



Mike Steed

March 13, 1944 - April 16, 2020

Michael Parker Steed, age 76 of Bowdon, GA, died April 16, 2020, of melanoma. Mike passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by family and comforted by the loving thoughts and prayers of countless friends and associates. He was born March 13, 1944, in Savannah, GA, the second son of Robert Pentecost Steed and Doris Roop Steed.

Steed was best known for his rapier wit, keen intellect, and unfailingly kind disposition. He dedicated his life truly and capably to helping his community; the customers, employees and partners of his businesses; the multiple committees, boards, and authorities on which he served; his many friends; and the members of his large extended family. He gave freely of himself, investing his efforts aimed at ensuring the happiness and success of others.

Professionally, Mike Steed still worked as a partner in Red Hot Stuff, LLC (Moe's Southwest Grill, Carrollton & Newnan, GA), and as a professional mediator serving the Coweta Judicial Circuit, Magistrate Court. His primary occupation had been as CEO of Steed Company in Bowdon, GA, which was a family business in the textile industry evolving over fifty years (1957-2007) from a simple sales agency of such materials as thread, buttons, and woven labels into a full-on factory printing fabric labels by the millions to meet the needs of the apparel and textile industry across the south, and beyond. Mike enjoyed the privilege of working closely with his father, his dear friend Richard

Robinson, and his first son as partners, along with numerous dedicated employees, many of whom were long serving, building their own successful careers and supporting local families and communities through their work at Steed Company.

Perhaps more importantly, Steed worked tirelessly throughout and to the very end of his life as a servant and leader in his community and beyond. He served for many years as a member and chair of the Bowdon Hospital Authority, which has quietly but significantly grown and distributed assets directly and indirectly supporting the health needs of the Bowdon community for decades, and has recently created an endowment fund managed by the Community Foundation of West Georgia which will continue meeting local health needs indefinitely through a directed grant program. Steed's creativity, vision, and efforts were also instrumental in securing the location and providing local direction for KidsPeace in Bowdon, having served as chairman or board member of their Georgia Board of Associates since the organization's inception. KidsPeace is a residential treatment facility for Georgia children in need of counseling, education, support, and treatment of mostly invisible wounds resulting from mistreatment and neglect that has come to them through no fault of their own. In addition to ensuring these children have a reasonable chance for recovery and becoming productive citizens – breaking the cycle of abuse as they move on to start their own careers and families – the facility has become the second largest provider of employment in Bowdon. A few among the list of his other community engagements and honors are: former chair and director of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce; state host, Georgia Chamber of Commerce Red Carpet Tour; co-chair, State University of West Georgia Foundation Task Force; and he was a founding director of Carroll Tomorrow. Mike Steed has been honored for his service by having areas named for him at KidsPeace, Bowdon and at the City of Bowdon's Copeland Hall facility. He was named Carroll County Small Business Person of the Year in 1994, and Carroll County

Citizen of the Year in 2004 by the Carroll County Chamber.

Mike Steed had varied interests and talents. He was accomplished as a bluegrass musician and music promoter. He sang bass and helped out with whatever else needed doing in the Bullsboro Bluegrass Band, which featured partner Donnie Lee along with Jeff Partridge and two of Mike's sons, and was a sought-after featured act at barn dances, hog killings, and presidential inauguration parties from the seventies up until just a few years ago. Mike would say of this humble band: "We didn't have any fun, but we made a lot of money." In its' heyday, Bullsboro hosted a popular music festival in Newnan that was an annual favorite of the best bands and fans around the south. Later he also, perhaps not as famously, combined his love for music, his skills of organizing and motivating others' civic-mindedness, and his penchant for leadership to create the Bowdon Sertoma Club Concert Series at Copeland Hall in Bowdon, which from 2004 through 2015 featured musical acts ranging from The Fairfield Four to Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver. While these events entertained and culturally enriched the Bowdon community, they also resulted in well over \$100,000 in grants quietly directed by the Bowdon Sertoma Club to meet local needs during that time.

