



Stephen Rhoades

February 8, 1965 - May 8, 2010

A memorial service celebrating the life of Stephen B. Rhoades, 45, of Whitehouse, will be held Thursday, May 13, 2010, at 1:00 PM at Carpenter's Way Church in Lufkin with Pastor Mark Wilke officiating. Mr. Rhoades passed away on Saturday, May 08, 2010 from a sudden cardiac arrest at his home. Stephen is the son of Dusty and Connie Rhoades of Lufkin. He was born in Ft. Smith Arkansas on February 8, 1965. He moved to Texas in 1974 and graduated from Kingwood High School. He attended Louisiana Tech University on a football scholarship and graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University. After graduation, he chose a career in the marine industry. He was employed at Champion Boats in Mountain Home, Arkansas, where he worked his way up to National Sales Manager. He later started his own company, Outdoor World, in Arkansas. He returned to Texas where he joined his parents in the family business, Dusty Rhoades Marine, in Lufkin and later in Tyler as the General Manager. Throughout his life, Steve's passion for outdoor activities included, hunting, fishing and boating. He also volunteered his time to local radio stations in Lufkin and Tyler by being the sideline and color commentator for the Lufkin Panthers and John Tyler Lions. Stephen is survived by his parents, Dusty and Connie Rhoades of Lufkin; his wife, Tami; three sons, Reagan, Skylar, and Brock, all of Whitehouse; one daughter, Stephanie of Kansas; grandmother, Helen Boyer of Missouri; and numerous devoted family members. Honorary pallbearers will be Bill Coates, Russ McKinney, Davin James, Doug Haude, Jay Stevens, Tracy Richardson and

Robert Bell. In lieu of flowers, memorials in honor of Stephen B. Rhoades may be made to The Brook Hill School, P.O. Box 668, Bullard, Texas, 75757.

Memories and condolences may be offered at www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

BW

“ Steve?s love for the outdoors was a big connection for me. I will miss the stories, the crazy emails and recipes for wild game we shared. I appreciated his trust and we are thankful for the time we did get to share. This family is in our prayers.
Bradley & Brandy

Bradley & Brandy Wilkinson - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ Connie and Dusty, our most sincere sympathy is extended to you all. We shall remember Steve enjoying his family and friends in Missouri last fall. I'm so glad we were able to be there.

Kathy and Doug Letsinger

Kathy Letsinger - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dusty and Connie, I am so sorry to hear about your son. I know what it is like to have lost a child. My thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless. Jeff

Jeff Woods - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Rhoades family at their time of loss. I as well as all of us at Tracker Marine will miss him. Although we had a business relationship we shared the same views of life and I considered Steve my friend as well and will miss him.

Steve Richardson - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ I am so sorry to hear about Steve's death. I grew up with him since grade school and thought of him as "invincible". My prayers go out to Steve's wife, children and family.

Cathy Ferris Hubert - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Steve was a great guy and will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

Lisa Cunningham - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Rhoades family. God Bless.

Angel Kirby - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I am very sorry for your loss. I remember playing football with Steve in grade school. Steve was a great guy and he will be missed.

Dave Braus

Dave Braus - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Steve was a wonderful person and I have enjoyed getting to know him and the entire Rhoades family over the years. You are in my thought's and prayers.

Buffy Moore - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Dusty, Our prayers are with you my friend.*

Justin & Patty Maples - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your families.*

Steve Moore - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

B(

“ *I am deeply sorry for your loss. Steve was a great friend and we shared lots of good times together all the way from childhood thru his college days in Nacogdoches. He was a special guy in so many ways and he will be missed very much.*

Billie Jo Schooley (Laney) - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ *I have such fun memories of Steve & Russ & Davin & Doug & Jay - laughing, fishing, and joking with "the guys"....will cherish those! Thinking of you during this time and will keep you in my prayers as well as his wife and precious children.*

Laura McKinney Edwards - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Dusty and Connie: I am so sorry for your loss. Steve was beloved by so many here at Tracker that it's hard to put into words how I, like many of us, felt when we heard about this yesterday. If there is anything any of us can do to help during the next couple of difficult weeks ahead, and going forward, let us know. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Scott Bauer*

Scott Bauer - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. My prayer are with you.*

Sandy Hamby - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *We are truly sorry for the loss of Steve. We will work hard to keep things moving forward and attempt to relieve a burden from your shoulders.*

Jason and Jennifer

Jason and Jennifer - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *I met Steve when we were both 11 and he was always so kind and funny. I am so sorry to hear of his passing and send love and prayers to his family. With kindest regards, Suzanne*

Suzanne Strickland-Sickner - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *My sincere condolences on Steve's passing. My memories of Steve are very fond and they always bring a smile. He was fun to be with, always laughing and an overall great guy. He will be missed but the Good Lord has him in good hands.*

Steve Skillern - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. I have many early memories of my friendship with Steve. Most of all, I remember him making me laugh and laugh. We are all very sad to hear about this loss.*

Respectfully,

Kathy Murray-Campese

Kathy Murray-Campese - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *I am so sorry for your loss.*

I will pray for your family.

