



Steven H. Domke

August 17, 1952 - January 19, 2026

Steven Harold Domke, 73, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by loved ones on January 19, 2026. Born on August 17, 1952, in Highland Park, Michigan, to the late Raymond and Elizabeth Domke.

Steve was a proud graduate of Central Michigan University and Marygrove University, where he received his master's degree, a reflection of his deep and enduring love of learning. He shared that passion throughout his career as a beloved social studies teacher and softball coach at Eisenhower, Stevenson, and Utica High Schools, where he inspired students both in the classroom and on the field. He had a boundless curiosity about the world and a genuine love of travel, always eager to explore new places and broaden his understanding. Those who knew Steve were drawn to his magnetic personality-warm, engaging, and effortlessly uplifting. He had a remarkable ability to make others feel valued, connected, and truly seen. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched and the lasting impact of his kindness, enthusiasm, and generous spirit.

Steve married Deborah Locke in 1973 and together they welcomed three children. Although their marriage eventually ended, they remained friends. Steve fell in love again with Nancy Hickey whom he married in 2005. Their partnership was one of deep companionship, travel, shared laughter, and mutual support that lasted over 20 years. Steve is survived by his wife Nancy;

his children Kristine St. Onge (Joseph); Nathaniel Domke (Sarah) and Daniel Domke. Also, by his step-children Jonathan Hickey (Theresa); Shaun Hickey (Carly), and Andrew Hickey (Heather); and his many cherished grandchildren. He is also survived by sister Linda Linari (Dave) and brothers David Domke (Tammy) and Raymond Domke (Larry Berdasono).

A former Boy Scout and Scout Leader for his sons, Steve was also an active member in the community. He served as a congregation elder and choir singer of Redemption Lutheran (Sterling Heights), Holy Redeemer (Dryden), and Romeo United Methodist Churches. He was elected President of the Multi-Lakes Association for Civil War Studies, Board member of the Utica Education Association, Board Member and Judge of the Michigan Social Studies Olympiad. He coached freshmen, junior varsity, and varsity girls softball and a variety of Quiz Bowl and academic competition teams. He was also a proud living historian who traveled the country educating about the American Civil War.

Steve was the recipient of the Michigan American History Teacher of the Year, WDIV Macomb County Outstanding Teacher, Utica Community Schools Teacher of the Year, and the first teacher recipient of the Utica Community School's Legacy of Excellence Award.

Family and friends will gather together to remember Steve's impactful life at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Rd (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke), Utica, MI, 48317 Friday, January 30, 2026 from 2:00-8:00 pm. A Celebration of Life will be held at Romeo United Methodist Church 280 North Main St, Romeo, MI 48065, Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 11:00am with a gathering at 10:00am, followed by a luncheon and fellowship.

If you would like to make a memorial contribution in memory of Steve, please consider a contribution to the American Battlefield Trust (battlefields.org) to

preserve and interpret historic sites to help educate posterity.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN 30. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Memorial Gathering

JAN 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Romeo United Methodist Church
280 N. Main Street
Romeo, MI 48065

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

Romeo United Methodist Church
280 N. Main Street
Romeo, MI 48065

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Like hundreds of others here, I am a former student. I graduated from Stevenson in 1995. Whenever the subject of "best teachers you've had" comes up...there are maybe 2 or 3 names that come to my mind and Mr Domke is always one of them. His deep passion for the subjects he taught made it impossible not to listen. When he would tell a story about a civil war battle or early American political conflict, his voice would shift...and suddenly the room was transported to a riverside campfire in 1862. What a gifted storyteller. But far and away his best quality was the respect he gave every single kid. I'm telling you right now this man left a lasting impact on me. His impact has almost nothing to do with history or government. It was the way he treated people. This was the first teacher I ever had who talked to me like I was a person, with value, and autonomy. Do you know how that makes a teenager feel? People throw around the word "empowerment" but I don't think they really know what it means. We were actually being listened to by a person with authority and that was very rare in schools at the time. Every person he met had value and he made sure they knew it. Probably the most telling thing about his style was that you wanted to get an A in his class...not because you cared about the subject, or even the GPA...but because you didn't want to let him down. What a rare and beautiful human. Godspeed Domke.

Matt B - February 13 at 09:46 AM

MA

“ It was fun being in Walter league at Redemption lutheran church with Steve. So many good memories camping and hanging out.

Mark & Kathy Anderson - February 04 at 08:20 PM

YT

“ *“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal”.*

John and I have so many memories of adventures with Steve via reenacting the Civil War in challenging environments (read mud, heat, cold, privvys) and later with Nancy. We had many treasured and exciting travel adventures together but we just loved Steve and Nancy's warm, inviting company that made a euchre game just as bonding.

Love of Family, God, Nancy, passing on knowledge, and a fierce lover of democracy, we will sorely miss you, Steve.