From 1990 to 2004, he also wrote a popular weekly editorial column syndicated and published in over 200 local newspapers by his dear friend David Boyd, the Newnan, GA raconteur and alleged artist who also drew the cartoons for the syndicate. Mike's writings were featured in magazines and books including the one he co-authored with Boyd simply titled, *Cooking With Lard*.

As kind and gentle as Mike Steed was, there was also an extraordinary amount of hustle and fight in him. From the day he learned in August 2019 that he had stage 4 melanoma infecting his brain, lungs, and numerous other

areas of his body, his intent and determination was to “whip cancer’s ass.” Because of this determination, and with the help of great caregivers, he was able to endure challenging circumstances to complete valuable works in the community which will continue right on serving after his passing, and to spend many more enjoyable days providing laughs and guidance to his extended family and many friends. He ultimately succumbed, but he never surrendered to cancer.

Mike Steed was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved brother, Robert L. Steed, of Atlanta, GA. He is survived by his loving wife, Cheryl Johnson Steed, to whom he well knew he owed much of his abilities and success in life. With all humility and boundless gratitude, the family confidently claims that Cheryl Steed is in fact a superhero. There are five children and twelve grandchildren in Mike and Cheryl’s family. Mike is survived by his son Zach Steed of Carrollton, his wife Kelly and their children Caroline, Zane, Anna, and Elise; his son Noah Steed of Bowdon, his wife Connie and their children Marlow and Hank; his daughter Loree Johnson Robinson of Carrollton, her husband Will and their children Anna and Nell; his son David, his wife Lisa and their children Julie Anne and Jake; and his son Wesley Johnson, Captain, USN, of Alexandria, VA and his children Conor and Brody.

Because of health concerns and legal restrictions on public gatherings related to the SARS-Cov-2 novel coronavirus pandemic, the family regrets that a public gathering recognizing Mr. Steed’s passing must be postponed until a later date. A small, private ceremony to mark the occasion will take place next week. The family grieves the loss of opportunity to receive and respond to condolences in the conventional ways at this time, and gratefully hopes all who knew Mike Steed also know their thoughts, prayers, and messages have come through and have provided much needed comfort as intended.

Also, the legacy of Mike Steed’s efforts and attention to the betterment of his

community, his work, his friends, and his family will persist in immeasurable ways. In that spirit, the family invites and encourages those who wish to honor his life to make charitable contributions to either or both of the following two organizations which were dear to his heart, and which had been the focus of much of his recent effort: The Community Foundation of West Georgia will receive donations in honor of Mike either by texting "MIKESTEED" 44321, or by mailing checks to CFWG, 807 S. Park Street, Carrollton, GA 30117. (Please note: "Mike Steed Memorial Fund" on the check); and KidsPeace of Georgia, where donors can be sure their contributions are directed to benefit the Bowdon campus by indicating their contributions are "in memory of Mike Steed" online at www.kidspeace.org/donate or by mailing checks noting the same to KidsPeace, 101 KidsPeace Drive, Bowdon, GA 30108.

Tribute Wall

SM

“ I had the honor of serving as the first Executive Director of the KidsPeace Georgia Treatment Network in Bowdon, Georgia. As a result, I had the privilege and honor of working closely with Mike. In fact, Mike Steed and, his good friend, and neighbor, Tom Upchurch, were instrumental in getting KidsPeace Georgia placed in Bowdon. Mike served as the first Chair of our Board of Associates. He was both a role model and mentor. I always received solid feedback, encouragement and support when I went to him with a question and/or an issue. Mike had a huge heart for the abused, neglected, deprived and traumatized youth we treated at KidsPeace. He worked tirelessly to help us raise funds knowing the State only paid 80% of what it cost to treat such a challenging group of young people. Not only did he strive to make sure their needs were met; he was one of the first in line to defend the kids and advocate for the program. Mike was a keen entrepreneur, entertainer and networker. He never threw out names to boost his ego but he was friends with Stephen Penley, Jeff Foxworthy, and Lewis Grizzard just to name a few. Despite all of this, Mike was most proud of his family. They came first, which was one of the reasons he was so dedicated to KidsPeace. He knew the majority of the kids there did not have a functioning family. Even though it has been a few years since I saw Mike, I will miss him greatly. There are not too many men like Mike Steed in the world today and that is our loss. Scott Merritt

