



## Stephen L. Pugsley

October 8, 1932 - October 30, 2017

Stephen L. Pugsley, age 85, of Royal Oak, passed away October 30, 2017. He was born October 8, 1932 in Detroit to the late Donald and Doris Pugsley. Stephen was the beloved husband of the late Barbara for 37 years; proud father of Tom (Karen) Mercier, Susie Mercier, Joe (Kim) Mercier, the late Michael Pugsley and the late William Pugsley; dear father-in-law of Joyce Puglsey, loving grandfather of Matthew Pugsley, Jillian Pugsley, Peter Mercier and David Mercier; brother of Philip (Joanie) Pugsley; and dear uncle of several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Stephen graduated from Lincoln High School, Ferndale, in 1950. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years, during the Korean War. Stephen studied Fine Arts at the Detroit School of Arts and Crafts from 1955-1956. He started his career at Chrysler Missile and then worked for General Motors as a technical illustrator until he retired on May 1, 1995. Stephen also studied graphics and print making at the College of Creative Studies in 1975. His passions included lithography, painting, sketching and teaching others about art.

The family will receive friends Friday, November 3, from 2-8 pm with a prayer service at 7 pm at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. In-state Saturday, November 4, from 9:30 am until time of Mass, 10 am at St. Mary Catholic Church, 730 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak.

Memorials are appreciated to the donor's choice.

Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 3. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Prayer Service

NOV 3. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Mass

NOV 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
730 S. Lafayette Avenue  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ I came here now because I just found a print in my family boxes. It's so amazing and beautiful. Of an old church. My Jesus be merciful to Stephen and welcome him home.

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

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**steve** - April 07 at 08:09 PM

NA

“ Many years ago I bought a lovely print done by Stephen for my husband.  
He had it in his music studio until he passed away suddenly last December. As I was going through things to keep and give away I came upon this lovely print and thought I'd look him up. I am so sorry that he has passed away and I can't relate this message to him, but I thought perhaps one of his loved ones would be interested in having this print.

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I can be reached at [nrgehringer@wowway.com](mailto:nrgehringer@wowway.com)  
my sincere condolences  
Nancy

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**nancy** - September 02, 2018 at 12:24 PM

LL

*I have had a wonderful print by stephen since about 1982. I loved it the moment i first saw it and i still do. I met stephen at a local art show a few years ago and i really enjoyed the chance to talk with him.*

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**Linda Loisal** - February 28 at 11:13 PM

GC

“ I was dusting one of the framed prints I have of Steve's and thought I'd check to see if he had been discovered. I am so sad to learn he has passed away. I worked on the adjacent desk to Steve at Chevrolet for a couple of years and regard myself as very lucky to have got to know him as a friend. I have three of Steve's works, plus some doodling's, portraits of me while working, but my prize possession was the greeting card Steve drew to commemorate the birth of our first son. Great memories, RIP buddy

*My sincerest condolences to the Family, I will always remember him.*



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**Graham Cooper** - January 09, 2018 at 11:27 AM

LA

“ I am so saddened to find Mr. Pugsley has passed away. I recently discovered one of his pieces in a little shop in Grosse Pointe. The work struck me, more than any other piece in my life. It hangs next to our front door. I just searched for his name so I could write him a letter. My deepest sympathy for your loss. Please know how much his work has touched our family!

*Warmest regards,  
Lauren McGregor*



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**Lauren** - December 21, 2017 at 11:16 AM

RK

“ *How I enjoyed getting to know Stephen and caring for him for the last five months. He was truly thankful for every day and would tell me this on the days I cared for him. My sympathy and condolences to the family and especially wonderful Susie. Love- Releigha King.*

Releigha Kinh - November 02, 2017 at 05:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen L. Pugsley.*



November 01, 2017 at 09:33 AM



“ *Those "nieces and nephews" are Christine Westrick, deceased, Cate Swift, Elizabeth Edwards, Mark Pugsley, Thomas Pugsley, Susan Sage, and Jeanne and Roger Vail. He also greatly enjoyed the company of our offspring, his great nieces and nephews, during many family gatherings.*

Lisa Edwards - November 01, 2017 at 08:47 AM

JP

*Yes, Lisa; he did enjoy those times! He talked often about them.*

Joyce Pugsley - November 01, 2017 at 10:29 AM

DG

*Steve was a phenomenal friend. He started off as a dedicated teacher, showing me various printmaking techniques. We quickly went from instructor and student to friends, experimenting and playing with printmaking and drawing. We took occasional field trips, and spent many wonderful hours making art.*

*He was always positive and encouraging and shared everything he knew. He was a wonderful mentor to me, with his constant support and gentle guidance in my development as an artist. We also supported each other as friends, and I got to know Barbara and Susie as our lives intertwined. When Steve became too ill to venture upstairs or down for hands-on play, we talked for hours and hours, and shared our delight in good art. I have wonderful memories of his thoughts on life, art, cats, canoes, etc. He became a huge part of my life, changing it for the better, and I will miss my buddy.*

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**Debra Gash** - November 01, 2017 at 02:20 PM

CS

*He talked about you so much, Debra! He really admired you and took great pleasure in your artistic development. He often talked about how he would show you something and then you would come back with a creative variation on it. I think you taught him as much as he taught you! He loved the teaching process and his students meant so much to him. He spoke of you with great pride and affection.*

*Cate Swift (niece)*

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**Cate Swift** - November 01, 2017 at 05:03 PM

