



Stephen Kenneth Walker

June 30, 1970 - June 8, 2022

On Wednesday, June 8, 2022, Stephen Kenneth Walker passed away peacefully in his sleep surrounded by his loved ones. He was 51. Despite his long struggle with heart disease Stephen was able to complete his music education programs at Fresno City College and Fresno State and fulfilled his dream of being a music teacher by working as a string specialist at multiple high schools in Fresno.

Stephen was born on June 30, 1970 in Fresno California to Edwin and Eileen Walker. he graduated from Fresno High School in 1989 and married his high school sweetheart, Heather Walker, on September 10, 1990. Together they raised three boys, Eric, Skyler and Forest. Stephen returned to school and graduated from Fresno City College in 2010 with an Associates of Arts in Music. He continued his education at California State University, Fresno.

Stephen was an active musician who played Double Bass for many Symphonies and Orchestras in the Central Valley. He worked as a string specialist for Fresno High School, Sunnyside High School and Edison High School. He taught many high school students how to play double bass and cello. He loved teaching music to his students and watching them perform. Stephen was a nature lover and an avid backpacker throughout the Sierra Nevada's with his friends in his youth and his wife and sons later on. He enjoyed cultivating plants, especially cacti and succulent, and his yard landscaping is a tribute to that effect. He was an avid runner, and ran in multiple marathons before his heart troubles sidelined him. He went to many concerts, and listened to so much music of all types. He watched movies, made great food and enjoyed traveling. He loved his family and they loved him.

He was preceded in death by his Father Edwin Walker, his mother Eileen Walker, his sister Lori Woodall and his brother Richard Walker and Robert Walker. He is survived by his loving wife Heather Walker, his son Eric Walker with his wife Evie, son Skyler Walker with his wife Courtney and son Forest Walker with his wife Devin, his sisters Michelle Johnson, Debbie Termeer, Karyn Powers, Tami Thomas, and Stephanie Spicer, his brother Michael Walker and his granddaughters Rosemarie Walker and Kerrigan Walker.

A celebration of Stephen's life will be announced when arrangements have been made.

His final wishes were that we throw a big party in his honor with good food and fun and for his musician friends to play music in his memory.

Tribute Wall

EB

“ I came to know Steve probably 25 years ago or more. He managed the United Kennel pet store/supply near my work. I would be in the store a couple of times a week. He always greeted me with that fantastic smile of his. You know the one where he uses his whole face. It always made you feel at ease and welcomed.

We shared a common interest in reptiles and worked together with the Local Herpetological Society promoting conservation, education, and the care of animals. I was not only a customer in the store, but became a friend. We shared information, stories, and an occasional joke.

Later, he started his cactus gardens. I was taken back by his knowledge and skills in the cultivation and care cacti. I learned something new every time i visited his back yard.

I attended a blues festival once with Steve. It was always a good time being with him. I missed out seeing his musical side. I only heard how good he was from others.

Another note, I don't think I ever saw him angry or upset. Steve was always even keel. How could he not be with that infectious smile.

you are truly missed!

Ed Bremer

Ed Bremer - August 04 at 09:06 PM

“ I met Stephen in 1970 when I was almost nine years old. He came home from the hospital in my mother's arms, and I finally had a brother! Up until that point, I had five sisters, so was appreciative that the new addition to our family was a boy.

As he outgrew the basinet in our mom and dad's bedroom, he moved into my room, which we shared till I moved out of the house.

As a roommate, he got into my stuff and raided my gum and candy stash, but also listened to my music, was respectful of me (not my stuff) and was an overall decent roommate.

Stephen had a pleasant disposition and as a child, loved to please.

As an adult, I always loved hearing of Stephen's latest adventure.

Whether he was talking about his latest run, hike, pet, musical instrument, or plant, he loved talking about, and teaching people about the things he was learning from what he did.

Stephen was involved in running (till he couldn't run anymore because of his heart), hiking till he couldn't hike anymore, collecting and raising reptiles, and having an extraordinary cactus garden. He also had a love for both listening to and playing music. As he involved himself in these endeavors, Stephen put his whole effort into doing what he did. In fact, his lawn and cactus garden still portray his love of being fully committed to his passions.

