



Stephen A Basic

July 8, 1963 - January 1, 2024

Stephen Anthony Basic, 60, passed away at Englewood (NJ) Hospital at sunrise on Monday, January 1, 2024, after a long illness.

Stephen was born on July 8, 1963 in Jersey City, New Jersey, the middle child and only son of Steve G. and Joan M. (Zaninovich) Basic. He was a 1981 graduate of River Dell Regional High School in Oradell, New Jersey, and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunications in 1985 from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio (where his college buddies bestowed him with his nickname of “Basecat”).

Stephen was fiercely loyal to, and cherished every moment he could spend with, his family and friends far and wide, who will miss his dry sense of humor and vibrant personality. He was generous to a fault, always the first to step up to help anyone in need. He was a devoted companion to his parents in their later years.

Stephen had an encyclopedic mind with the seemingly effortless ability to pull even the most obscure fact out of a hat and throw it into a conversation, especially if the discussion was about one of his many interests and passions, in particular, sports, music, western films and books, or Civil War history.

While he enjoyed his time playing in the Oradell Little League as a youngster

and in neighborhood pick-up games as he got older, Stephen was best known for being the consummate die-hard sports fan, whether he was rooting for his beloved New York Rangers, New York Yankees, the Bobcats of his alma mater Ohio University, or the Croatian national soccer team. Truth be told, he appreciated all well-fought and well-played matches, amateur or professional, and could frequently be found watching a game with score sheet and pencil at the ready. He was a avid collector of sports memorabilia.

Stephen had perfect pitch and a beautiful and powerful singing voice; in his youth, he regularly sang with his sisters (with mom at the piano) at events at the Saints Cyril & Methodius and Saint Raphael Catholic Church in New York City, the Croatian parish of which his family were long-time members. While he appreciated all genres of music, country music and classic rock were his particular favorites, and it was not uncommon for him to road-trip to catch a favorite singer or band in concert. Stephen also enjoyed watching Hollywood Western serials and movies with his dad and reading novels of the Old West.

Stephen was a self-taught and well-regarded historian and researcher of the American Civil War, an avocation sparked by a childhood visit to the Gettysburg National Military Park; over the years, he accumulated a vast and impressive library dedicated to the subject. He participated for many years in the Civil War Round Table of New York and attended, and often organized, numerous Civil War Musters with other like-minded enthusiasts at historical battlefields around the country.

Stephen is survived by his sister, Anne Marie, his niece, Mikayla Rose, and numerous extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his parents and by his younger sister, Mary K..

Relatives and friends are invited to visit from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, January 5, 2024, at Volk Leber Funeral Home, 268 Kinderkamack Road,

Oradell, New Jersey. A prayer service will be offered during visitation at the funeral home. Cremation is private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a charity near and dear to Stephen's heart, at www.stjude.org.

Previous Events

Chapel Service

JAN 5. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
268 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
info@volkleber.com
<http://www.volkleber.com>

Memorial Visitation

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Tribute Wall



“ *At one time, we were more than friends. We were closer than brothers. He was my best man in my wedding.*

I've thought about him often, and wished things had gone differently in our friendship through the years. My deepest sympathies to the friends and family of the Basecat. I truly will miss my friend from the early years, the guy I loved and looked forward to seeing. I wish he'd never left. Steve had done demons he could never vanquish, and under it ... led to his untimely death. The World is a lesser place because of his loss. He had so much more to offer. RIP, Basecat.

Duane Siskey - September 05, 2024 at 07:40 PM

“ *Rest in peace Basecat*

Jamie Pickett - January 14, 2024 at 10:02 PM

“ *I am sorry to have learned of Stephen passing away. He was a good guy and one of a kind. On behalf of the Skevins, I offer sympathy and condolences to our longtime friends from Oradell, the Basics.*

May Stephen rest in peace.

Tom Skevin

Andover Twp., NJ

Tom Skevin - January 08, 2024 at 08:38 AM

MU

“ Our condolences go out to Ann-Marie and extended Basic family. Back in 1980, when we were still teenagers, as Stephen's Dad drove me and a friend from Long Island to New Jersey for Thanksgiving dinner, I was amazed and captivated by Stephen's vivid sports knowledge. He was rattling off a bunch of names, trivia, stats, especially about the Yankees. I cared more about soccer than baseball. But Stephen knew about all sports, and put my mind to shame for how little I apparently knew. In reading the obituary, I am once again humbled by ALL of the other things like the Civil War which Stephen studied. It's always so intriguing to know more detail about a relative's interests and hobbies. Thank you Ann-Marie for sharing so nicely. To this day, I remember that car ride, and the special wisdom that Steve senior also shared with us. The Basics are special, wise people, and the world is a better place for having them with us for any time period. God Bless!!!
Mike & Kathleen Uremovich, & Family in Texas

Mike U - January 05, 2024 at 02:11 PM

MU

“ Rest in peace, dear Steven. You will be remember & missed forever.
Your cousin Marica from Croatia

Marija Uremovic - January 05, 2024 at 02:25 AM