



Stephen Oscar Wood

August 21, 1962 - October 14, 2024

Stephen Oscar Wood passed away peacefully at home in Gadsden, AL on October 14, 2024 at the age of 62. Stephen was born in St. Louis, MO on August 21, 1962 to Eugene W. Wood, Jr & Ethel L. Wood. He treasured his time in Milwaukee, WI; Sugarland, TX; and Gadsden, AL. He attended Tuskegee University as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and graduated from Texas Southern University with a BS of Biology. He proudly boasted a strong pride for anything Texas. He was an equal opportunity Texas sports fan, especially against the state of Alabama. Upon graduation, his mother requested a graduation photo for Mother's Day; this is how he was discovered and began an international modeling career.

In 2008, he retired from his modeling career to become a hands-on father and entrepreneur. This strengthened his love of German cars, inspiring his corporate Mercedes Benz sales experience and SNA (Ste(v)e-Na-Audria) Investments LLC. Throughout the years, he volunteered as a beloved soccer coach, deputy sheriff, election worker, Smoke on the Falls BBQ judge, Gift to Gadsden instructor, and Way of the Cross. It would not be uncommon to find a hood of a car in the formal dining room or a vintage BMW motorcycle in the living room as a piece of art (*don't touch the art*). It would also be common to see multiple cars in the driveway that might or might not run. You can also always catch him with something sweet to eat in his hands, wherein recently he smuggled brownies

in return for bartered cookies. His favorite pastimes include supporting female soccer (especially Hawks, Tornadoes, Gadsden City, or UAB where his daughter thrived under his coaching), restoring cars (especially if it was a good buy or a gift), sharing funny internet content, and beating his daughter in a footrace.

Stephen was preceded in death by his wife, Nathalla Johnette Elmore M.D.

(2007), and his father,

Eugene William Wood Jr (2010). He is survived by his mother Ethel L. Wood,

daughter Audria S. Wood, his devoted partner Samantha C. Corker, non-

human children (Tieraghan, Zola, Baxter), his brother Eugene W. Wood III

(Alexandre), his sister Karen A. Wood (Darlene), his niece Kendra G.

Norwood, his nephews Eugene W. Wood IV & Kerry B. Norwood Jr, friends Dr.

& Mrs. Haller alongside godchildren Megan & Allison, and a host of other

family members and neighbors. Audria is in her third year at UAB Heersink

School of Medicine, expected to graduate June 2026. Samantha is a loving

and supportive teacher at Gadsden City High School and compassionate

coach of the men's soccer program. Her time as a Tornadoes co-coach and

high school soccer coach is the foundation of her relationship with Stephen

and Audria. Baxter has been drafted into an ongoing war with the squirrels.

Tieraghan is battling an addiction with cuddling. Zola remains loyal to the

protection of her loving family.

Special Thank You to Brandi Mims, staff and nurses at Aveanna (Chaneeka

Thomas & Ashley

Chambers), sitters (Marilyn, Stephanie, & Michelle), Gadsden Regional

Medical Center (Dr. Katie

Hardeman, Dr. Elquis Castillo, Dr. Sunil Jaiswal), and UAB Medical Team (Dr.

Mehmet Akce, Dr. Vikas Dudeja, Dr. Salila Hashmi, Dr. Junaid Raja, CRNP

April Blankenship).

The service will be at Gadsden First United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 11 am with visitation and meal to follow. Virtual options may be found at <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media>

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to the Gadsden City High School's Stephen Oscar Wood Memorial Pre-Health Scholarship.

Visit <https://fans.s2pass.com/link?id=QUw7UTBPeXVCYIFLOUJHQkNycTdPR0k=&op=shop> "Designated Donations" or contact Gadsden City High School (1917 Black Creek Pkwy, Gadsden, AL 35904).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gadsden First United Methodist Church
115 S 5th St
Gadsden, AL 35901

Tribute Wall

SB

“ I met Stephen almost 35 years ago as part of his cohort of models, booking agents, photographers, and friends at Page Parkes. A new language must be created to accurately describe his uniqueness. I am grateful for and will never not miss my brilliant, creative, witty, and beloved friend.

Stacy Porter Bynes - October 19, 2024 at 07:10 PM

SS

“ Steve was my modeling “twin”! We worked together more than not. He was always a welcoming and calming face on any set, at any location. We had our own unique “walk/skip” that was requested at many fashion shows. I am laughing and crying thinking about it now. What a gentle man and a gentleman. He made me a better person. I loved he and Na. I will miss my friend.

