



# Stephen Thomas Howard

March 18, 1940 - August 18, 2018

## STEPHEN THOMAS HOWARD

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Steve Howard died peacefully at his home in Bloomington following a brief illness, with his family at his side.

Born and raised in Santa Cruz, California, he joined the Navy in 1958, where he served for thirty-seven years. His career took him to various locations on both US coasts, and overseas with his family to the Philippines and Japan. During that time, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Purdue University. He ended his Navy career in 1994 as commander of the Crane Naval Surface Warfare base. Upon his retirement from the Navy, he became the CEO of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, where he brought a fresh approach to advocacy for the business community. Having moved around frequently with the Navy, Steve especially valued putting down roots in the Bloomington community and having the opportunity to volunteer with several local organizations. During his tenure at the Chamber, he earned a master's in public administration from Indiana University. He retired in 2005.

Steve met and married his wife Nancy in 1961. Together they raised three children, Missy Seu, Jason and Mark Howard. Following Nancy's death in 1999, he married Cassie Brooks in 2001. Upon his retirement from the Chamber, Steve and Cassie spent four years on a sailboat in Mexico, realizing one of his long-held aspirations. An avid outdoors enthusiast, he especially enjoyed hiking in the California mountains.

Steve is survived by his wife and children, his stepsons Aaron and Bryan Brooks, and eight grandchildren. He was a principled, straightforward man, with a larger-than-life personality, and he had a lasting impact on his family, friends, and colleagues.

According to Steve's wishes, there are no immediate plans for a memorial service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sycamore Land Trust. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com).

# Comments

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“ Steve's love for the Bloomington community was evident not only during his time leading the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, but by his volunteering and involvement in various organizations. He will be greatly missed.

**Bonnie Patton** - August 24, 2018 at 12:28 PM

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“ Steve was a client of mine when he was head of the Chamber and then later I was in a business consulting group with him. He was sharp, friendly, open, and utterly confident in me, which I greatly appreciated. He was passionate about his causes and I loved to soak up his wisdom. He gave so much to Bloomington and to me personally. I will miss him. He was one of a kind.

**Cairril Mills** - August 22, 2018 at 11:48 AM

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“ Steve was such a help to me when I was at the Kelley School of Business. He worked so well with my students and was an amazing mentor to me. I appreciated his guidance, his enthusiasm, and his encouragement. He was quite a man. He will be missed.

Helen Ingersoll

**Helen Ingersoll** - August 21, 2018 at 02:45 PM

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“ Roses For Sympathy was purchased for the family of Stephen Thomas Howard.



August 21, 2018 at 12:41 PM

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“ It has been a gift to spend time with you at our little meetings. Your humor and insight will be missed. I offer my prayers to Cassie and family.

Thanks Dave DePierre



**Dave DePierre** - August 20, 2018 at 04:26 PM