



Steven "Steve" Edison Raiford

November 10, 1947 - November 2, 2021

Steven "Steve" Edison Raiford was born on November 10, 1947, in Chouteau, Oklahoma to Felix Edison Raiford and Dorothy Jean (Brady) Raiford. He passed from this life on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 74 years. Steve was raised and educated in Tulsa, Oklahoma and graduated with the Nathan Hale High School Class of 1966. He then enlisted and served his country honorably in the United States Air Force 41st Division during a tour of Vietnam. Steve was married on October 27, 1971, in Tulsa to Mary Leonis (Scott) Raiford. He began his career in law enforcement with the Tulsa Police Department in 1972 and earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma in 1977 while working as a patrolman. Steve worked his way through the department and worked in the Major Crimes division as a homicide detective. He spent the final 15 years of his career working Airport Security at Tulsa International and retired from the Tulsa Police Department after 40 years. Steve enjoyed a variety of past times such as fishing, running, raising cattle and taking care of all animals. Those he leaves behind who hold many cherished memories include:

His Wife;

Mary Raiford

Daughter;

Christy Gill and Elwyn

3 Grandchildren;

Caris Shamp, Bekah Sanell, and Josh Shamp

Sister;

Carole Brandl and husband John

Uncle;

David Brady and wife Veronica

He was preceded in death by his parents, Felix and Dorothy, and two sons, Jason and Jeremy.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at Mowery Funeral Service in Owasso. Funeral service will be held 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 8, 2021, at the Hilldale Baptist Church in Claremore, Oklahoma with Pastor

Scotty Titsworth officiating. Interment will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service
9110 N. Garnett Rd.
Owasso, OK 74055
(918) 272-6244
<https://www.moweryfs.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

Hilldale Baptist Church
21085 S Keetonville Rd
Claremore, OK 74019

Tribute Wall



“ *What can I say about Steve that hasn't been said a million times... but here it goes. Steve had one of the biggest hearts ever. His love for Mary was one of the all time love stories. His love for his boys was another chapter of how a loving father should be cast in a mold. His love and caring for everyone around him, family or not. And his heart for animals was amazing. Dogs, birds, cows, etc. all were his friends and Steve made sure they were taken care of if possible.*

Last winter when we had the bid freeze I remember Steve feeding the birds and even taking a heating element and putting it in their water so they would have something to drink. That's the sign of a beautiful human being inside and out.

Steve and Mary invited me to the Grand Opening of the Broken Arrow Veterans Museum. I've never seen Steve so proud as he put on his Viet Nam Vets ball cap and donned that beautiful green dragon Vet jacket. We walked through the museum as Steve took time to speak to everyone he could about their journey. Again, such a selfless man.

Steve always had some sweet treat in his jeans pocket. The first time he offered one of his sweet treats to me he dipped in the front pocket of his jeans and pulled out a hand full of gum balls, pocket fuzz and all... I declined with a smile. As he looked down at his hand and was disturbed to see what he had offered. We always laughed at that moment.

Steve, you will be missed by everyone and anyone who knew you. I know you are with your boys and are at peace. Know that we will take good care of Mary for you in your absence. God has appointed everyone a time and yours came before we knew it or were ready for it. But sometimes that is God's plan. And who are we to question God's plans?

*Rest in peace dear Steve!
All my love,
Nancy*

Nancy Martin - November 08, 2021 at 09:17 AM



“ 58 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Mowery Funeral Service - November 07, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Steven "Steve" Edison Raiford.



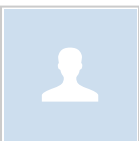
November 07, 2021 at 07:44 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish* was purchased for the family of Steven "Steve" Edison Raiford.



November 07, 2021 at 12:08 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Steven "Steve" Edison Raiford.



November 06, 2021 at 07:51 PM

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“ Randy & Sue Raiford purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Steven "Steve" Edison Raiford.



Randy & Sue Raiford - November 06, 2021 at 04:17 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Steven "Steve" Edison Raiford.



November 06, 2021 at 03:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Steven "Steve" Edison Raiford.



November 05, 2021 at 12:36 PM