



Robert F Stephens

October 22, 1928 - June 18, 2024

Robert F. Stephens 1928-2024

I'm Dead! The event occurred on June 18, in Bayview Healthcare. This message comes to assure that I am glad that I lived when and how and where I did. My parents, Rayburn Lee and Elmina Richardson Stephens, were loving and generous. My childhood and youth in south Florida and here in St. Augustine were happy. My first wife, Louise Swain, died too young, but only after presenting our son Lowell who, two years later, helped me woo Donna Middleton who became my wife of 70 years and Lowell's Mom by prompt adoption. Donna and I lived happily ever after, soon parenting Patrick Lee and Kate. We have been proud of our three children and their spouses, Doreen and Susan Stephens and Paul Carter. Amongst them they have eight children: Ryan, David, and Garen Stephens, Elisabeth Stephens McCarthy, and Emma, Abigail, Melissa, and Jackson Carter, and Marcus Pante and their spouses and now our great-grands, Julia Rae, Alison, Anna, Luke Stephens, Tommy, Caroline, Evelyn McCarthy, Ozzie Stephens, Guinevere Faltot, Amelia and Sebastian Pante.

Retirement back to St. Augustine since 1986 has offered opportunities for Volunteering in History and Archaeology with all the attendant associations with splendid dedicated and gifted professionals and other Vols. I am grateful to them all for their friendship and what they have taught us. And I am grateful to Henry Flagler, for it was a job on his railroad that brought my Dad to Florida and made St. Augustine our home town.

In all this, Donna has been partner, co-conspirator, inspiration, and caring Lover. Every day I have thanked God for her, MY LOVE.

To repeat, I am GLAD. Be glad with me!!

If it occurs to you to memorialize me, gifts to the University of Tennessee Libraries would be much appreciated. That's Library Development, 552 Hodges Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1000. That is not to neglect the St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library and the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum and LAMP programs.

Tribute Wall

NM

“ Bob had a long, splendid retirement. Moving back to St Augustine in 1986, he and his partner, Donna, promptly became active valued volunteers in many local groups that fit their interests, including the Lighthouse, the Historical Society and the Archaeological Association. This last group profited through the years as he served in every position available - including two years as its President. Bob first and foremost was a gentleman who taught me much and improved every activity with which he was involved.
Nick McAuliffe

Nick McAuliffe - July 05, 2024 at 10:18 AM

KF

“ Bob talked to me about being a little boy and watching the Coast Guard training StAugustine for service in WWII. He walked to school right by them. He was a great volunteer and true friend who will be greatly missed. Kathy Fleming

Kathy Fleming - June 22, 2024 at 04:55 PM

CF

Bob and Donna = wonderful volunteers and wonderful people. And that radio voice that Bob had!! It was a pleasure knowing Bob, and my love to Donna during this time.

Cheryl Freeman - June 24, 2024 at 10:36 AM

RS

Donna, Patrick, Kate and your entire family -- my heartfelt condolences. Bob will always be the epitome of a true Southern gentleman--kind, generous, caring, knowledgeable but always curious and always with a sense of humor. I shall treasure the memories. My love to all.
Ruth Shugart

Ruth Shugart - June 24, 2024 at 10:53 AM