



## Stephen "Steve" Shepich

October 24, 1948 - October 24, 2013

Stephen V. "Steve" Shepich, 65, of Iron River, died peacefully at his home on Camp Lake, with his loving wife Jo, by his side.

Steve was born October 12, 1948 in Stambaugh, MI, the son of Nancy (Jacobson) Shepich and the late Victor Shepich. He graduated from Stambaugh High School in 1966 and was an all U.P. running back. At the age of 17, Steve attended Northern Michigan University on a football scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in social work in 1972. For the next ten years, he worked as a Community Mental Health Counselor in Iron River and Iron Mountain. Steve furthered his education at Michigan State University where he obtained his Master's Degree in public administration. He was employed as a budget analyst for the Michigan House Fiscal Agency, overseeing budgets for the DNR and the Department of Agriculture. In 1993, he was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives, serving the 110th District. Steve was proud to be regarded as a staunch liberal Democrat. He believed in fighting for the underdog and in preserving and protecting our natural environment. Steve never forgot his UP roots and valued his Iron County community. He played a significant role in obtaining funding to develop the Apple Blossom Trail, the Caspian Ski Hill and current City Hall, and the Iron River RV Park.

In 1995, after moving back to Iron County, Steve met the love of his life, Jo Werner, and together they created and developed The Depot Restaurant & Bakery in two renovated Long Island train cars. In 1999 Steve & Jo were married in Cozumel, Mexico. They were blessed to return to Mexico each year after that, to bask in the sunshine and celebrate their love for each other. In 2005, they completed the historic renovation of the 1914 Train Station and opened "The Station" - a local establishment committed to promoting live music, sports of all kinds, good fun, good food, and a nice place for people to gather. Steve often joked that he had finally found the perfect job - bartending at The Station - watching and talking sports, listening to live music, serving drinks, and most of all connecting with people. He had the special gift of making people feel at ease and made friends easily with people from all walks of life. People gravitated towards him because of his big heart and his infectious smile.

Steve was a storyteller and a good one. He loved history and how it connected us. He could remember incredible details - and he could pull the most amazing facts out of his brain that would astound people. He had a passion for baseball - It was his favorite sport. As a boy, on warm summer nights, he listened to Detroit Tiger games on a transistor radio. Later on, he played fast pitch softball and told stories about that time in his life, that would make you howl with laughter.

Music was a huge part of Steve's life and he was drawn to the Motown Sound, the Beatles, Barry White, The Four Seasons, Johnny Rivers, Marvin Gaye, James Taylor, The Eagles, and Roy Orbison. He couldn't sing and he couldn't play an instrument - but he could dance and had incredible rhythm.

Steve loved and treasured his family. He often talked about "winning the

parent lottery" - being raised by such a loving and involved Mom & Dad. He adored his three brothers and was so proud of the fact that each of them - "just small town guys from Caspian" achieved their Masters Level College degrees. His children and his grand daughters were the absolute joy of his life. He cherished his time with all of them. His perfect day, was out on the lake on his pontoon boat, or sitting in front of the fireplace, surrounded by friends and family.

In June 2011, Steve was diagnosed with Acute Myloid Leukemia. In January 2012, he was the tenth person at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN to receive a double umbilical cord stem cell transplant. He battled the disease with fortitude and bravery, and never lost his sense of humor. He embraced each day as a gift and learned to truly live in the moment. He was an real inspiration to many people and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Steve is survived by his wife, Jo; his mother, Nancy of Caspian, children, Stacie (Grant) Stanton of Barrington, IL, Steven M. (Jackie) Shepich of Iron River, Scott M. (Shelby) Shepich of Gwinn, Seth Werner Turvey of Slidell, LA and Shawn Werner Turvey of Lajitas, TX; three brothers, John (Linda) Shepich of Ludington, MI, Gary (Mary) Shepich of Plainwell, MI, and Paul (Diane) Shepich of Livonia, MI; two granddaughters, Lucy and Maria Stanton; several nieces and nephews; two sister-in-laws Darby Werner of Scotts Valley, CA, Mimi Werner of Polson, MT; brother-in-law Ted (Alexis) Werner of Rialto, CA; and special friends, Greg & Debbie Bastian of Spread Eagle, WI, Kim Collier-Hartjes & Greg Hartjes of Long Lake, WI, and Paul & Joy DeNicola of Iron River, MI.

There will be a Celebration of Life to honor Steve, on Saturday, November

9th, 1pm at The Station, in Iron River. Pastor Dawn Treado Green from the First Presbyterian Church of Iron County will officiate.

"In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to "The Steve Shepich Memorial" which will go towards a memorial bench on the Apple Blossom Trail. Donations may be sent to PO Box 82/Iron River or made directly to the Co-Vantage Credit Union account in Iron River."

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Stephen "Steve" Shepich online at <http://www.nashfuneralhome.net/>.