An eternal toast to you! EV and John

YVONNE J THIGPEN - January 31 at 08:41 AM

DT

“ *Daryl m T. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.*

Daryl m T. - January 30 at 06:56 PM

LW

“ *Louann W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.*

Louann W. - January 30 at 04:09 PM

SP

“Mr. Domke was one of the most influential teachers in my life. He was my AP US History teacher in the late 1980s. His passion for history made me look forward to going to his class each day. Even after the year was over, I found myself going back to Mr. Domke to learn more from him. His style of teaching was such that even when a student messed up, he allowed them to keep their dignity. I went on to major in history and minor in social studies and speech with a teaching endorsement in each of these areas. As a teacher, I used much of what I learned from Mr. Domke and attempted to pass along his love for learning to those that I taught furthering Mr. Domke's legacy.

I know, I am not the only student he impacted. When I shared of Mr. Domke's passing with my classmates, this is a small sampling of what they shared:

"I remember Mr. Domke so well-his passion for history was so inspiring and it was a pleasure to learn from him. I still use many of the principles he taught me when I mentor people. And I think of his love of civil war history frequently when I drive by historic battlefields in my neighborhood. He definitely made an impact on many students and will be missed!"

"My favorite teacher at Stevenson! He made World History fun, and a wealth of knowledge about so many other things."

"My best k12 teacher by far. I am still thankful for him today."

In addition to his great teaching, I loved Mr. Domke's sense of humor. When he heard that I was going into administration, he said "Pfannes, if you are ever my boss, I will have to retire." So, when I became his boss at Utica High School, I announced his retirement at the first staff meeting. He fell out of his chair laughing (he didn't retire until much later by the way). As an administrator I try to make the kind of decisions that I hope made Mr. Domke proud to have been my teacher.

Thank you, Mr. Domke, for everything! I made a donation in your name to preserve the battlefields I know you loved.

To Mr. Domke's family, my sincere condolences, my heart goes out to you!

Steven Pfannes - January 29 at 10:32 PM

EY

“ *Proud to know him. Proud to work with his son, Nate. Grateful for imparting his knowledge to my daughter, Ryan, and igniting her love for history. Mr. Domke was her favorite and influential in developing her style of teaching.*

Steven Domke is forever a treasure.

Elaine Yager - January 29 at 05:53 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Steven H. Domke.*



January 29 at 03:24 PM

RT

“ *Rich and Bev Terry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.*

Rich and Bev Terry - January 29 at 03:24 PM

FC

“ Floy Chang Campbell purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Steven H. Domke.



Floy Chang Campbell - January 29 at 02:19 PM

FC

“ Floy Chang Campbell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.

Floy Chang Campbell - January 29 at 02:19 PM

SB

“ Uncle Steve always had such a positive and encouraging energy about him. Although distance prevented me from spending extended time with my Aunt Nancy and Uncle Steve, I always enjoyed the opportunities we had to visit. While I wish my family could be there to pay our condolences in person, we've made a donation to the battlefields.org trust in Steve's honor. Sending you lots of love from New Mexico.

Sarah Brooks - January 29 at 01:38 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven H. Domke.



January 29 at 01:26 PM

JS

“ Janet S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.

Janet S. - January 29 at 01:26 PM

TM

“ Tina, Corey, Grace & CJ Mueller purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Steven H. Domke.



Tina, Corey, Grace & CJ Mueller - January 29 at 06:35 AM

TM

“ Tina, Corey, Grace & CJ Mueller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.

Tina, Corey, Grace & CJ Mueller - January 29 at 06:35 AM

DS

“ For those who are unable to make it to the Celebration of Life service for Steve it will be live streamed on the Romeo UMC YouTube page or at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/b9ARhiMxATA>

Devin Smith - January 28 at 04:06 PM

EK

“ When I heard Steven had died my heart broke and I was in a state of shock. We've been friends and colleagues a long, long time. The stuff of memory may fade on details but I can vividly remember when I first arrived at Stevenson HS how Steven, myself, David, Norm, Mike, George, and Phil worked in concert and presented a dynamic to our students that challenged them to think critically and question everything. Steven was the Best of us as is evidenced by the outpouring of love and devotion his former students share. He also was the best of us in love and matters of the heart. He loved Nancy with deep passion and always displayed his love with the sweet and gentle smiles and gaze he showed her, in addition to the many moments shared throughout their marriage. His three children are a testament to how great a father he was as are both women he married. All three are extraordinary people nurtured by an extraordinary father & their mother and step-mother. He also was a damned good friend. I will miss him in many ways. I will miss his strong voice, his commanding persona, his humor, and his wonderful stories of travel, commitment to social causes and tender stories of the students he loved to talk about. I will remember with great honor and pleasure the time we had on Opening Day, Comerica Park, 2016. Both of us recently retired had a blast celebrating not just a new season of Tiger baseball, which we both loved, but a celebration of how good it felt to just be and not have to always do. This world has been greatly diminished by his passing. Last, thank you Steve for the years of camaraderie, intense discussion, good humor, and love you shown to me and so may others throughout your life, a life lived with great purpose and affect. God speed my dear friend.