BS

*Some 50 odd years ago, Steve's and my paths crossed when an engineering shop that he was working for hired this green kid fledgeling as a junior illustrator. As fate would have it, the rookie was sat down next to one of the businesses best illustrators... Stephan L Pugsley. Not only was Steve one of the best, He took much delight and much pride in developing new talent. He worked with me to when we were challenging each other to create quick, one minute sketches on small drawing pads ( birds, telephones, whatever). those exercises sharpened my skills and delighted Steve as he watched my progress. I never knew a person who took so much pleasure in mentoring.*

*We became good friends and signed up with GM a couple weeks from each. At the time neither of us realized that we were in for the long term. As recently as a few weeks ago we both marveled at how fortunate we were enjoying the benefits of good work, good pay and good friendship. Steve was one of the most sought after illustrators at the Tech Center. through it all we conversed about every subject under the sun. Art was almost always at the top of our list but Steve was very well read and we could discuss almost anything.*

*After each of our retirements there were casual lunches, Painting sessions at my house, print making at his and always accompanied by stimulating conversation...many,many good memories.*

*I will truly miss you my dear friend...God Bless*

*Bob Steiner*

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**bob steiner** - November 01, 2017 at 06:40 PM

DM

*I had the pleasure of meeting Stephen a few years ago. He was such a nice man! Always so thoughtful, asking about my family each time I saw him. I enjoyed hearing his stories of years past. His teachings, his jobs, his friends and his love of art. Each time I would see him, he would update me on a phone call or letter he received from an old friend, coworker or family member . They always meant so much to him .*

*I was able to go upstairs with him a few times where he showed me artwork that did not hang on the walls downstairs. His and Barbara's. Such talent they had!*

*I would make him laugh at the thought I could not even draw a stick figure. He showed me his printing machine in the basement and I heard many wonderful stories about the many years he enjoyed using it. I never tired of hearing his stories. I Had the pleasure of meeting Barbara and Susie also. He was so proud of them both  
I'll miss you Stephen Pugsley! My heart is with your family during this difficult time.*

*Donia M*

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**Donia Michielutti** - November 01, 2017 at 07:00 PM

CH

*I worked with Steve at GM. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I still have a print of his that makes me think of him every time I pass by it. He was an extremely talented man and I am so glad to have known him.*

*Cheryl C*

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**Cheryl** - November 02, 2017 at 09:10 AM

BM

*Growing up with Steve's step-son, Joe, I knew Steve a very long time. He was kind and funny. He always told me the most intellectual jokes he could think of, because he said he knew I would understand them. My favorite one was the one about the philosopher Des Cartes. The world was enriched by his presence.*

*Brian M.*

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**Brian Menard** - November 03, 2017 at 09:48 AM

BS

*My wife, Chris and I met Steve and Barbara about 17 years ago through St. Mary Church. We hit it off right away because Chris and I were also artists. After many visits to each other's house with dinners and drawing sessions, plein air painting trips, discussions of art, and many other topics, we became close friends. Steve and Barbara inspired and encouraged us in our artistic endeavors. Steve was a great teacher, and loved sharing his knowlege with anyone he met. He was also very generous in giving his artwork as gifts; as many will attest. We will miss him greatly.*

*Bob S.*

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**Bob Santoro** - November 03, 2017 at 10:16 PM

LB

*Steve was a last of the truly great Illustrators at GM. Even with the advancement of computer design technology we still relied on him to facilitate our design development using his artistic ability. He would offer design suggestions with a kind of humility. His soft voice and congenial attitude was always recognized by many of the Design Team. Steve will be missed by all.*

*Len Brawner*

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**Len Brawner** - November 13, 2017 at 06:00 PM

RC

*Steve and I were in kindergarten together at Coolidge school in Ferndale. Years later in about the forth grade, he sat behind me in class. One day I turned around to see him making a sketch of a beautiful woman. Where did he get that talent? Many years later, he drew a caricature of me for my retirement party. He probably made it in fifteen minutes. It still hangs in the basement, after thirty years, among all my family pictures.*

*Ray Culbertson*

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**Ray Culbertson** - November 13, 2017 at 08:57 PM

MH

*Steve was in my group of talented illustrators we had at GM. He was not only great at his daily work but among the best at handling the requests that always come in to any good illustrator department for some event or another. That includes management and Steve did excellent on many.*

*Mal Hanson*

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**Malcolm Hanson** - November 13, 2017 at 10:36 PM

GI

*I just learned of Stephen's passing. I first saw his art at the local artist supply store, now called Dick Blick. I asked about the work and Anita connected us. It turned out we lived in the same neighborhood. After speaking on the phone for a while he invited me to his home and showed me many pieces of art, as well as the basement. I was interested in etching, and he spent a few hours teaching me all he could about the process. We did a few pieces, and talked of doing more. I reciprocated and invited him to see my letterpress operation in my basement. He had a similar interest, so I showed him my work end equipment. I later purchased an etching press and am just now, in 2021, coming around to complete my first project. I visited the store and asked Anita if she knew how he was doing. That's when I heard the bad news. He was so helpful, loved to share his passion, and wanted to teach alternative means to producing etchings that were cost effective to promote the continuation of this classic art form. He really wanted others to learn and he was a great mentor. I will always remember him fondly.*

*Geof Innis  
248-217-2677*

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**Geof Innis** - January 14, 2021 at 09:47 PM