



James Stephen "Steve" Hodges Sr.

February 2, 1949 - October 9, 2024

James Stephen "Steve" Hodges, Sr. 75, of East Prairie, Missouri died Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at Life Care Center in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

He was born February 2, 1949 in Cape Girardeau, MO to James Samuel Hodges, Jr. and Patricia Maxine Heuschober Hodges.

Steve attended East Prairie High School, where he lettered in football and basketball, graduating in 1967. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 1971 where he was elected the first two-term President of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He remained active supporting the fraternity and was lifelong friends with many fellow Pikes. In 1972, he earned a Master of Business Administration from University of Missouri in Columbia.

He and the former Amy Johnson were married November 4, 1972 at Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church in East Prairie. Together they raised three sons and welcomed two grandsons. Family was a primary focus and a tremendous source of pride and joy.

Following his MBA studies, Steve then embarked on a career with the Carnation Company. In 1976 he returned to East Prairie to partner with his father operating the Tru-Value IGA, until 2005 when they retired and sold the business. Over those decades he was proud to serve the community and

provide jobs to a number of great employees, including countless EPHS students working their first paying jobs. He was a member of Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church, serving for years as Treasurer and volunteering to help lead the annual Fish Fry for many years. He tirelessly supported the East Prairie community with his time and resources and was a past member of the Lion's Club, the Kiwanis, and the East Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

He was also proud to represent the Southeast Missouri area as a Missouri State Representative for 8 years, from 2007 to 2014, dedicating himself to aiding constituents with various issues and being their voice at the Capitol in Jefferson City. He also served as a Board Member for local non-profits, including SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence.

Steve was a lifelong devoted supporter of many East Prairie youth sports and school clubs and organizations. He was a volunteer coach of Midget League basketball for over 25 years, coached various sports teams of his sons, and also refereed high school football for more than 40 years with a number of his good friends and colleagues. He also served on the East Prairie R-2 School Board for 13 years, including as President. Long after his children and grandchildren graduated, he continued to support East Prairie athletics and organizations and could frequently be found at the ballpark or gym cheering on the Eagles.

He loved playing golf and introducing his sons and nephews to the sport. He was a past member and President of the Charleston Country Club, enjoying the Monday and Thursday afternoon scrambles, summer holiday tournaments, and occasional golf trips with his friends. Later in life he treasured annual family trips to St Louis to share an Italian meal on The Hill and then root for the Cardinals and the Blues.

Survivors include Amy Hodges of East Prairie; three sons, James Stephen

(Marca Cross) Hodges Jr. of New Madrid County, Andrew Carl (Natalie) Hodges of Louisville, Kentucky, Adam Johnson (Wendy) Hodges of Greensboro, North Carolina; brother, Gary Lee (Deborah) Hodges of Delta, Colorado; two grandsons, William Patrick Hodges and Samuel Peyton Hodges; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mike & Patty Hogan of East Prairie, and nephews Travis (Leslie) Hogan and Spencer (Michelle) Hogan.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Friends may call from 1:00 to 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 13, 2024 at Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church in East Prairie.

Memorial service will follow at 2:00 pm at Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church with Pastor Beth Allen and the Rev. Jimmie Dace officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that Memorial contributions may be given to: SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, 573-651-6464, (www.sadi.org/donations) or Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church, East Prairie, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **13**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church
106 E. Washington Street
East Prairie, MO 63845

Memorial Service

OCT **13**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church
106 E. Washington Street
East Prairie, MO 63845

Tribute Wall

CL

“ I have known Steve since we were classmates in 5th grade in Du Quoin, Il. He would talk about his years in Du Quoin every time we talked on the phone. He also spoke very fondly of his 3 sons, 2 grandchildren and the love of his life, Amy, many times. I will miss my conversations with him but will retain the good memories and good times. He will be missed. Condolences to the family.
Carolyn L.

Carolyn L. - October 16, 2024 at 05:58 PM

CS

“ Mr. Steve was one of a kind. He loved his family dearly. He would check up on his family and friends quite frequently. I will keep you all in my prayers!!
Charlette S.