Scott Merritt - April 24, 2020 at 02:26 AM

JS

“ Johnny & Mary Anne Smith lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed



Johnny & Mary Anne Smith - April 23, 2020 at 09:42 PM

LV

“ Lisa Vise lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed



Lisa Vise - April 23, 2020 at 08:13 AM

JB

“ Jane Brown purchased the Cheeseboard Complete for the family of Mike Steed.



Jane Brown - April 22, 2020 at 01:10 PM

JB

“ Since I live in California, I was not able to be as close to Mike as I would have liked. But I am proud that he is my cousin. (His grandfather, Q.P. Roop, and my grandmother, Addie Lou Roop Bartlett, were brother and sister.) But when I visited Georgia he and Cheryl always welcomed me into their home. One of my best memories of Mike was way back in 1959 when Mike was junior usher and I was junior bride's maid at the wedding of my aunt, Betty Bartlett to John Davis.

To Cheryl and all the family -- I'm sending love and giving thanks for all the wonderful memories Mike has left us. I'm holding all of you in my heart.

Love,
Jane Brown

Jane Brown - April 22, 2020 at 12:53 PM

 David Steed

“ Thank you all for your comments and memories of Dad. I've tried to comment on each individual post, but some of them keep going away. Know that your thoughts, kind words and prayers mean so much to us. We are grateful to each of you for taking time to remember Dad. He will be missed by so many. We are so very proud of the life he led and the legacy he leaves behind.

With love and appreciation,
The Steed Family

David Steed - April 20, 2020 at 05:19 PM

LS

“ *Linda Sils lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Linda Sils - April 20, 2020 at 01:32 PM

LS

Linda STILES

Linda Sils - April 20, 2020 at 01:32 PM

David Steed

Thank you, Linda

David Steed - April 20, 2020 at 05:14 PM



“ *Mike was a senior at Bowdon High School when I was a Freshman. He was a model that I hoped to emulate. One of the proudest moments that year was his signing my yearbook with an annotation for continuing to work hard and be true to myself. That spring of his senior year, as was the case back then, the graduating senior football players played the new team in the spring game. The seniors needed a player to fill out their team. I was a backup quarterback as a Freshman and was assigned to the senior team. We won! Since then, and having traveled the world as an Army officer in combat and service, Mike's early annotation in my yearbook stayed with me. Since retirement and on our visits to Bowdon, we stayed with Mike and Cheryl, my cousin and my wife, Pat's, Georgia Baptist roommate. He only continued to inspire and motivate me to be a better person. I will truly miss him.*

Jim Jackson - April 19, 2020 at 06:30 PM



Jim, he thought so highly of you and Pat. We appreciate this kind recollection of your experiences with Dad. We all look forward to being able to visit and celebrate Dad soon.

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ *Mike And Lee Haynes lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Mike and Lee Haynes - April 19, 2020 at 03:14 PM



Thank you so much

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ *Sending love from Alexandria, VA and Cork, Ireland*



Níamh O'Donovan - April 18, 2020 at 07:54 PM



Thank you so much, Niamh. We have truly appreciated you reaching out during this time. We have also loved having the boys here. Special kids.

David

David Steed - April 18, 2020 at 11:31 PM

AH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all through this difficult time. Mike was exceptional and one my favorite people in this entire world! He will be greatly missed.



Angie Hoefling - April 18, 2020 at 07:16 PM



Thank you, Angie. Dad did a lot of good in this world and will surely be missed by many. We appreciate your regards more than you know.