Psalms 73:26

Ken Wilson

Ken Wilson - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this moment of grief.*

Sincerely,

Charlotte Comeaux

Charlotte Comeaux - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *What a joy it is to have called this young man a friend. He was a great example of love given to him from loving and caring parents. It is sad to know he is no longer walking on earth but knowing he is walking with the Father of the universe is of great comfort. Our prayers are for the left behind family. One day you will be reunited bound by the faith of Jesus Christ and belief of God's word. May Jesus comfort you and dry up your tears. We love you! Rod & Becky Averitt*

Rod and Becky Averitt - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ *I'm so happy we were able to see Steve last October. You're in my thoughts and prayers believing that God will deliver His peace and healing to your family.*

Cara Davison - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *Connie and Dusty,*

I wish to express my sincere condolences on the loss of your son. My thoughts and prayers go out to you both. May GOD hold him in HIS hands and bestow HIS comfort and consolations to you, especially in this time of sorrow.

Don Lantier

Don Lantier - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *Dusty,*

I am so sorry to hear about your son. Please know that he, and your entire family, are in my prayers.

Mike Roper

Mike Roper - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Connie and Dusty, We are so sorry to hear about your son. Our deepest sympathy.*

Chester and Gale

chester & gale huval - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ *Dusty & Connie,*

So sorry for your loss. Talked to Karen and she indicated Stephen's faith life was intact, so not to worry about where he is.

Thoughts and prayers.

Mike & Harriet

Mike & Harriet Jones - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NY

“ *Dusty, Connie, and Tami...I am so sorry for your loss. You're in my thoughts and prayers.*

Nancy Young - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *Dusty and Connie*

We are deeply saddened to hear about the death of Stephan. I can only imagine how difficult this must be for you both. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers during this time of loss.

I know how much you will miss Stephan. I encourage you to draw on your strength and the strength of your family.

*My comfort in my suffering is this: "Your promise preserves my life."
(Psalm 119:50)*

Wishing you God's peace,

Sincerely,

Karl and Karen Witherow

Karl & Karen Witherow - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *It has been my great pleasure to work with Steve over the last 9 years in the marine business. He was always an outgoing, optimistic guy. I will surely miss him as well as the staff here at TMFS.*

God Bless.

Carole Bough - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *I have many great memories of Steve on the football field and off. I will always remember Steve's big smile and the way he could make you laugh. And most of all his bear hugs everytime I saw him after graduation. My deepest sympathy goes to his family.*

Mark Baty - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Steve Rhoades was one of the most sincere people I've ever known.

I was fortunate enough to work a handful of radio broadcasts of high school football with him, and believe me, he made them special with his amazing ability to paint a picture along with some once in a lifetime moments off-mic.

Oh, if some of those press boxes could talk...

He was truly one of a kind.

He was a teddy bear of a man, and he made a difference in many lives, including mine.

Just last week, Steve and I made up for some lost time and enjoyed a lengthy conversation about life in general and family and he said something to me that helped me more than he'll ever know.

I thank God we had that time because I will take what he told me through the rest of my life.

I asked him how he was feeling, 2-3 times, and each time he said, "I'm fine, I feel very good."

Obviously, Steve had an incredible threshold of pain and didn't want anyone else to know he was hurting and he's now in a better place.

My family and I will miss Steve and his smile, and we wish the very best to Tammi and the children.

We will also say a few prayers for the rest of the family, including Dusty and Connie.

Tammi, your husband made an impact in my life and we already miss him.

Dusty and Connie, your son was truly special who had a heart full of gold.

David, Cindy, Craig, and Jennifer Smoak

David Smoak - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *My heart is heavy for you and with you as I got your message. Steve was so understanding with a rookie in the boat business. We talked football and life in general. I enjoyed listening on the Friday nights that he did football. It was a voice I knew. My sympathy to Tami and the boys.*

Miles Toler - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *I am very sorry to hear about your loss and our prayers go out to you. I have great memories of playing pee wee football alongside Steve and will always remember him for his ready smile.*

Dave Smallwood - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ *Dusty & Connie:
We were all blessed to know and love Steve. Your son brought joy to all of us.
I am profoundly sorry for your loss.*

Dave Jungers - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ It has been many years, but I still remember them well. I had the priveledge of rooming and attending both High school and college with Steve. We both attended La Tech to play football and it was there that I got to know Steve. Under that tough guy exterior that many of us knew growing up, was a great guy with compasion and a heart for God. I remember both of us as rookies in camp getting hazed by the older players and how we tried to work together to get away from them.....We didnt! I remember that even as a rookie in camp, he was still one hell of a good football player! I remember his passion for fishing/boating and how he got to live his dream while working. We should all be so lucky. Thank you Steve for the impact you had in my life. I will see you at Heavens gate my friend!

Please extend my sympathies to the Rhoades family.