Sam Steph - October 19, 2024 at 03:02 PM



Sam thank you for your shared memories. Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:12 AM

M(

“ *In loving memory of my dear friend Steve. We met a lifetime ago in our early 20s at Page Parkes in Houston, and from that day forward, life was an adventure—traveling the world, always watching out for each other. Steve wasn't just a friend; he was a steady, supportive presence in my life, always ready with advice—whether about work, relationships, or which car I absolutely had to buy.*

Even when life took us to different cities, Steve's thoughtfulness never wavered—like the time he sent me this message out of the blue, reflecting on our time together: "This picture reminds me of South Beach back in the day... we were chillin', and it hit me how lucky I've been to have you in my life all these years. You've always been such a good friend to me, and I just wanted to say how much that means. Be well, my friend. Big hug."

That was Steve—always looking back with gratitude, always making sure the people in his life knew how much they mattered to him. I'll miss him every day, but his kindness, friendship, and words will stay with me always. Rest easy, my friend. I love you, Monica



Monica Kanellitsas (Mesones) - October 19, 2024 at 02:32 PM



Thank you Monica for sharing. It was a privilege to here your message. I also never saw this photo, what a pleasant surprise. Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:10 AM

BA

“ I first met Steve in the late 80’s. Our friendship was instantaneous. It didn’t take long to discover his love for anything chocolate (don’t dare add nuts to his brownies or chocolate cake!) He was in his late 20’s and pretty much at the top of his modeling career. One of his best buds was Charles Taylor, who was also at the top of his career in modeling. What a feast for the eyes to see those two together!!! Charles had gone to high school with my older two kids. I frequently invited them to dinner with my family. We’d park the cars on the street and CT and Steve would play basketball with my son Kelly and down a gallon of homemade lemonade like nobody I’d ever seen! When he and Na were planning their wedding, Steve asked if I’d please make their wedding and grooms cakes. That led to a deepening friendship with Na. Our common bond was we both loved to cook and bake. We were always sharing recipes! Fast forward a few years when our youngest of four was getting married, Steve and Na were there for anything we needed. Kristi remembers, “A sweet memory: Steve loved to share his enthusiasm of older and classic cars with us. A funny one: when I tried on the bridesmaid dress Na made for me for Kari’s wedding, she had me turn around to check the fit and Steve said “BABY GOT BACK! I told him I wasn’t sure if that was a compliment!” LOL When the family was gathered with Kari and her husband Casey to find out the gender of our first grandchild, Steve and Na were there with us. The following year, Audria was born and I’ve never known a father more proud. They came to our house on her first Halloween with her dressed as a bumblebee - a sleeping bumblebee. Steve held her the entire time and he fell asleep with her in his arms, sitting in the rocking chair. How I’ll miss my loyal, loving, larger than life good looking friend. My last text from him was, “The world is just a better place with you in it, Bobbye. Thank you for everything you do and have done the way you alone do it. You are very special. I have been so blessed to know you. I never want to have not said those words to you.”

That pretty much sums up who he was and why he will live on in so many hearts.



Bobbye Adams - October 19, 2024 at 01:41 PM

EW

What a blessing to share these memories. Thanks Bobbye, Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:07 AM

RD

“ Steve was one of our first models in Houston and helped put Intermedia Models on the map. (Part of the Page Parkes Corp). I remember meeting Steve and thinking what a beautiful man! And so unaware of how striking he was...which made him more loveable and he quickly became a client favorite and most requested. He also became one of my most favorites and he'd walk into my office and we'd chat about everything especially my old Mercedes Benz issues.

Steve had an international appeal and was able to travel everywhere for work but never lost his boyish charm or kind and gentle manners. I was blessed to have had him in my life and wish I had told him how much he meant to me personally and in our business! I think he knew as I remember our chats and how much he made me laugh and that unforgettable radiant smile! I'm sure he's flashing it now in Heaven with Na ❤️

Rachel Duran - October 19, 2024 at 11:06 AM



Rachel thank you for your kind words. Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:15 AM

GB

*“ Rest well Stephen. You are a true warrior. To the Wood family, I have known you forever and truly feel a saddened heart. But joy eventually comes in the morning. Audra. I stay proud of your strength and passion for life. You are his best masterpiece. Much love
Gail Birks*

Gail Birks - October 19, 2024 at 11:05 AM



Gail, my sister you and are family go so far back. Thank you for sharing in this moment. Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:17 AM

TH

“ The Housley/Washingtons purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Stephen Oscar Wood.