Charlette Spades - October 15, 2024 at 05:03 PM

RG

“ Our condolences are with you at this time of loss. May God bless Representative Hodges and your family. - Rochelle and Alan Gray

Representative Alan Gray - October 15, 2024 at 01:09 PM

CW

“ My condolences to the Hodges family. I met these amazing people in 1999. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Connie Welker - October 13, 2024 at 04:00 PM

AL

“ *The Warf's are praying for you all. What a special family. Amy and family my(our) deepest sympathy.*

Anna Warf & Pat Warf Lambert - October 12, 2024 at 11:30 PM

TC

“ *My deepest condolences to Amy and Drew and the rest of the Hodges family. I had the pleasure of getting to know Steve and Amy, when our sons, Drew and Eddie were cadets for 4 years at West Point. Wonderful times and great people. Steve truly was a nice guy and I will forever treasure the memories we share from that time. You will be missed. Sincerely, Tony Cerer Sr.*

Tony Cerer - October 12, 2024 at 12:49 PM

PB

“ *Condolences to Steve's family. I always enjoyed officiating football games with Steve. When Steve was in the House of Representatives he always did what was best for his constituents. He was a great guy. He had many friends.
Pete Burns*

Pete Burns - October 11, 2024 at 10:11 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Stephen "Steve" Hodges Sr..*



October 11, 2024 at 05:27 PM

WF

“ With love-the Hemmer/Steiner families. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Stephen "Steve" Hodges Sr..

With love-the Hemmer/Steiner families. - October 11, 2024 at 05:27 PM

DH

“ Deb H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Stephen "Steve" Hodges Sr..

Deb H. - October 11, 2024 at 01:04 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Stephen "Steve" Hodges Sr..



October 11, 2024 at 10:18 AM

SS

“ SADI Board, Management, and Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Stephen "Steve" Hodges Sr..

SADI Board, Management, and Staff - October 11, 2024 at 10:18 AM

RS

“ Robert S. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Stephen "Steve" Hodges Sr..



Robert S. - October 11, 2024 at 09:49 AM

LB

“ Love, Your McShotty Brothers purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Stephen "Steve" Hodges Sr..



Love, Your McShotty Brothers - October 11, 2024 at 09:04 AM

KO

“ Mr Hodges was one of East Prairie's most cherished citizens. Helping his community and serving others was his goal in life. Together, he and Mrs Amy raised 3 incredible men and he was a role model as to what a good citizen should be like. I loved talking with him at the football games and basketball games. He always told me how much he thought of my Meme and always said she was one of his best deli workers he ever had. When I heard of Mr Hodges passing, I immediately wanted to call my Meme and also my Daddy to let them know but I know they were one of the first to welcome him to his eternal home.....ya'll know how us 649ers stick with each other, even in Heaven.

Losing a loved one is tough to go through, but when you lose a parent, literally a piece of you dies with them. James, Drew, and Adam.....my deepest condolences go out to each of ya'll and your families because I just traveled this road of loss with my Meme and Daddy just 3 months ago. To see how much Mr Hodges cheered my son Cooper on..... I can only imagine the amazing support he gave each one of his sons, grandsons, and nephews.

If there is ANYTHING I can do for the Hodges family, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm praying for each of ya'll.



Katie Oatsvall - October 11, 2024 at 07:43 AM

TP

“ Oh such a loss. Thanks Steve for your support of our efforts at Mizzou and the Delta Center. With gratitude, Tom Payne 🙏

Tom Payne - October 10, 2024 at 11:34 PM

DW

“ Thank you for being a leader for us all and for being my BOSS and ultimately my FRIEND! Peace be with you my friend!



David Williams - October 10, 2024 at 09:31 PM

DB

“ Thanks for giving so many of our children the first jobs at the IGA.



Dena Babb - October 10, 2024 at 08:08 PM

RP

Steve m sending prayers to your family and friends in the days ahead. I will miss our talks, texts throughout the year ! Glad you are feeling better now. Rhonda (Michael) Painton and Donnie , Michael, Marcus and Kathy Painton.

Rhonda Michael Painton - October 10, 2024 at 09:36 PM

CR

So sorry to read this. Steve was a good friend and did so much for our town.

Charla Royal - October 11, 2024 at 07:42 AM

DH

I'll miss our talks and all the memories we had together. Steve and I along with Pat Foster were the first, first semester pledges to join PKA in 67' and enjoyed a lot of good times together. Later we reconnected through our brothers and I saw him a lot at the Capitol when he served there. I'll miss you Steve.

Dan Holdinghaus - October 11, 2024 at 07:48 AM