



## Steven Strickland

February 28, 1993 - May 14, 2024

Steven Paul Strickland, of Sterling Heights, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly on May 14, 2024 in Clearwater, Florida at the age of 31. Steven was born on February 28, 1993 in Clinton Township to Daniel and Mary Strickland. He graduated from Stevenson High School in 2011. Steven was born with cystic fibrosis, but he never let that hold him back from achieving his goals. Since childhood, Steven had wanted to work for Apple. For over 8 years, he made that dream a reality working as an expert at the Apple store in Somerset Mall. His life's passion, however, was a company he founded, Giant Helmet. These larger than life helmets can be seen not only through stadiums around Detroit, but in stadiums throughout the country. Steven was a true go getter, a hard worker, and he lived life to the fullest. When he wasn't in business mode, he was often spending time with his beloved family or his many friends. When Steven wanted to get away to unwind, he was often found on Clearwater Beach in Florida, soaking up the sunshine. Steven touched so many lives. He had an appeal about him that brought people around. Most everyone that met Steven, left as a friend. He will be missed by many.

Steven is the cherished son of Mary (Matt) DeHayes and the late Daniel Strickland; the loving brother of Angela (Kirk) Wasiloff, Melinda (Kevin) Hill, and Robert (Marla) Witcher; the adored uncle of Audrey, and Jeannie; and the beloved nephew of Sandra (Scott) Harrison, Lucy (Wally) Corwin, Lisa

(Larry) Powell, Deana Huzarski, the late Joseph Lemay, the late Paul Lemay, and the late Debby Strickland.

Steven's family will receive friends for visitation on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., Thursday, May 23, from 11:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Friday, May 24, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of his funeral service at 11:00 a.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 blocks East of Van Dyke), Utica. Steven's service will be live streamed and can be found here: <https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTcxNjMzMTc5NzMxMDIyNCZvbmVyb29tLWFKbWluJmNvcHlfbGluaw==>.

Memorial donations can be made to the family, Rock CF Foundation, 684 West Baltimore Street, Suite 101, Detroit, MI 48202, or at <https://letsrockcf.org/donate>, or the Bonnell Foundation, P.O. Box 1215, Royal Oak, Michigan 48068 or at <https://thebonnellfoundation.org/donate/>. Please share a story or leave a memory at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Cadillac Memorial Gardens East Cemetery

38425 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **22**. 12:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Visitation

MAY **23**. 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Visitation

MAY 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Service

MAY 24. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Steven Strickland Livestream in memory of Steven Strickland*



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**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - May 21, 2024 at 02:51 PM

JC

“ *My sincerest condolences to your family. No parent should have to experience the loss of a child. I met Steven when he was in elementary school and he was always such a ray of sunshine! Every time I see a giant helmet I will always think about Steven. May you find comfort in your memories.*

*Jill Chapoton*

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**Jill Chapoton** - May 24, 2024 at 12:30 PM

JR

“ Steve has been my friend since high school 2009, meeting during fall musical season. We clicked instantly, both having no filter and loving to laugh. He taught me to not care what people say or think about me, the first time in my life I showed my true self. We used to sit and talk for hours at Steak ‘n’ Shake - from simply gossiping to talking about our future hopes and plans. He basically lived in my dorm room for a year at MSU, at the time being very sick but never showing it. From trick-or-treating, graduations, birthdays, my wedding, and more Steve and I always made sure to celebrate with each other and live life fully. I have never met someone so passionate - who else can make people freak out about a giant helmet? He loved working, creating, and collaborating. No matter where we went, at least ten people knew him, and he always remembered the smallest details about their lives to strike up a conversation. Honestly, it made it so hard to make any reservation or event on time - but never bothered me because I understood how Steve affected the lives of many. Finding out about his passing was surprising, although he has prepared me for this moment since we met - reminding me time isn’t promised and not a single moment should be taken for granted. It brings me some comfort knowing he was in his favorite place soaking in the sun and living to the fullest. To celebrate my dear friend - I plan to order KFC with extra gravy, drink a chocolate milkshake, and make sure to reminisce and laugh during this difficult time.

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**JESSICA MORROW RUST** - May 23, 2024 at 10:37 PM

SS

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

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**Steffie S.** - May 22, 2024 at 02:35 PM

YF

“ Your Colony Marine Family purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Steven Strickland.



Your Colony Marine Family - May 22, 2024 at 02:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Steven Strickland.



May 22, 2024 at 11:16 AM

AE

“ Alisa E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Strickland.

Alisa E. - May 22, 2024 at 08:51 AM

L&

“ Love Pamela &Gerald purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Steven Strickland.



Love Pamela &Gerald - May 22, 2024 at 07:32 AM

TF

“ There are no words to convey the depth of our sadness over Steve's passing. Steve wasn't just Dustin's best friend; he was family. He lived a few doors down from us and he was a constant presence in our home, joining us on numerous family vacations and holidays. Steve possessed a remarkable ability to forge connections wherever he went, and memories of his warmth and sociability will remain cherished. Our annual camping trips to the Milan Bluegrass Festival hold some of our fondest memories with Steve. This is where he earned the nickname 'Rooster' from the families that we met there—a nickname that endured for years. His infectious energy guaranteed that every moment with him was filled with joy and laughter. His authenticity and kindness illuminated the lives of all who knew him, and his absence leaves an unmistakable void in our hearts. We are so honored to have known him and we will forever miss him.

