - May 01, 2023 at 04:16 PM

DE

“ *Dr. Stephens has been our neighbor for four years, although it seems like many more. He was friendly, thoughtful, funny, and so full of life! We already miss him so much! He loved his family, frequently speaking of time with them at the lake, at the ranch, and on other traveling adventures. He was also very proud of his practice, staff, and patients. We loved Marvin and appreciated his frequent calls to check in as well as his visits...sharing and caring...which was a gift to us and to all who knew him. What a precious treasure he has been! Rest in peace, friend!*

D and C Evans - April 22, 2023 at 09:31 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



April 21, 2023 at 12:11 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



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April 21, 2023 at 10:57 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



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April 21, 2023 at 10:53 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*

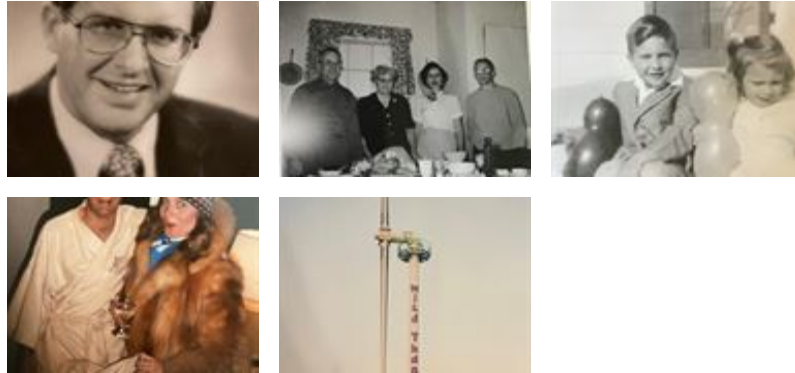


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April 20, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ 8 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 20, 2023 at 12:35 PM



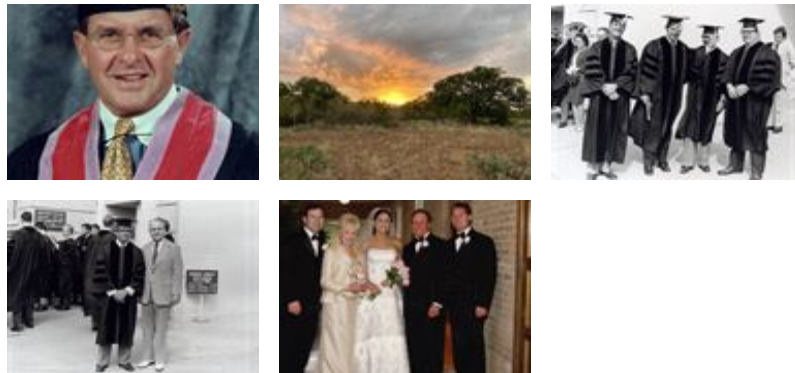
“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.



April 19, 2023 at 11:45 PM



“ 232 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 19, 2023 at 12:38 PM



“ *Crazy Horse Yasuhiko (Japan) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



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**Crazy Horse Yasuhiko (Japan)** - April 19, 2023 at 08:59 AM



“ *Devek Frech purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



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**Devek Frech** - April 18, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ *Department of Orthodontics purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



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**Department of Orthodontics** - April 18, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



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April 18, 2023 at 09:54 AM

MH

“ We lost a good man ... a very good man and it's always too soon to lose one. He wasn't perfect, but I have yet to meet anyone who is. But he was special, caring and genuine with a smile, a hug, a handshake or a kind word. He attacked everyday with an energy and enthusiasm that we all can learn from. Would laugh and take your last dollar on a wager, but turn around and give you the shirt off his back. A man among men.

*It was truly an honor to have him as a friend and I'm a better man for it. Can't be there Saturday, but a piece of him will always be with. Thanks, bud.*

*Mike Hamschin*

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**Mike Hamschin** - April 18, 2023 at 12:26 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.



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April 16, 2023 at 12:37 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.



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April 15, 2023 at 04:12 PM

CH

“ Dr Stephens was my orthodontist and put on my braces I have now. The day he put my on braces he was very polite and later that night at 7:00 pm he called to check on me and gave me his personal number to contact him if I had any problems I felt like I made a friend. What a class act. He will be dearly missed.

Cal Harris - April 14, 2023 at 12:57 PM

DJ

“ Dr. and Mrs. Jim Moore Jr. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.



Dr. and Mrs. Jim Moore Jr. - April 14, 2023 at 12:16 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.



April 14, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Baylor Ortho



David White - April 14, 2023 at 11:18 AM

RC

“ I first met Marvin in 1988 when I moved to Texas to teach at Baylor. His warmth, love of life and welcoming spirit made everyone he met feel special. We feel so fortunate that we were able to share a special evening together at the Orthodontic Departments 60th anniversary gala celebration. He will be remembered fondly by everyone who knew him. Our sincere condolences to his loving family.

Cindy & Richard Ceen

Richard Ceen - April 14, 2023 at 10:22 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.



April 14, 2023 at 09:17 AM

BF

“ Bryan Hsu and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.



Bryan Hsu and Family - April 14, 2023 at 09:09 AM

CC

“ Carly and Russell Cunningham purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.



Carly and Russell Cunningham - April 14, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



April 14, 2023 at 07:59 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



April 13, 2023 at 03:38 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD.*



April 13, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Words can not express the sadness that we feel at the passing of Marvin Stephens. As a friend and patient of more than 32 years, I fully expected to see him next week in his office. He was such a sweet, caring man. My heart hurts at the realization that he is gone from us. But, he lived the good life and is at peace. May the Lord rise to meet you, Marvin. Carol Allen*

**carol Allen** - April 12, 2023 at 11:38 PM

DC

*I'm so glad I got to visit with him recently, he cared about everyone, my girls and I were patients and he was my friend I will miss him, love you Dr Marvin.*

**Deborah Cooper** - April 13, 2023 at 03:16 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the album Ranch pics



**arick lester** - April 12, 2023 at 10:39 PM

KU

“ Kelley Uzzell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Marvin G. Stephens Jr. DDS MSD



**Kelley Uzzell** - April 12, 2023 at 09:39 PM

JA

“ *The sudden passing of Marvin is a sad moment for both his family and friends. As both a friend and dental colleague, I greatly appreciated him. His commitment to excellent dental care was only surpassed by his friendly, upbeat attitude. He made a friend with all of his patients over the years.*

*I was both impressed and found it instructive with his involvement in his children's activities while they were in Tyler. I would always expect for him to have a hoarse voice on Mondays after watching his children play soccer on the weekends.*

*The lives of all of us who were his friends were benefited by our association with him.*

*John E Adcock DDS MS*

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**John Adcock** - April 12, 2023 at 05:32 PM