



Stephen (Steve) James Knoop

April 14, 2019

Stephen (Steve) James Knoop of Sarasota, Florida died on April 14, 2019 after a short but valiant battle with cancer. He died surrounded in love. He was 54 years old. Steve is survived by his wife Lisa (née Stevens), their daughters Caroline and Grace, his mother Carole Knoop, sister Darcy (Andrew) Hatch, mother and father-in-law Elizabeth and Leonard Stevens, brothers-in-law Christopher Stevens and Andrew (Amy) Stevens, niece Madelyn Hatch and nephews Andrew James Hatch, Owen Hatch, Nolen Stevens, Nathan Stevens and Evan Stevens. He is preceded in death by son James Bennett Knoop and father James Knoop.

Steve took great pride in each of the places he called home along his life's journey. Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Steve went on to attend Michigan State University's James Madison College in Lansing, where he graduated first in his class in 1987. He went on to earn his law degree in 1990 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Despite the universities' fierce rivalry, Steve supported equally both the green and white Spartans and the blue and maize Wolverines.

After graduating from law school, Steve moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and joined the law firm Calfee, Halter & Griswold where he primarily focused his legal practice on mergers and acquisitions.

Soon after moving to Cleveland, he saw his future wife Lisa at an Ohio Bar preparation course they were taking together and cajoled a mutual friend to convince her to go out with him on what they forever then referred to as a half blind date. They were engaged within three months and married within the year in Lisa's home town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Even after moving to Florida, Steve cherished his ties to Cleveland where he remained a member of The Country Club in Pepper Pike. He kept his ties to Massachusetts as well, enjoying all the times he spent by the Atlantic Ocean and at Cape Cod National Golf Club in his favorite place to be – Chatham.

One of Calfee's largest clients, RPM International Inc., quickly recognized Steve's talent for completing successful acquisitions and hired him in 1996 as director of corporate development. In this role, Steve took on the responsibility for the company's acquisition growth strategy and went on to lead this function for 23 years. During this timeframe, Steve was instrumental in completing more than 180 transactions and brought thousands of employees around the globe into the RPM family of companies.

Steve became an inspiring leader with a truly unique combination of skills – courageous in vision, sound in judgment, decisive in action and Dutch in temperament. Over the course of his career, Steve developed a reputation as being the go-to problem solver for the company's biggest challenges. Under his stewardship, RPM successfully resolved an enterprise-threatening liability. He also headed a strategic review of the company and its global operating improvement program, which positioned it for sustained growth. During his tenure with RPM, the company grew from a \$1 billion business to \$5.5 billion in sales today. Throughout Steve's outstanding legal career, corporate development activities and operating company management, Steve's colleagues appreciated his dry sense of humor and knew him as optimistic, inquisitive, organized and always decisive. His insight and wisdom will continue to guide RPM's successful path into the future.

Away from the office and his many career accomplishments, Steve's true passion was his family. He was full of love for his life's partner, Lisa, and their daughters, who possess their father's keen intellect and driven competitive spirit. He was a proud and enthusiastic fan of all the children in his family and enjoyed every minute he spent on family days at college campuses with daughter Caroline, at ice rinks all over the country with daughter Grace, on turkey trots and at shopping malls and hockey rinks with niece Maddy and nephews Drew and Owen, and on the boat and in the ball park with nephews Nolen, Nathan and Evan.

Inspired by their infant son James, Steve and Lisa created the James Bennett Knoop Foundation to provide consolation and hope when most needed by families facing loss. It is one of the most prominent examples of the many ways their love and faith has touched the lives of others.

Steve was fiercely loyal to his colleagues, friends and family. He had great pride for all the places he lived, learned and worked. Steve was unbending in principle, driven, inspiring and strong in his faith. While he is gone too soon, his spirit will remain a guiding light in the hearts of his family and friends forever.

Friends are invited to attend a wake at St. Thomas More Catholic Church (2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota, FL) on Friday, May 3, 2019 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

A funeral mass presided by Reverend Joseph Clifford will also be held at the church on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. and followed by a reception.

Previous Events

A wake

MAY 3. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
2506 Gulf Gate Drive
Sarasota, FL 34231

Funeral Mass

MAY 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
2506 Gulf Gate Drive
Sarasota, FL 34231

Tribute Wall

LC

“ Steve playing catch with his dad in the yard. Steve running errands for his mom in the red Corvair or the light yellow Barracuda. I remember hanging out with Darcy and "borrowing" Steve's yellow plastic skateboard, or his Lover boy cassette. I was the younger next door neighbor, he was the mature older brother. We were all just little pesky kids to him, but he was nice to us all the same. My best childhood memories are intertwined with my dear Knoop neighbors on Blaine. Sending my love and condolences to Darcy, Carole, Lisa, Caroline, Grace, and the entire family at this difficult time.

Leigh Ann Chachulski - May 04, 2019 at 07:00 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



May 03, 2019 at 09:22 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



May 02, 2019 at 07:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



May 02, 2019 at 08:02 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



May 01, 2019 at 08:39 PM



“ Mary Anne Evora and Family (Texas) purchased the Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



Mary Anne Evora and Family (Texas) - May 01, 2019 at 06:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



May 01, 2019 at 09:41 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



April 30, 2019 at 11:41 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



April 30, 2019 at 03:59 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



April 30, 2019 at 09:09 AM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



April 29, 2019 at 11:22 PM

SA

“ Steve will remain in our hearts forever - Amanda purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



Steve will remain in our hearts forever - Amanda - April 29, 2019 at 07:10 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



April 29, 2019 at 09:00 AM

BP

“ How can I ever forget Steve as a Fourth Grader at Glenwood Elementary. A fun young man and a great student. He even invited me to play games of air hockey at his house at lunch time. So many great memories of Steve and his sister Darcy. My thoughts and prayers are with Carole, Darcy, and the rest of the family I have never meet.

Bob Poll a fourth grade teacher from Steve and Darcy's past.

Bob Poll - April 28, 2019 at 08:19 PM



“ Steve and I shared more than a few laughs as we pointed spotlights at our daughters and the other skaters as volunteers at the annual Ellenton Ice holiday shows. I always enjoyed the opportunities I had to spend a little time shooting the breeze with Steve. I’ll remember him as a “regular guy” who loved his family and was easy to talk with. God bless you, my friend. - Dave Glaser

Dave Glaser - April 27, 2019 at 09:26 PM

AR

“ ARKRAY purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



ARKRAY - April 24, 2019 at 05:15 PM

JB

“ I did not have the pleasure of meeting Steve but I know well his sister Darcy and have met his daughter Caroline. Knowing Darcy's inner strength, love of family and work ethic AND my instant like for Caroline upon meeting her, I believe I would have liked Steve as well. My sincere condolences to all impacted by this tragic loss.
Joan and Chuck Buchanan

Joan Buchanan - April 23, 2019 at 11:45 AM

KN

“ 3 files added to the album Steve with Brad Faxon



Ken nota - April 22, 2019 at 02:43 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen (Steve) James Knoop.



April 22, 2019 at 09:23 AM

WA

“ I first met Steve on the first tee of the Shaker Heights Country Club in 1996, I met him there again more than 300 times over the years. We played a little golf. We will play again. In the mean time I will miss him.

Will

William Akins - April 21, 2019 at 01:29 PM

E(

“ I remember Steve playing baseball with my brothers for kelloggsville little league.

Elizabeth Taylor (Wagner) - April 20, 2019 at 06:07 PM