



## Steve Benton

April 15, 1942 - August 19, 2022

Brodhead - Steve Benton, 80, of Brodhead, WI, died Friday, August 19, 2022, at Agrace in Fitchburg, WI, after Surgical complications & lengthy hospitalizations. He was born April 15, 1942 in Maquoketa, IA, the son of Harlan and Inez Benton. He attended high school in Elwood, IA. He graduated from Wisconsin State College and Institute of Technology at Platteville with a BS in secondary education & did Masters Degree work at the UW - Madison in guidance and counseling. In 1964 he began his teaching career at BHS as a US government and driver's education instructor. In 1968 he took on the roll of guidance counselor becoming instrumental in channeling nearly 4,100 students into a career path. His work with career development was recognized at the state conference of The Wisconsin Career Development Association in 1998. He was also advisor to the BHS Student Council which included the execution of homecoming activities including the parade.

Steve attended the Reppert School of Auctioneering in 1975. Though trained as an auctioneer he found it more fun to just sing the Auctioneer Song but served as auctioneer for several benefit auctions.

Throughout his life Steve was an avid hunter and fisherman taking yearly trips with friends with like interest. After his retirement from BHS in 1999, boredom and winter's cold temperatures drove him to seek a second career. Van Galder tour and travel out of Janesville hired him as a bus tour guide. He was

always a teacher so he provided his bus passengers with history and background on the destination place but also entertained passengers with song, witty stories and fun quizzes. In 2001 an RV tour to Alaska with his 5th wheel started him on a third career; this time tour guiding with an RV. Along with another couple, Steve and Karen worked to plan, contract and host Excel 5th wheel tours. Each tour lasted about 2 weeks and involved leading 25 RV units (50 people) to various parts of the country. These 16 tours were another way to experience the beauty of our country from Alaska to New York and even visit our neighbors to the north in the Canadian Maritimes.

That 5th wheel RV also allowed Steve and Karen to leave Wisconsin's winters for warmth in southern Texas. Along with 7 other couples they completed a tight group of LEOs (LEO stands for Let's Eat Out which they did often). He was also a charter member of the Excel of Wisconsin RV club; camping all over the state every spring and fall. Forever friendships were formed through the 5th wheel that continued to today.

Among Steve's many interests was the love of working with wood. In his basement shop he turned many bowls and vases out of local as well as exotic kinds of wood. With his lathe he made decorative as well as useful rolling pins for friends, his kids and all of his nieces and nephews.

He was a member of the Jaycees, the Brodhead Lions, Brodhead United Methodist Church where he sang in the choir. He enjoyed playing cards at the Senior Center and on poker nights with the guys. Steve also drove for Meals on Wheels.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, 2 sons Rob (Jessica) of Wausau and Ian of Madison, 2 grandsons Harrison and Felix, a sister Mary Lee Halderson (John) of Phoenix AZ, numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Dick and Tom.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at the Brodhead United Methodist Church from 9 to 11 immediately followed by a memorial service with luncheon to follow. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to your favorite charity in his name. The DL Newcomer Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Memorial services will be live casted online. Please visit at 11 AM  
<https://www.facebook.com/brodheadumc>

[www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com) 608-897-2484

# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery - Brodhead

1106 E. 9th Avenue  
Brodhead, WI 53520

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 1. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church of Brodhead  
501 First Center Avenue  
Brodhead, WI 53520

## Celebration of Life

SEP 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church of Brodhead  
501 First Center Avenue  
Brodhead, WI 53520

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ My condolences to all that knew him. I was lucky enough to have Steve as a college roommate. Man did he have a strong throwing arm. As much as I loved to catch his zingers it sure did sting. He had many great stories (did you here the one about his quick draw practices?). He sure did love his bus tours, and yes he had a great voice (baritone?) He was a great leader and role model and he had a very positive affect on my life. As anyone who reads this will already know he was a great guy, loyal friend and will be missed.

*Bob Murzyn  
Elgin, IL*

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**Robert Murzyn** - March 30 at 01:18 AM

MP

“ Dear Karen and sons, I learned about Steve's passing today from Brodhead friends. I am so sorry for your loss. As a first year teacher in Brodhead (1971) Steve was a good mentor. His energy, passion for students and their well-being was certainly a good example and one which I remember after 50+ years. Everytime the faculty got together we requested Steve sing the "Auctioneer Song". To this day I think of that song and Steve's enthusiasm for singing it! Many blessings to you as Steve continues to live in your hearts! My life was better because I knew him.

*Marilyn Campbell Panter  
St. Louis, MO*

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**Marilyn Campbell Panter** - January 05, 2023 at 06:40 PM

SF

“ Karen, Rob, and Ian,  
My deepest sympathies. I have some good memories of Steve.  
Besides his auctioneering skills, didn't he also balance picnic tables  
on his head? I remember being in his office and deciding that I  
wanted to be a mechanical engineer. I expected he had an impact  
on countless others.