The Housley/Washingtons - October 19, 2024 at 08:17 AM



“ The Wood and Housley families have a bond originating in St. Louis, Missouri, that has endured through love and loss, good times and challenging times. We are heartbroken over Stephen's passing but know that he is now at peace with no pain. We are lifting you all up in prayer and wishing you peace and comfort as you celebrate Stephen's magnificent life and legacy.

*Love Always,
The Housley/Washington Families*

Jessica Washington - October 19, 2024 at 08:08 AM



Jessica you know that our family bond, existed before we were even conceived. Our parents helped to create that foundation. The love is mutual. Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:21 AM

CT

“ *Stephen will live forever in my memories as a huge part of my early 20's. To me, he will always be: The founder of the original H-Town crew, an excellent traveling companion, a fearless explorer of the many dangerous areas of NYC, a super-fun roommate, a good example of what a man should be, funny, a super-nerd, a beautiful old-soul, an amazing friend, a mentor...at times, a partner in crime...at times, someone everyone liked off the jump, the delivery boy of the best peach cobbler in the world, the mayor of Miami Beach, one of the best friends I ever had...and finally, he will always be a brother in my heart. Goodbye old friend and I hope to see you again in the next life.*

Condolences to the family. He was amazing.

CT

Charles Taylor - October 18, 2024 at 07:34 PM

LR

Charles - What a beautiful tribute to our amazing friend. Alex Koffler and I have been trying to contact you - If you run across my message - could you please contact me - It's Leah (NYC Summer of '92).

310.210.2205

My heart is so sad and I wish I had known. Would have loved to have had one more conversation w him.

leah Rhodes - October 19, 2024 at 01:57 PM

AK

I was deeply saddened to learn of Steve Wood's passing. Reflecting on our time as roommates in New York decades ago brings back a flood of cherished memories. As a native New Yorker, I had reservations about living with Texans; I wasn't sure what to expect. To my pleasant surprise, Steve and Charles were genuinely fun and lighthearted, even though they subjected me to some pretty nasty hazing rituals, as elder brothers often do.

Steve stood out with his self-deprecating humor and the close bond we formed. For me, his passing hits so strongly because he connected us to a very special time in our lives when we felt invincible. His death forces us to examine our own mortality.

Though we lost touch over the years, Steve's impact on my life remained. To his family and friends, please accept my deepest condolences. May his memory bring comfort and strength during this challenging time.

With heartfelt sympathy,

AK

Alexander Koffler - October 19, 2024 at 02:50 PM



Charles, Leah, and Alexander, thank you for sharing these memories of our Brother. You have allowed us to shared in those special moments. Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:28 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stephen Oscar Wood.*



October 18, 2024 at 03:02 PM

BL

“ Barbara Lynn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Oscar Wood.

Barbara Lynn - October 18, 2024 at 03:02 PM

TF

“ The Lynn Jr. and Lynn III families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Oscar Wood.

The Lynn Jr. and Lynn III families - October 18, 2024 at 12:59 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Oscar Wood.



October 18, 2024 at 12:59 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Oscar Wood.



October 16, 2024 at 10:33 PM

KF

“ Ken and Landa Hauser and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Oscar Wood.

Ken and Landa Hauser and Family - October 16, 2024 at 10:33 PM

DP

“ Debbie P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Oscar Wood.

Debbie P. - October 16, 2024 at 08:49 PM

EL

“ More then a gentleman...Stephen had class beyond the World.

ed locke - October 16, 2024 at 08:35 PM

DB

“ Karen, so sorry for your loss. May the memory of your brother be a blessing. Sending hugs and prayers your way. Denice Brue-Clopton 💙



Denice Brue-Clopton - October 16, 2024 at 02:17 PM

TL

“ Condolences of comfort and peace to the family of Stephen Wood. May the grace and unyielding love of our Father in heaven abide with you and yours during this time. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



Tonya V. Lawshe - October 16, 2024 at 01:47 PM



My condolences to the family.... Steve, a wonderful person and High School classmates of John Foster Dulles High School. R.IP. my brother
♥♥

Gwen (Melton) Wright - October 18, 2024 at 11:45 PM



Tonya, thank you for the kind words shared on behalf of Stephe. Our family bloodlines run deep although maybe not by DNA but a true love. Thank you Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:35 AM



Gwen, thank you for making time to honor our Brother's memory. Gene Wood

Eugene Wood - October 26, 2024 at 06:37 AM