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**The Osipoff Family** - May 21, 2024 at 11:33 PM

LM

“ Mrs. DeHayes, Steven's mom came to Walsh Elementary where I was the principal at the time and told me her son, Steven, was going to be a student. She said, 'you'll love Steven, everyone does. He's outgoing, funny and makes friends very easily'. Didn't take long for Steven to prove his mom right. He was just a fun kid, quick witted, and mischievous enough to be interesting without getting into trouble. I ran into him through the years and the last time was at a restaurant bar in Utica. Had the same great big smile and was surrounded by many friends. Told him how great it was to see him, wished him good health, and success in his business. I'm saddened to hear of his passing as it's a loss for everyone who knew him. Condolences to his family. His big personality will be missed 🙏

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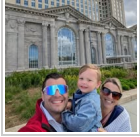
**Lou Misovski** - May 21, 2024 at 09:04 PM

AM

“ *Thinking of you during this difficult time. A donation was made in Steve’s honor to The Bonnell Foundation. From the Cameron’s American Bistro Team.*

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**Andrea Martin** - May 21, 2024 at 09:00 PM



“ I first met Steve when I worked with the Detroit Red Wings in 2015/2016 and we worked together to get a Giant Helmet at Joe Louis Arena. We lost touch a few years later when I left the Red Wings, and he continued fighting on to grow Giant Helmet while dealing with medical challenges.

*I didn't hear from him for a few years, but then we recently reconnected when he reached out and hired my marketing agency to help with Giant Helmet again in 2023.*

*We worked together since last June, as I helped build him a new website, develop a new base signage system working with the Detroit Lions, and launch the "Part of the Art" initiative with Oxford High School.*

*We were on Zoom calls when he'd cough up blood. He would send work emails from the hospital at all hours of the night. He had a mission to make a lasting impact on the community and he wouldn't let anything stop him. For the record, I believe he accomplished that mission.*

*Besides his relentless positive attitude on a professional level, I'm really glad we reconnected because we immediately struck up a good friendship on a personal level and were texting/talking regularly until last week.*

*I respect him and his tenacious work ethic. He never stopped fighting. He was diving around the gym at his annual dodgeball birthday party this past February and I'm so proud of him and everything he accomplished. You'll be missed, buddy.*

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**Stephen Nagrant** - May 21, 2024 at 12:37 PM

CC

“ I wish I had the words to express how my heart breaks for Stevens family and the loss they are experiencing. I am so sorry and my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sending our love from Canada



Cassy Campbell - May 21, 2024 at 12:30 PM

SJ

“ Stephen J. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Strickland.

Stephen J. - May 21, 2024 at 12:04 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Steven Strickland.



May 21, 2024 at 11:39 AM

TD

“ The Greens, Moores and Drexlers purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Steven Strickland.



The Greens, Moores and Drexlers - May 19, 2024 at 08:14 PM

SR

“ Scott Harrison and Sandra Rankin purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Steven Strickland.



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**Scott Harrison and Sandra Rankin** - May 19, 2024 at 01:14 PM

KM

“ Steve is one of the kindest people I have ever met, he was so easy to be around. Hearing this news is heartbreaking and I can't imagine losing such a light. I met him serving at Phoenix, I always just called him 'Chocolate Milk' because the first time I served him, he told me to bring him the tallest receptacle we have full of chocolate milk and to keep it coming. What a loss for the world to not have him anymore, but I am so grateful to have gotten to know him. My deepest regards to his family.

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**Katie May** - May 19, 2024 at 03:35 AM

TF

“ The Osipoff Family purchased the *Tender Tribute* for the family of Steven Strickland.



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**The Osipoff Family** - May 18, 2024 at 10:50 PM

TF

“ The Osipoff Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Strickland.

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**The Osipoff Family** - May 18, 2024 at 10:50 PM

CN

“ Christine Mary Nicosia lit a candle in memory of Steven Strickland



christine Mary nicosia - May 18, 2024 at 01:52 PM

MH

“ Maggie hoffman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Strickland.

Maggie hoffman - May 18, 2024 at 07:55 AM

MH

“ Maggie hoffman purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Steven Strickland.



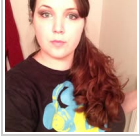
Maggie hoffman - May 18, 2024 at 07:55 AM

KH

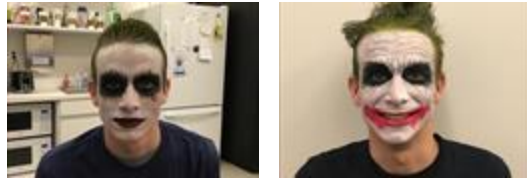
“ I worked with Steven at Brookstone and during that time, I knew he was something special. He always lit up the store when he was in. He was always cracking jokes and always had a smile on his face. He shared his dream and passion of Giant Helmet with me. We had even made a joke about working together after Brookstone (which unfortunately never happened). I will always think of him when I have a Coca-Cola, knowing it was his favorite drink. Thinking about the family during this difficult time.



Kym Holub - May 17, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ These are from Halloween 2016 and 2018 at the Apple Store. He had brought his own green hair color for the occasion, knowing that “The Joker” is what he wanted painted. :) -Ame



Ame Church - May 17, 2024 at 09:40 PM



“ Christina I. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Strickland.

Christina I. - May 17, 2024 at 09:25 PM



“ Lydia, Warren and Sarah Jo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Strickland.

Lydia, Warren and Sarah Jo - May 17, 2024 at 08:42 PM



“ Lydia, Warren and Sarah Jo purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Steven Strickland.



Lydia, Warren and Sarah Jo - May 17, 2024 at 08:42 PM

MR

“ Steve was one of the best, most inspiring, funniest, and most irreverent people I have ever known. The world is diminished with his absence.

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**Matt Reesman** - May 17, 2024 at 08:25 PM

TF

“ The Heller & Neubauer Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Strickland.

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**The Heller & Neubauer Families** - May 17, 2024 at 08:10 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Steven Strickland.



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May 17, 2024 at 08:10 PM