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ I feel horrible for not making it up there to help celebrate Steve's life. I feel worse for losing touch with Steve Jr., Scotty and the rest of the family. It is easier to make excuses than to face our shortcomings. I miss you guys.

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**Joe Garcia Jr. - Lansing, MI - Adopted son** - April 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

Joe, we all love you. You will always be a big brother to me and what you have done for our family through the years will never be forgotten. The door is always open- Scottie

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**scott shepich** - May 27, 2014 at 07:32 AM

PM

“ I met Mr. Steve Shepich back in the mid 1970's when I received counseling from him here in Iron Mountain. I was in my early 20's and was seeking counseling for a troubled marriage and depression. I know now that he was not even 30 years old himself. He told me about a little girl that called a counseling line and told the person who responded that it was her birthday and when the responder asked her what she needed, she said 'would you please sing happy birthday to me?' He said it was sometimes hard for a person to know what they needed. He was such a caring person and he talked me through a lot of things I had going on. I never forgot him over the years and was saddened to read he had passed away. This is just my little memory but I can imagine he has made an impact in many more lives that he could ever realize. My condolences to his wife, family and friends - Pauline Williams

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**Pauline Williams - Iron Mountain, MI** - November 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GF

“Kathie and I knew Steve and Joe through our good common friends Greg and Debbie Bastian. We were very fond of Steve and his infectious personality. The turnout at his memorial was testament to the kind of person he was, and how each of his friends felt special when around him. Our condolences to Joe and his family, your friends share your grief, but find solace in the quality of life he possessed.

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**Guy and Kathie Owens - Norway , MI - friend** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RM

“My condolences to family and freinds. Steve and I shared a room in Gant Hall at Northern Michigan University 1967/68; but lost touch over the years as so easily happens. The world has lost a shining light with Steve's passing; strong and happy memories will remain to carry family, freinds and acquaintences forward.

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**Randy Girard - Marquette, MI - College Room Mate** - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Steve was a former colleague in the Michigan House of Representatives and before that we interacted through his position as an analyst on budget matters as we debated and enacted the yearly budgets for the state of Michigan.

*I was able to talk to Steve earlier this year, when I learned of his health problems. It was a pleasant talk, focused on memories of happier days, and old friends in the state capitol and throughout the entire state.*

*To the family - I express my deepest sympathy on your personal loss. Find comfort in each other and share those happier times, just as Steve and I did when we talked.*

*Tom Mathieu*

*State Representative retired*

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**Tom Mathieu - Roverview, FL** - November 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Dear Jo & Family,

*I would like to share a very found memory of mine that Jo & Steve played a part in.*

*My Steve and I walked together the journey of his cancer. On our 20th Wedding Anniversary I proposed to Steve, he said "Yes". We had a group dinner at the Depot before we renewed our wedding vows. Everything was so nice, the table setting, the food, the people and most of all Jo & Steve, they came out to honor Steve & I by wishing us all the best and presenting us with a bottle of champagne. Steve passed away 4 months after this joyful occasion. I can close my eyes at any time ....see & feel that evening, with great gratitude and appreciation, Thank you Jo & Steve.*

*Not to long ago, at the Station on a Friday night, I witnessed Jo & Steve dancing together Heart to Heart & Soul to Soul.....so lovely.*

*I honor the Earthly Life that Jo & Steve shared and their Eternal Love.*

*In Sympathy, Love & Light,  
Leila Phillips*

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**Leila Phillips - Iron River, MI - Friend** - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My husband and I are so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. He was the second person we met in Iron River who truly welcomed us and made us feel like a part of the community, even though we only came to Iron River 3 or 4 times a year. He was a well of information and guided us with history and information about the community. Who said Steve couldn't sing? I walked in the door of the Station on my 50th and he sang Happy Birthday to me, which made the day so special! We will truly miss him but look forward to seeing Jo at the Station the next time we are in Iron River.

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**Juianna Wostyn - Algonac, MI - Friend from the Station/Depot** - November 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Steve. He had always placed our community first and this area will never forget that. The RV park at the time was a hard sell for this area, but Steve knew it was the right thing and he made it happen. I will always think of him as I and many continue to use the A/B trail. May God bless him and your families, Sincerely, Rex.

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**Rex A. Angeli - Iron River, MI - Friend** - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ You'll be missed ... thanks for your contribution and promotion to all our local musicians. My deepest sympathy to your family...you fought the good fight.

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**Paul Sundquist - Kenosha, WI - Friend** - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ although i havenot been in contact with steve in years, the thought of him will always be a pleasant one! from the fast-pitch softball, to basketball, football, to being in the same fraternity,his smile will be remembered! my sincere thoughts and prayers to his wife and family. i love the fact he was a liberal dem like myself! godspeed!

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**dave sundquist - ann arbor (crystal falls), MI** - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM