



The 1st time I met Steve in person was at the Hard Rock in Las Vegas. We'd chatted many times on the GG&J board but had never met in person. He grabbed me in the biggest bear hug I'd ever had. And I'm OLD so that's saying a lot. We hung out the entire stay – with Karen, Mark, MML (pour one out) Rob, Kat & Torn. That week was filled with laughter – something Steve **ALWAYS** brought to the table.

Once back home, we became text buddies. He'd randomly send me a joke or a funny picture. Or call to talk about kids, football or life in general.

One time he was in Vegas was for my son Spud's graduation – ok he didn't come for that, just the timing worked out. We had a BBQ at our house, and he made a point of helping me grill, went in to hang out with Spud and his friends while they were gaming, played guitar hero with them.

When my partner of 43 years died and we were looking for a change of location, Steve started sending me houses in Buffalo. He said it was his mission to get us there with our chosen family. We did find a house we liked.

In Batavia.

Because we were still in Vegas, he met the realtor there for us. The house needed some work, but he assured me there were plenty in his extended circle that could help me. The sellers pulled it off the market the very next day. When we were planning to visit the Weekend of the 25th – the plan was to look at a few houses he'd found. I called him on the 27th to let him know that the house in Batavia was back on the market and he sure as fuck needed to get better so he could keep his promise. He laughed and said "he'd be there with hammer in hand" guess the timing was off because that day Steve went to the hospital –

the house went to contract.

90% of Steve was filled with jokes and laughter – but 100% of Steve was CARING – he cared about everyone in his small circle of family, his extended circle of friends and the larger circle of those who he met only briefly. He was beyond joyous when Willz came into his life and so proud of the uniqueness of each of his children and his extra children. He marveled at each new birth. He marveled that he was so blessed to have a caring loving partner in Shell. He was so excited when she got her She-Shed that I'm sure is center stage today. He often commented on how lucky he was that his beloved sister, Karen who he always described as the strongest person he ever knew, married Mark – who he considered his brother and best friend. We didn't have just light and fluffy conversations – yes that was the majority, but I think he liked to have someone not involved in the day to day minutia that is life, to share his over abundance of joy with. I am grateful to be that person.

The last thing I want to say – to Shell – know you were loved every day. Karen & Mark, I believe Steve would walk through fire for you.

And to Steve – You were NEVER Ordinary. You'll be kept in the memory locker of our collective hearts. Oh yeah and I stand by my threat! Fuck Covid!

--With love from Doc & Spud