



Stephen Bolatto Jr.

January 2, 1934 - November 19, 2023

Stephen Bolatto, Jr.

Age 89, of Braidwood, IL passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 19, 2023 surrounded by family. Born on January 2, 1934 in Essex, IL to the late Stephen and Ellen Marie Bolatto, Sr. He graduated with the Reddick High School Class of 1950 and while in high school he played basketball, football, and, his favorite sport, baseball. A standout on the baseball team, for two years he was named Kankakee Valley All Conference and Jr Legion Kankakee Conference as catcher and 3rd baseman. His greatest memory from that time was traveling to Kansas City in 1946 to play against Mickey Mantle. After high school he continued to play baseball for the Essex Merchants. In 1952 he began working construction and in 1959 he joined the Laborers Union Local 75. Steve was a dedicated Union supporter. On April 13, 1958 he married the love of his life, Mary Cermak, and together they made their home and raised their family in Braidwood. After retirement in 1993 he continued to work taking on employment at the Braidwood Recreation Club in the area maintenance department until 2020. He was a Reed Township Trustee for 14 years. A Kansas City Chiefs fan, he enjoyed watching baseball the most and was an avid Reed-Custer Comets fan. More than anything he loved to watch all his grandsons play and was a devoted papa.

Surviving are his children, Lora (Dave) Grant, Richard (LuAnn) Bolatto, Tami (Scott) Favero, and Nicole (Rob) Carlo, all of Braidwood; grandchildren, Joshua (Susan) Bolatto; Michael (JeriLyn) Favero, Jacob (Erica) Bolatto, Andy

(Jessica) Favero, Brandon Carlo, Adam (Jessi) Bolatto and Melissa (Ron) Tondini; He was known as Big Papa to 13 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren; in laws, Richard Goad, Roberta (Joe) Kocarek, Alberta Bolatto, Betty (Francis) Kavanaugh and Judy Bolatto; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death was his beloved wife Mary Bolatto (8-28-2009); son, Stephen Bolatto (6-24-2021); brothers, Melvin, Joe D., Jerry and Vincent Bolatto; in laws, Gertrude and Ken Ericksen, Theresa and Ed Krull, Bill Harrop and Darlene Goad.

Visitation will be held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Friday, November 24, 2023 from 4:00-8:00 pm and on Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 9:00 am until time of Funeral Service at 10:00 am. Interment will follow at the Bohemian National Cemetery in Essex, IL. Steve requested that friends and family that are union members please show your pride and wear a union shirt. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be directed to the Bohemian National Cemetery Maintenance Fund or the Braidwood Lions Club.

Cemetery Details

Bohemian National Cemetery

Located directly across from: 34665 Essex
Rd
Wilmington, IL 60481

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **24**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2336
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

Visitation

NOV **25**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2336
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

Service

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

RE

“ My deepest sympathies to the entire Bolatto family-So sorry to hear of Mr. Bolattos' passing-I know this is a late tribute but not hearing until recently (Arizona this time of year) seems to push condolences out of mind. I respected Steve Bolatto from the first time I met him (1978) when I had the honor of serving on Braidwood's city council. I didn't know him previously as I'm not from Braidwood-but I quickly realized Mr.Bolatto was a no-nonsense type of guy. Steve taught me how to take an A-- chewing (that he was usually giving) with grace and dignity. I enjoyed having coffee at McDonalds with Steve after I retired and the life lessons never stopped. He was a good man.

Bob Ewert

Robert Ewert - January 17, 2024 at 06:51 PM

SB

“ It's been a few days of thinking of the right thing to say. But that's not going to Happen.Brian and I can't express enough how much this AMAZING Family has impacted our lives over the last 14 years.Papa and Mary were the start of that . every single person in this family has impacted us .But Papa was extremely special to us and will be forever missed and remembered.Rest in Peace Papa . We will always love you. Brian and Sharon.



Sharon and Brian Barbick - November 24, 2023 at 03:36 PM

KB

“ Our deepest sympathies to the entire family. He was always so friendly.

Bob and Liz Broucek

Karen Broucek - November 24, 2023 at 01:10 PM

JB

“ *I still vividly remember him hunting groundhogs; so calm, so patient..and not the slightest bit annoyed that little me was talking his leg off. As I have grown I still would seem him either quietly observing or having fun joking with those near him. I am certain Mary was ready to welcome him home and now he can observe all those he loves with her by his side.*

Janna Byerley - November 23, 2023 at 12:22 PM

BS

*So sorry to hear of Steve's passing. My condolences to the family. Always friendly and a big teddy bear.
Pat Swisher*

Bob & Pat Swisher - December 11, 2023 at 04:25 PM



“ 105 files added to the album Life Tributes



R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - November 22, 2023 at 02:21 PM

MC

“ *Sincere condolences.
Michele and Matt Cannon
Sue and Pat Foley*

Michele Cannon - November 22, 2023 at 12:47 AM

DM

“ *Very sorry for your loss!*

Don McKinney - November 22, 2023 at 12:41 AM

AB

“ *Steve, it was an absolute honor to serve with you on the Reed Township Board. You were always so pleasant and encouraging.*

To the family...I pray you rejoice in Steve's everlasting peace. May memories of a life well lived and loved fill the seemingly unfillable void of his absence. You all continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.



Adam Beaty - November 21, 2023 at 06:47 PM

HL

“ *Tami and family, you have my deepest sympathies and prayers with the loss of your Dad. I know he was a great Dad*



Helen Lamping - November 21, 2023 at 02:22 PM

DO

“ *He was such a great man. Always friendly and helpful, I will always remember him coming into Pagni's pug with a smile on his face, he will be in my memories and prayers to family!*

diane oagni - November 21, 2023 at 01:45 PM