



Stephen Cranford

June 19, 1952 - June 16, 2013

Funeral services Stephen Ray Cranford, 60 of Carthage Texas will be at 3:00 p.m., Friday, June 21, 2013 in the Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Sara Curley and Dr. Dale Reed officiating. Burial will follow in Walton Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. Family visitation will be Thursday, June 20, 2013 from 6 - 8:00 pm at the funeral home. Steve, the beloved eldest son of Billy Ray and Faye (Chapman) Cranford passed on to be with his Lord and Saviour, June 16, 2013 in Longview, Texas.

Born in Kermit, Texas on June 19, 1952, he attended Crane High School and went on to complete his education at Howard Junior College in Big Spring and then Tarleton State University in Stephenville on golf scholarships, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1974. After college he went to work as an assistant pro at El Paso country Club, El Paso, Texas. Later he moved to Artesia, New Mexico where he was the golf pro and high school coach. Steve moved to Carthage in 1997. Although he was passionate about golf, he loved all sports as well as fishing and hunting. He was employed for 16 years with Pierce Construction Company of Beckville.

Steve is survived by his parents, Billy Ray and Faye Cranford of Carthage; brother, Michael Shane Cranford of Houston; sister, Sherryl Cranford-Coffey and husband Ryan of San Antonio; niece Stacy Sandel and husband Jason, along with great niece Stella and great nephew Jasper of Farmington, New Mexico; aunt, Sherryl Diane Pavlick of Pittsburgh, PA; and his cherished friend Kay Cranford and daughter Casie of Murval.

In Steve's memory, the family is requesting any donations be made to the Beckville Education Foundation, P.O. Box 37, Beckville, TX 75631 or the Carthage Education Foundation, #1 Bulldog Drive, Carthage, TX 75633.

The family would like to acknowledge and thank the Longview Good Sheperd fifth floor ICU unit team, the third floor nursing staff and Heart to Heart hospice caregivers for their service and excellent care provided to Steve.

Serving as pallbearers will be Ryan Coffey, Jason Sandel, Stacy Cranford, Brent Hight, Kenneth Pierce, Justin Pierce, Chris White and Gary Guthrie.

Honorary pallbearers will be Frank Allums, Carlos Lotero, Lary Byars, Delbert Cranford, and Sidney Williamson.

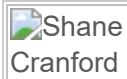
Previous Events

Service

JUN 21. 3:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel
307 W Wellington St.
Carthage, Tx

Tribute Wall

 Shane Cranford

“ *Shane Cranford lit a candle in memory of Stephen Cranford*



Shane Cranford - November 13, 2017 at 03:33 PM

 HW

“ *Sherryl and Shane---I have just now become aware of Steve's passing. He and I were running mates in El Paso. My best memories of El Paso are the times I shared with Steve on the golf course at Coronado or having a beer at Miguels. We lost touch over the last years but he was always one of my best friends.*

I'm so sorry for your loss and will always remember your family in my prayers.

Hank Wood

Hank Wood - November 17, 2014 at 02:46 PM

 EW

“ *I am just now reading about Steve's passing...just a few days before my Dad died on June 24 in Granbury, Texas. I loved him when we both attended Howard College and am not surprised at the many comments speaking to his sweet and gentle nature. I share in your grief for him and look forward to seeing him again in heaven.*

Elaine Webb - November 06, 2014 at 05:00 PM

SH

“ *My dearest sweet brother. I miss you each and everyday. I am taking good care of Dad as I know you are our precious Mother. I can hardly wait to see you one day soon. I love you forever.*



sister

sherryl - July 29, 2014 at 08:21 AM

SC

“ *Happy Birthday, Bub. I love you with all my heart and I miss you every day. Please take care of my dog until I can get there.*

Shane Cranford - June 19, 2014 at 09:15 AM

SC

“ *Shane Cranford lit a candle in memory of Stephen Cranford*



Shane Cranford - January 16, 2014 at 11:08 AM

SC

*Bub-
Hard to believe it has been seven months since you left. I some ways it has gotten easier, but I don't miss you any less. Take care of my dog, please. Sorry about your truck window. I will get it fixed. Kiss Mom for me.*