Because Stephen grew up in my room, and I had a great love of music, Stephen had to listen to my music as he grew up. He was too young, so it was always my music we listened to. Because of this, the music of my generation was deeply ingrained into his love of music, and we were always able to easily communicate about which bands we liked and why.

I've got many great memories of Stephen, but I'll never forget him saying, "Do you want me to say HEY, like Michael" when my friends came to visit. I'll never forget him telling me how good I whistled, as he, from another room, heard the song Dock of the Bay by Otis Redding playing. He came running into our bedroom as it finished, and he was in awe to what he thought he had heard. (I never told him it wasn't me whistling).

I've got many memories, stories, and photos. I love the photo attached to this memorial, as it shows that he smiles with his whole face. This is truly a great photo of Stephen.

I'll miss you little brother!!!

Michael Walker

Michael Walker - June 29 at 05:52 PM

AB

“ Andy And Teresa Benson lit a candle in memory of Stephen Kenneth Walker



Andy and Teresa Benson - June 25 at 01:15 AM

EJ

“ I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to hear Uncle Stephen (and the whole family) play at Grandma's funeral! Living in Utah I didn't have as many opportunities as I would have liked. But I always heard about his love for music and I'm grateful I was blessed to be able to experience it! I'm also grateful for the times you came to visit us!

Emily Johnson - June 24 at 10:13 PM

SD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Susan Davis - June 23 at 10:17 PM



Stephen was trying for a David Cassidy hair style back then, he had beautiful hair 😍

Heather Walker - June 24 at 01:31 PM

SD

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Susan Davis - June 23 at 10:11 PM

SD

“ I got to know Stephen a couple of years ago when he joined our WingWalker country/oldies band. I was playing the keyboard and was a bit out of my element since I was a classically trained musician. I was fascinated to discover that Stephen was as comfortable playing bass guitar in our band as he was playing string bass in orchestras around Fresno. By the way, his bass guitar had no frets on it as most guitars would. That was impressive! As time went on, I found Stephen to be very generous in helping me figure out how to bridge my keyboard skills between rock and roll music and classical. He could explain concepts and techniques like no one else in the band could. He really opened a musical door into a whole new world for me and I finally figured out what was going on and how I could participate more successfully in the band. His solid playing gave me much more confidence and I did improve. I truly appreciated his patient tutelage. I also appreciated that he was a wonderful and professional band member. He was always on time, came prepared, was polite, flexible, creative and patient with all of us as we worked together to create dozens of unique arrangements of popular tunes. His musicianship was solid and very much appreciated by our entire band, but especially by me. Music was extremely important to him, but it was quite obvious that his highest priorities were his wife, Heather, and his 3 fine sons. He truly was a gem! Susan Davis

Susan Davis - June 23 at 09:48 PM



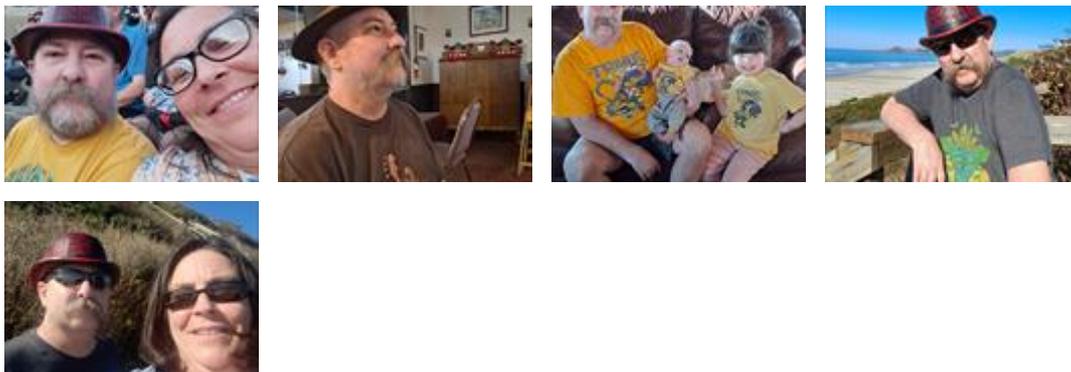
“ Heather Walker lit a candle in memory of Stephen Kenneth Walker



Heather Walker - June 23 at 06:38 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Heather Walker - June 23 at 04:13 PM