Shawn Faessler - September 01, 2022 at 09:49 AM

KD

“ Karen - there are so many memories of Steve that put a smile on  
my face when I think of him. He was one of the best Tour Directors  
we have ever had (with help from you of course!!) There was never  
a worry when Steve was on a tour- he was so professional,  
organized and fun at the same time! His personality alone, made  
every tour special. He made everyone he came across feel special  
and worthy - a true sign of a great man! I will miss him stopping by  
the farm every summer on his scooter to see how our kids are doing  
and ask about the goats! I pray for you and your family to find peace  
in all the memories you have.  
Kim Dooley

Kim Dooley - September 01, 2022 at 06:44 AM

JB

“ My sincere condolences to all of Steve's  
family. Always enjoyed visiting with Steve  
when he was back in Maquoketa, He was so  
interesting and had such a great sense of  
humor.



Judy Bowling - August 31, 2022 at 02:32 PM

KN

“ Always good memories for Mr. Benton. He was kind of quiet, but never harsh! 🙏

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**Karen Aue Nygaard** - August 26, 2022 at 12:08 AM

GB

“ What a great and loyal friend. We go back to the beginning of family life in Elwood, Iowa country. We grew up together all through school including college. We kept in touch through conversations on the telephone. He was a great self-educated person that could cover many, many topics. People could not believe in all his travels what knowledge he could present whether it was right or wrong. I will miss our telephone conversations but will always appreciate and never forget the ones that we had.

One memory that I would like to share is when he came to visit Joyce and I in Scott City, Kansas. Steve and Karen stayed at our house in their RV. We had wind chimes right by our front door and the next morning when we got up the wind chimes were duct taped together. He said they were in The D Major Scale, and I had no idea what that meant! I just knew it must have kept them up. He was quite the character!

Love,

Gary and Joyce Battles

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**Gary Battles** - August 25, 2022 at 12:43 PM

SD

“ I am so, so saddened by Steve's passing. He was a wonderful person to have as a cousin. Always so engaged in life, so interested in whoever he was talking to, full of laughter, generosity, song. He was such a help to me when I was a senior in high school. He was a role model for me of what it meant to become an educated person and how that education can open doors. He will be dearly missed. Sending love to you all, Karen, Rob, Ian, Sherry Dell



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**Sherry Dell** - August 24, 2022 at 08:04 PM

MS

“ So sorry, Karen, Rob, & Ian, to hear about Steve's passing! I worked with him for over 20 years at BHS. In that time, we had numerous conversations & interactions, and never once was a conversation with Steve boring! The stories, jokes, & quips were always, always humorous, fascinating, interesting. I will never forget his rendition of "Happy Birthday" sung to the melody of "The Volga Boatman"! Steve was one of a kind and sorely missed when he retired from BHS, but the school's loss was Van Galder's & others' gain for Steve spread his humor wherever he went enriching lives.

*Mike Searls  
Brodhead*

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**Michael Searls** - August 24, 2022 at 04:58 PM

SW

*I remember Steve for singing at our wedding 56 years ago. My request was "Oh, perfect love." It was beautiful.*

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**Sue Nelson, Janesville, Wisconsin** - November 04, 2022 at 11:52 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Steve Benton.*



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August 24, 2022 at 11:12 AM



“ *Karen, We are so sorry for your loss. We enjoyed being on several of your Excel tours. You both were great tour guides. We had the privilege of going places on those trips that we would not have gone to on our own. He was such a friendly, fun guy to be around. You could tell he enjoyed what he did! Our sympathy to you and your family. Chuck and Connie Avery (Minnesota)*

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**Connie** - August 24, 2022 at 08:55 AM



“ *Karen, we were so sorry to learn of Steve's death. We enjoyed our time at Alamo Rose sharing poker, pranks and music. Steve was a man of many talents and we were blessed to have known him. Mike & Linda Thurber*

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**Linda Thurber** - August 24, 2022 at 12:03 AM



“ *Karen, we were so sorry to learn of Steve's death. We do have wonderful memories of our time at Alamo Rose together. The poker games, pranks and music were so much fun. Steve had many talents and we were blessed to get to share them.*

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**Linda Thurber** - August 23, 2022 at 11:56 PM

KV

“ We enjoyed his fantastic singing and his personality. John enjoyed playing poker with him! He really looked forward to his special music at church. We have a Steve bowl to remember him!!

*Karen and family so sorry for your loss. May God wrap his loving and comforting arms around you and your family during this very difficult time.*

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**Karen Verhusen** - August 23, 2022 at 10:37 PM

BV

“ Karen we are so sad to hear about Steve's death. We have so many great memories of good times shared at Alamo Rose. We pray God's comfort and peace for you and your family. Sending hugs and prayers.  
*Ric h ard and Brigitte*

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**Brigitte Velich** - August 23, 2022 at 09:57 PM

LS

“ Karen so sorry to hear this. Allen and I thought a lot of Steve and you. Allen has a bowl Steve made and it is beautifulpeace. Boughtit at a Craft Show tAlamo Rose.. Prayer for comfort and peace.