Sincerely,

Darren Averitt

Darren Averitt - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ The Rhoades Family- I am so sorry for your recent loss. I worked with Steve for several years and within those years he became a big brother to me. I will never forget Steve, he was a one of a kind soul, a big teddy bear and always had a smile on his face. I know that he loved his family dearly. Please know that your family will be in my thoughts and prayers throughtout this difficult time.

Mandy Dulaney-Chumley - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. May God give you the strength to remember all the wonderful times and be able to smile again someday in his memory. He was a wonderful person, always willing to give a helping hand. And man, could he play football!!!! God bless.

Debbie Shrader - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ May you find comfort in the memories that are yours to cherish always, and strength in the companionship of those who share your loss.... I have learned never to underestimate the healing power we all have. It is always there to be used for the highest good. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4) May it be a source of inner strength to know that there's a loving God watching over you, and that, throughout this time of need, He'll stay close by your side. I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith.-2Timothy 4:7. As for me, I will lie down that I may sleep; I shall certainly awake, for Jehovah himself keeps supporting me. -Psalms 3:5

Magallon Family - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ I am heavy hearted at the loss of a great man and friend. I play football with Steve in High school he was a real champion. To the Rhoades family i am truly sorry for your loss, my prayers go out to you.

Russell S Graham - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Steve, you are going to be missed by SO many people. My fondest memories of visiting Texas are of hanging out with our family at the lake! You always gave us a good ride tubing!!

Uncle Dusty, Aunt Connie, Tami and the boys?.I am thinking about you all and praying for all of you during this time. I?m so sorry I can?t be there this week. I love all of you SO much.

Mollie Rhoades - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dusty & Connie you are in our prayers. We are so sorry for your lost. Jerry was remembering all the things about Stephen when we read about his death in the paper. Our thoughts are with you both and his family as you prepare for his resting place.

Jerry & Rita Willis

Jerry & Rita Willis - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ It was with a great sense of loss and deep saddness that I heard of Steve's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this moment. May you find strength from loved ones and comfort from God during this difficult time.

Andrew Fagerquist - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ My heart goes out to all of Steve's family, most especially his children, wife and parents. Like so many others who have written tributes here, I have AMAZINGLY fond memories of the big guy I called "Rhoadie" - the one guy who was ALWAYS there with a laugh, a smile or a hug at just the right moment. The world could use a few more guys like Steve - and I hope it will be some comfort for his children to know how many people loved and cherished their dad, all with good reason.

I haven't talked to Steve in over 25 years, yet his generous friendship still remains a bright spot in my life and his gracious smile will always be in my memory.

Jean Mikkelsen Roberts - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ I will miss your emails about your HOGS. Don't think you got the upper hand on arranging winS up there. My Saints are a sure proof of that.

May the family find peace in your passing. Only time will help generate those feelings. The boys will be fine, I will be available to them as needed.

God Bless

Joe Picarella

One last ROARRRRRRR.....GO L S U

Joseph Picarella - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ *Dusty, Connie & Tami*
My thoughts and prayers are with you all. It was my pleasure to spend time with all of you last fall. May the Lord comfort you all in this time of loss.

Tom Engle - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *DUSTY AND CONNIE:*
OUR PRAYERS GO OUT TO YOU FOR THE LOSE OF YOUR BELOVED SON STEVE. HE WILL NOT ONLY BE MISSED BY HIS FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES BUT BY AN INDUSTRY THAT HE SO ENJOYED.

DON & LAURI STOLL - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ *Just wanted to let you know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of loss.*

Blane & Rachel Long - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Dear Dusty, Connie, Tammy and children.

I am so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. It was not that long ago that he and I were on the phone discussing boat orders. Steve was a special friend to me, as are you all. He is in a very special place now.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you through this very difficult time.

With Sincere Sympathy and Love.

Bev

Bev Hunter - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Tami, Dusty, Connie,

Le Nan and I are so sorry to hear of Steve. He and I would talk every 4 months or so and always talk and laugh about the fun and hard work we did together in the crazy marine business. I looked at Steve as almost a brother in many ways. it was a priviledge to have known him. We pray for you all and know that their is really nothing that can be said that will make things better. We will surely miss him dearly.

May God bless you all.

Donny Hancock

Donny Hancock - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ I am so very sad to hear of Steve's passing. I talked to Steve about 2-3 years ago on the phone. We chatted for quite a while. It was such a fun conversation. He was EXTREMELY HAPPY! He was telling me all about his wonderful family. He was madly in love with his wife and so proud of his kids. He told me no less than 3 times how beautiful his wife was. I feel blessed to have known Steve. When I think of him I smile. He always made me laugh. My prayers go out to his parents, wife and children. God Bless, Shannon

Shannon McElroy-Joachim - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Dusty- We were saddened by the news of Stephen's passing. I really enjoyed meeting Stephen and appreciated the personal attention he gave in helping us purchase our first boat. In that brief meeting, I knew he had a love for life and the great outdoors. Please know we will remember your family in our prayers and pray that God's grace and love, the support of friends and family, and the memories of many great times with Stephen will bring comfort to you in the tough days ahead. With sincere sympathy- Troy

Troy Coleman - May 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM