



Steven Wayne Williams

May 7, 1954 - April 12, 2012

Steven Wayne Williams, 57, of Greenleaf State Park, Braggs, OK, went home to be with his Lord on Thursday, April 12, 2012. Steve was born on May 7th, 1954 in Idabel, Oklahoma to the late Dorothy Williams Towns of Braggs, OK and Robert Williams of Idabel, OK.

Steve began working for the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation department right after college and was just recently recognized for serving 35 years with the Dept.

In these 35 years, he was Park Manager for some of the most beautiful state parks in Oklahoma – Robbers Cave in Wilburton, Beavers Bend in Broken Bow, and Greenleaf in Braggs. He was current manager of Greenleaf, Tenkiller, and Cherokee Landing State Parks.

Steve was one of 2 park managers chosen to be hired on to a pilot program in 1977 called the “Park Manager Trainee” program, where he worked as an assistant learning the ropes of the Park Manager’s job. He has since mentored multiple trainees throughout his career with this program until its end. Steve has been one of the most highly respected managers in the state. He managed Beavers Bend State Park and helped it become the first state park in Oklahoma to operate at a profit. He was also recognized several times by the Governor. He received the Governor’s pen for volunteer work during the aftermath of the Alfred P. Murrah bombing tragedy in Oklahoma City. He

also received the Governor's Commendation and Recognition for building the first total handicapped-accessible cabin in an Oklahoma State Park. Steve was named Oklahoma's Park manager of the year in 2000. Under his leadership, Greenleaf State Park received numerous awards such as: Oklahoma's Park of the Year in 1997 and 2005, Tourism Industry's Native Beauty Award in 1996, and named Best of the Best State Resorts by Oklahoma Family Magazine from 2000-2005.

Steve was an avid outdoorsman and athlete. He had a love for hunting and fishing that was second only to his love for his family and friends. Two of Steve's achievements include running the Tulsa Run in 2005-06 and most recently in 2011 at the age of 57; and participating in the Polar Bear Plunge this past January in Tulsa.

He has also been active in the community. He is a former treasurer of first Baptist church in Gore, former Sunday school teacher and coach of youth basketball, soccer, football and softball. Steve had a passion for mentoring young children and helping them succeed no matter the obstacle; and coached his children's sports teams for many years. Steve also served as VP of the Greater Tenkiller Area Association for several years.

Steve and the love of his life, Sandy McNeal, were married on June 15, 1974. They started off as high-school sweethearts and have remained the love of each other's lives for the last 37 years. They have spent every second together during those years; and one of their favorite pastimes included boating on Lake Tenkiller and attending church together. The pride and joy of their lives were their two children, Jennifer and Bryan Williams. Steve was one of the most loving fathers and cherished his family more than anything. He would do anything for his family no matter how great; and that is evident by the amount of love and respect that his family has for him. His daughter, Jennifer, is now a pediatrician in Dallas, Texas; and his son, Bryan, is now

training for a management career in Dallas.

Steve was preceded in death by parents and his brother-in-law, Jerry McNeal.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Sandy; daughter, Dr. Jennifer Williams and son, Bryan Williams, both of Dallas, TX; his two brothers, Bob Williams and wife, Nancy of Idabel, OK, Joe Williams and wife, Kelly of Chattanooga, TN; one nephew, Heath Williams and wife, Diana, along with their daughter Ashlee of Houston, TX; one niece, Sarah Carlgren of Puyallup, Washington; two brother-in-laws, Hugh McNeal and wife, Pam of Bennington, OK and Arnold McNeal and wife, Nancy of Idabel, OK; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He is also leaving behind numerous employees and friends.

The celebration of Steve's life will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday April 17th, 2012 at Greenleaf State Park Lodge with Kerry White leading the service. Pallbearers will be Aron Maib, Randy Rogers, Chris Parrington, Mickey Hamby, David Keith, and Stan Sheffield. Honorary pallbearers will be Diana Rutland and John Kilgore.

The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Monday, April 16, 2012 at Cornerstone Funeral Home. Flowers will be accepted or for a donation to Greenleaf State Park, contact Diana Rutland at (918) 487-5196.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **16.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Service

APR **17.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Greenleaf State Park Lodge
Rt. 1 Box 119
Braggs, OK 74423
(918) 487-5196

Tribute Wall



“ Steven Wayne Williams

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ Dearest Sandy and children; my heart hurt for you today as I learned of your loss. I have such wonderful memories of you both! We had such a wonderful time together as we worshipped at FBC in Muskogee. Steve was one of the kindest men I have ever known. He loved the children so much. His love for you Sandy was such a sweet thing to witness. I will remember him always as one of the finest Christians I have ever known. We will have a glorious reunion one day. All of us. My love and prayers are with you and the children.

Alice Lewis

April 24, 2012

Alice Lewis - April 24, 2012 at 12:50 AM



“ I will remember .Steve with fond memories. He has been part of my extended family for at least 45 yrs He will be missed. I am so sorry for your loss and please know your family are in my prayers.

Georgette

GEORGETTE BRITT CAMPBELL - April 21, 2012 at 07:12 PM

EM

“ Dear Sandy, our thoughts and prayers are there. So, so sorry for your loss of Steve.

Rodney & Ellen (Smalling) Mills

Ellen Smalling Mills - April 17, 2012 at 01:24 PM

LC

“ *Lisa Chair lit a candle in memory of Steven Wayne Williams*



Lisa Chair - April 17, 2012 at 10:04 AM



“ *Jo Garrett lit a candle in memory of Steven Wayne Williams*



Jo Garrett - April 16, 2012 at 10:18 PM



“ *Sandy, Jennifer, and Bryan i just wanted to tell you guys how sorry I am and I wish I could be there!! I just want you to know your in my thoughts and prayers!!*

April 16, 2012 at 03:54 PM

RC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Williams Family. As part of the Park's Volunteer family we know Steve will be missed. His caring for the guest's experience will leave an unforgotten legacy.

Robert and Patricia Christensen

Robert and Patricia Christensen - April 16, 2012 at 03:24 PM

CG

“ The first time I met Steve, it was this past December when I was reunited with my Daughter. She works at Greenleaf with him. He was just as happy as we were when we met and he accepted me and my family as his own. Every time we went up there to see my daughter he was always thinking of things for us to do. He love life and he was always helping my daughter out. When go visit her we will really miss seeing his smiling face. We love you Steve.

Chrissy, Danny, and Lauren Gonzales.

Chrissy Gonzales - April 16, 2012 at 02:46 PM

PY

“ I was so sorry to hear the news of Steve's passing. I extend my deepest sympathies to you all. Steve was a generous and most accomodating gentleman I ever knew. He cultivated love and respect from his employees and especially his friends. I know you all will miss him dearly but also know you all will be strengthened and comforted to know he has a heavenly home and will be there waiting for all of you.

Phyllis Yargee - April 16, 2012 at 10:17 AM

LB

“ Steve was always very generous to his employees and their family needs. He was always understanding if we needed time off for our families. His deep love of family made this a natural part of his management skills. I will miss his constant concern for my mother. He and I shared a connection with our mothers and he understood all too well the difficulties of watching a parent grow old and start to fail. He always showed my mother the deepest respect and I will forever be grateful for that kindness. His joking spirit will be missed although I found myself an easy mark most of the time. Our earnest conversations about the park, family and our jobs will be missed as well. I always admired how much he loved his family. His wife and children were always first in his mind and the pride he had in them was very clear to all that knew him. Our hearts and prayers are with you as you go through this time of sorrow,
*Leann Bunn, Naturalist
Tenkiller State Park*

Leann Bunn - April 16, 2012 at 10:16 AM

FB

“ We extend our deepest sympathies to the family.

Mr. Williams was always generous to share the material he had collected and to help answer any questions involving the park's story.

His love of the history of Greenleaf will be part of his legacy.

*Fran Barker
for the Braggs History Project*

Fran Barker - April 16, 2012 at 06:19 AM

GS

Dear Sandy,

I know it has been years since seeing you and Steve. However, I have fond memories of our younger years. I want to commend you both for your fine example of parenting and family, as well as, friends to your communities. Today, Steve is to be honored for a life well lived, a life of positive influence, and most of all an honored husband, father, and believer in His Lord Jesus Christ. Janet and I extend our heart felt sympathies to you and each of your family.

Grady & Janet Smalling, foreign missionaries.

Grady H Smalling - April 17, 2012 at 10:26 AM