Shane Cranford - January 16, 2014 at 11:25 AM

SC

“ *Shane Cranford lit a candle in memory of Stephen Cranford*



shane cranford - December 31, 2013 at 09:19 AM

SP

“ *My nephew, Steve, will be missed. Who am I going to make my peanut brittle for now? Love Aunt Di*

sherryl dianne pavlick - August 09, 2013 at 01:59 PM

CH

“ *Dear Bill, Faye, Sherryl, Shane, Stacy and families: I was heartbroken to hear of Steve's passing. Reading through the comments left by those who loved him, I am not surprised at the lives Steve tenderly and joyfully touched on his earthly journey. I will always remember his beautiful smile and sincerity of purpose in all motivations. I am praying the spirit of God is lifting all up to meet these difficult challenges (including Faye's current health issues); may the wings of angels gentle the path. With much love, Carol Elliott Himanga*

Carol Elliott Himanga - July 17, 2013 at 01:33 PM

“ I heard this morning that my former high school golf coach, Steve Cranford, passed away last month. Many in Longview and Carthage may not know that Steve coached golf at Artesia (NM) High School during the late 1980s and early 1990s while he also served as the head golf professional at Artesia Country Club. Steve was a great coach, and he influenced many young lives while he was in Artesia. Those of us who learned from him will miss him greatly. I had lost touch with Steve since graduating from Artesia High, but anyone who played high school golf in Artesia while he coached there will remember him well.

Steve (who for some reason told us to call him Steve) was a great coach. I have only just begun to realize how good he was during the past year as I have begun to teach my 7-year-old son, Corbin, how to play. Steve had an incredible amount of patience with all of us. I remember him trying endlessly to get us 16 and 17-year-old kids to stop blasting drivers 300 yards (we hoped) off the range and instead work on chipping and putting. Who cares how far it goes, Steve used to say. Get the ball in the hole. That's the point. But, we never listened, and we should have.

I remember Steve once challenged a group of us who were on the range to play against him, but, to make a point, he said he'd only take his 3 iron and one ball. The rest of us could use all of the clubs we wanted and all of the balls we could carry. In a 40 mile an hour, dirt-filled wind like we can only find in southeastern New Mexico, I remember Steve beating all of us on the old hole #1 at Artesia Country Club by hitting 3 iron, 3 iron, 3 iron to two feet and then making the putt for birdie (again with his three iron). The rest of us had done everything from knocking it out of bounds, to losing balls, to three putting. He did the same thing for eight more holes until the rest of us had had enough.

Before a tournament, Steve used to tell me, “Okay, Wes, here's the deal. I'm gonna come find you on the back nine, and I expect you to be able to tell me how many over or under par you are with just one

hand. I don't want two hands". Coaches and players couldn't talk during the round, so we had to use hand signals. Well, I was never under par, but I remember concentrating with everything I had to be able to tell Steve that I was just 3, 4, or 5 over par. I didn't do it very often, but, when I did, Steve smiled back, with a one-handed thumbs up, in a way that I will never forget.

Some lessons may not take hold immediately, but, in time, maturity has a way of teaching all of us to focus on what matters. Thank you, Steve, for teaching patience, persistence, and tenacity in both golf and life.

*Wes Null
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Baylor University*

Wesley Null - July 08, 2013 at 01:24 PM

SC

Dearest Wes,

Thank you so very much for your very touching story about Steve. I read this to my Dad this morning as he sat on the porch. I cannot begin to tell you how comforting it was to Dad and to my family. Our sweet Mother is in CICU at Methodist here in San Antonio at this time with a failing heart. We have been so grief stricken and sad at the loss of Steve. He was such a sweet gentle man.

You are so right, Steve loved coaching and teaching kids about golf. I hope Corbn likes it as much as he did.