Eric Karl - January 28 at 02:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Steven H. Domke.*



January 28 at 10:45 AM



“ *James C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.*

James C. - January 28 at 08:18 AM



“ *Your "little brother", Jim Celmer. purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Steven H. Domke.*



Your "little brother", Jim Celmer. - January 28 at 08:13 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven H. Domke.*



January 27 at 06:48 AM

RG

“ Rosemarie and John Glowacki planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.

Rosemarie and John Glowacki - January 27 at 06:48 AM

TC

“ Ted C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.

Ted C. - January 26 at 05:28 PM

DC

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Domke's passing. While many teachers leave a lasting impression on a student's life, there are only a few who impacted me as much as he. I believe it was Junior year 91/92 I had him as my AP US History teacher and what a pleasure that was looking back on it. One of the first / only teachers I recall letting us engage in somewhat passionate (though teenage naive) political disagreement. I will always remember him for his impassioned instruction of the Civil War history. Having moved to Charleston, SC many years ago I find myself frequently recalling the days in that classroom as I stroll through some of the very history that he first taught me and so many others many years ago!

My heart goes out to Kristine, Nate, Dan and the whole family. May peace come to you all in due time and may Mr. Domke rest in peace!

Doug Carnecki - January 25 at 03:47 PM

LB

“ I know Steve because he and my 100 year old Dad are close buddies. They met at Romeo United Methodist Church several years ago when Steve started talking to my dad about his life and his Naval service during WWII. It is my Dad's favorite subject to talk about and he really enjoyed sharing his story with Steve. Steve generously facilitated my Dad joining the local VFW, arranged for him to receive various honors from that organization and insured his participation in the Peach Festival parades. On many occasions Steve would drive from Almont to pick up my Dad in Clinton Township and run him to meetings at church or at the VFW, drop my dad off and then drive back to Almont. Sunday at church was not complete unless my Dad got to see and talk with Steve. My husband and I also enjoyed our visits with Steve. He always greeted us with his unrelenting smile, his energy, enthusiasm and an unselfish interest in what was happening with us, no matter what he was facing or the status of his health issues. Steve's knowledge of history and his ability to share that were amazing, but most of all he was able to really connect with people. My Dad and our family are so thankful to have known Steve. We will truly miss him, but we know in our hearts that he is now at peace and with our Lord.

Lynda Borgacz - January 23 at 10:49 PM

PW

“ It was a pleasure working with Steve at Utica High. Students loved him, staff admired him and I was pleased to call him a friend. Rest in Peace Steve. I will visit a Civil War battlefield this year in your honor.



Pat Wynn - January 23 at 02:14 PM

JE

“ Steve motivated & inspired me to be a better educator. Thank you Steve you'll be missed.

Jeff - January 23 at 06:11 AM

BB

“ I met Steve while working at the Administration Building. I remember him as a kind and friendly man with a great smile. I always enjoyed talking with him. Sending condolences to the family and all who loved him. Barbara Bindle

Barbara Bindle - January 22 at 06:50 PM

SG

I graduated from Stevenson H.S. in May 1987. Steve taught me how to think critically. One of my favorite teachers. I am sure there are thousands of others posting the same thing -- and rightfully so. He made a big impact to so many. Thank you for the sacrifices you made Steve to be a great teacher for us!

Steve G. - January 25 at 06:09 PM

SK

“ Steve was so incredibly sweet, smart and kind. He is one of the few teachers I stayed in touch with and now I'm 50. I can honestly say my life is what it is today because I had great teachers like him. I am incredibly sad to read that he was struggling with cancer and I am sending much love to his survivors and loved one. Steve helped unleash thousands of great citizens into this world

sean kosofsky - January 22 at 07:22 AM

SF

I was just telling my 13-year-old son about him and how a good teacher can make you excited to learn. Mr. Domke was one of those teachers. A group of us went to see one of his Civil War reenactments at Greenfield Village and we learned more in that afternoon than what we could have in a dozen lessons. He was one of the good ones.

Sarah Freeman - January 22 at 07:16 PM

A(

“ April Everett (cousin) purchased the *Fairest of All* for the family of Steven H. Domke.



April Everett (cousin) - January 21 at 07:59 PM

A(

“ April Everett (cousin) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.

April Everett (cousin) - January 21 at 07:59 PM

VO

“ Vinnie Oliveira planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven H. Domke.

Vinnie Oliveira - January 21 at 06:21 PM