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**Linda Schwartz** - August 23, 2022 at 09:34 PM

CS

“ We are so sorry to hear of Steve's passing, & send our condolences to Karen & the family. We enjoyed his many talents & friendship when we all wintered in Texas. Janet & Charles Skellenger

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**Charles & Janet Skellenger** - August 23, 2022 at 09:32 PM

KR

“ Steve was always teaching. I have a piece of Spalted wood from Steve. He was fun to be around at Alamo Rose in Alamo, TX. He and Karen are an exemplary couple. We extend our sympathy.  
*Kathy and Roger Rasing*

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**Kathy Rasing** - August 23, 2022 at 09:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Steve Benton.



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August 23, 2022 at 12:33 PM

JA

“ *Karen, I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Steve. I will never forget when I was going to college at UW Platteville and lived at Heathwood. Steve and his friends would come over at night and sing to us. Such joy they brought. Then we (Don and I) got to know your family so much better when you, Karen, started teaching at Parkview. Such great memories of a great family. Judy Albright*

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**Judith Albright** - August 23, 2022 at 09:56 AM

PC

“ *Sending hugs and sympathy to Karen and family. My fondest memories are of wonderful Christmas eves with, luminaries, good food, hot toddies and great stories. Thanks for those memories.*

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**PEGGY Ann COOK** - August 22, 2022 at 07:14 PM

CC

“ *Mr Benton helped me during a hard time when I was at BHS. I will always remember and be grateful for his intervention that resolved the situation. Praying God’s comfort on you in your loss. Colet Markham Cook*

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**Colet Markham Cook** - August 22, 2022 at 11:30 AM

VZ

“ *Virginia Morgan Zahn lit a candle in memory of Steve Benton*



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**Virginia Morgan Zahn** - August 21, 2022 at 06:37 PM

DM

“ *I will miss our Excel friend. He was a great tour guide but more than that, he was funny, caring and always friendly to one and all. I believe he never met a person he didn't like. His gift of gab was legendary. I was privileged to know Steve, and my sincere sympathy to you, Karen, and all of your family. Dori Matson*



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**Dori Matson** - August 21, 2022 at 05:55 PM

LL

“ *Leann Looze lit a candle in memory of Steve Benton*



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**Leann Looze** - August 21, 2022 at 05:34 PM

DC

“ Steve was a college friend of mine. In my freshman year, college wasn't working for me and I was ready to dropout. Gary Battles called and invited me to a party at 'The House' where Steve and he lived. Steve was a blast. I had so much fun that night that mostly, because of Steve, I decided to stay in college and did graduate. RIP 'PIONEER' Dale Caraway- Maquoketa IA.

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**Dale Caraway** - August 21, 2022 at 09:38 AM

LM

“ Larry And Mary Malcook lit a candle in memory of Steve Benton



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**Larry and Mary Malcook** - August 21, 2022 at 09:02 AM

RV

“ So sorry for the loss of Steve. His life had a great positive and fun influence on so many lives leaving wonderful memories. He will surely be missed. May he RIP.

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**Rita Vickers** - August 21, 2022 at 08:22 AM

GM

“ Gary And Mary Mason lit a candle in memory of Steve Benton



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**Gary and Mary Mason** - August 20, 2022 at 10:36 PM

RS

“ So sorry for ur lose he will be missed



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**Ryan and dawn scheider** - August 20, 2022 at 08:02 PM

PH

“ Steve will be missed and remembered by many friends, colleagues and students. He touched the world with his life. Pamela Van Horn

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**Pamela Van Horn** - August 20, 2022 at 06:05 PM



“ Barbara Robinson Clark lit a candle in memory of Steve Benton



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**Barbara Robinson Clark** - August 20, 2022 at 05:41 PM

PL

“ Phyllis Lentz lit a candle in memory of Steve Benton



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**Phyllis Lentz** - August 20, 2022 at 05:17 PM

MP

“ It is with sadness at the loss of Steve's amazing personality that I offer condolences to his family and close friends. It is with gladness that I give thanks that he was able to make so many positive choices in his life--even at the end. He was a great teacher who was always able to connect with his students. He taught me and my classmates to drive, and, oh, the stories we heard (some probably legend) about those experiences! Who could forget his rendition of the auctioneer song? He will be missed also at the Brodhead United Methodist Church by his fellow choir members and tour groupies. Rest well, Mr. Benton.

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**Marcia Petersen** - August 20, 2022 at 04:44 PM

AO

“ Karen and family, we're sorry for loss.



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**Allen and Donna Olson** - August 20, 2022 at 03:43 PM

BM

“ He was always kind and caring and I am very sorry for loss. He will be missed.



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**Barbara Menehan** - August 20, 2022 at 12:41 PM

LH

“ *Mr Benton was helpful to me during my senior year. He made me feel confident about me. He was kind and honest. Ill always hold a special place in my heart for him due to his caring about my success or failure. God speed Mr. Benton. Deepest condolences to his entire family.*

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**LouAnn (Collins) Harmel** - August 20, 2022 at 12:31 PM

DW

“ *Dean And Nancy Walters lit a candle in memory of Steve Benton*



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**Dean and Nancy Walters** - August 20, 2022 at 11:46 AM