*May God Bless and Keep you,
Regards,
Sherry Cranford-Coffey*

Sherry Cranford-Coffey - July 15, 2013 at 11:25 AM



“ Steve was my friend and golf pro and teacher in Artesia for several years. He was a fine man. We now live in Dayton, Nv. I tried to find Steve through the PGA a few years ago, but never could find him. Glad to know he was a believer. I will see you in glory my friend. God Bless you, his family.
zefs###imported-begin###Pastor Dana & Debra Hill###imported-end##

June 24, 2013 at 11:41 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. I've come to have known Steve through speaking to him every week, as we were their fuel distributor. He seemed like such a nice man. I will miss talking to him. Will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers.###imported-begin###Tess Reneaux###imported-end##

June 21, 2013 at 05:42 PM



“ Praying for your comfort and peace. Steve will be deeply missed.###imported-begin###Jennifer Mayfield###imported-end##

June 21, 2013 at 01:18 PM



“ I knew Steve to be a devoted son, a dedicated employee and a loyal friend. May God give you strength at this time###imported-begin###Edna Gold Gifford###imported-end##

June 21, 2013 at 11:30 AM



“ *1Thessalonians 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*

The Lotero's Family##imported-begin##*Carlos Lotero*##imported-end##

June 20, 2013 at 06:20 PM



“ *I will miss you so much.*

Crystal##imported-begin##*Crystal Wolf*##imported-end##

June 19, 2013 at 07:38 PM



“ *I pray and hope that you find comfort and peace in the fond memories of Steve. He is living in the hearts of those lives he touched . . . nothing loved is ever lost.*##imported-begin##*Billy, Jenny, BJ and Ashlee Goldston*##imported-end##

June 19, 2013 at 11:56 AM



“ *We are so sorry for the loss of your loved one. May you find peace in God's word, the Holy Bible, and find comfort in His promise of a Resurrection (John 5:28, 29) Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this very sad and difficult time.*##imported-begin##*Sally Vasquez* ##imported-end##

June 19, 2013 at 10:15 AM



“ Rest in peace!

*Gans & Smith Insurance Agency, Inc.##imported-begin##Kitty
Minor##imported-end##*

June 19, 2013 at 09:38 AM



“ My prayers and thoughts are with you during this trying time. Steve was such a tender hearted person to all. So proud that our paths crossed in this life.##imported-begin##Mickie Gradberg##imported-end##

June 18, 2013 at 05:25 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you through this difficult and sad time. May God bless you and give peace and comfort in the days ahead.##imported-begin##Sharon Clark##imported-end##

June 18, 2013 at 11:49 AM



“ Mr. and Mrs. Cranford, Sherryl and Shane:

I am just heartbroken to hear about Steve. What a great teammate and friend. My years at Howard College playing golf with Steve (Big Step), Tim Hamilton (Big T), James Nolen (Tinker) and William Breland (Wilie) were the most fun times of my life. Thanks Steve. Acquaintances come and go. Good friends last a lifetime. God's speed Big Step.##imported-begin##Pat Weaver - Odessa, TX##imported-end##

June 18, 2013 at 09:35 AM



“ My Dear Aunt Faye, Uncle Bill, Sherry & Shane, I am so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. He was a wonderful son and brother, & I know he will be missed, but he will be waiting in Heaven to greet each of us with Bigmamma, Daddy, my Mamma, and many more. We will see him again, so don't be sad. With much love,
Tara##imported-begin##Tara DeWees##imported-end##

June 17, 2013 at 08:04 PM



“ Steve was a great friend to me...our time in Artesia was spent enjoying each other on and off the golf course. I will always remember him as a fun, loving, and caring person. He is gone too soon & I will miss him.....##imported-begin##Eddie Havins##imported-end##

June 17, 2013 at 06:34 PM



“ Sorry to hear about Steve .May God Bless you and comfort you.Jennie Holt Ballard daughter andHettiet and Willam Lively Holt gryndaughter.##imported-begin##Elaine and Douglas Ross##imported-end##

June 16, 2013 at 10:27 AM



Dear Cranford family, I just found out about Steve's passing. I'm so sorry to hear about his departure on earth. I worked with him at Coronado Country Club from 1977-1983 in the bag room. Everything that was said about Steve was true! I live in Lubbock and anytime someone would come in from Artesia I would ask about him. I sure enjoyed working with him and always remember him with chewing tobacco in his mouth.
God Bless
Hector "Tito" Herrera

Hector Herrera - September 30, 2014 at 04:53 PM