David

David Steed - April 18, 2020 at 11:33 PM

RC

“ Robert Cagle lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed

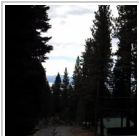


Robert Cagle - April 18, 2020 at 06:59 PM



Thank you, Robert

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ Sheryl Beeghley-Odell lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed



Sheryl Beeghley-Odell - April 18, 2020 at 04:41 PM



Thank you, Sheryl

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:11 PM



My deepest sympathy and love for the family.

TRACY EASON - April 20, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ *David and Zack,*

So sorry to hear of your dad’s passing. By the time he breathed his last breath down here, he was picking and singing bluegrass in heaven. My prayers are with you all during this difficult time. God is with you.

Joy Smith

Joy Smith - April 18, 2020 at 06:22 AM



Thank you, Joy. We're sure going to miss him and playing music together. He thought so much of you and loved your singing! We all look forward to joining that jam session one day.

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ *Susan McCaghren Gibbs lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Susan McCaghren Gibbs - April 17, 2020 at 10:17 PM



Thank you, Susan.

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:14 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Mike’s passing. Mike was so kind , personable , and compassionate. Will always remember his personality, and laugh. May God bless all of u in this time of sorrow. Classmate of 1962. Gayle Lane Comegys*

gayle lane comegys - April 17, 2020 at 07:18 PM



Thank you so much Gayle. He loved his classmates so much. His wit and humor were with him until the end. He surely will be missed.

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ *I served with Mike on the Tanner Hospital Institutional Review Board for several years. As two non-medical community members we often sat together. He was a wonderful, giving servant. I pray his family and friends will take comfort in sharing their stories and knowing how much he loved everyone.*

karen kagiyama - April 17, 2020 at 06:31 PM



Thank you so much, Karen. He loved that board. We appreciate your kind words.

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:17 PM



“ *Mike Steed was one of us, although he was much more. Betty McVaigh*

Betty McVaigh - April 17, 2020 at 04:46 PM

AA

“ *Ann Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Ann Anderson - April 17, 2020 at 04:22 PM

PM

“ *Penny Marlow lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Penny Marlow - April 17, 2020 at 02:21 PM

EH

“ *I am so sorry for you loss. My heart and prayers for you, Mike's family. Comfort and peace.*
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Holbrook - April 17, 2020 at 12:33 PM

TH

“ *Tanner Hospice Care staff would like to offer our condolences to you during this difficult time. We appreciate you trusting your loved one in our care.*

Tanner Hospice - April 17, 2020 at 12:17 PM

JM

“ *Janie Meadows lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Janie Meadows - April 17, 2020 at 11:32 AM

WH

“ *Wallace Harvell lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Wallace Harvell - April 17, 2020 at 11:07 AM

JS

“ *Jane Smith lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Jane Smith - April 17, 2020 at 10:59 AM

WY

“ *Wilda Yarbrough lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Wilda Yarbrough - April 17, 2020 at 09:32 AM

SW

“ *Suzanne Tapley West lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Suzanne Tapley West - April 17, 2020 at 09:17 AM

VY

“ *Vicki Wessinger Young lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Vicki Wessinger Young - April 17, 2020 at 09:12 AM

PA

“ *Patty Akin lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Patty Akin - April 17, 2020 at 08:22 AM

JM

“ *JoAnn Madden lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



JoAnn Madden - April 17, 2020 at 08:16 AM

LJ

“ *Logan Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Logan Jackson - April 17, 2020 at 07:15 AM

BL

“ *Bart Loftin lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Bart Loftin - April 17, 2020 at 06:35 AM

JR

“ *Jan L. Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Jan L. Robinson - April 16, 2020 at 11:29 PM

KW

“ *Kathy Holland Williams lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



Kathy Holland Williams - April 16, 2020 at 10:59 PM

GM

“ Gordon/Mary McLeroy lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed



Gordon/Mary McLeroy - April 16, 2020 at 10:21 PM

LT

“ Lorie Teal lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed



Lorie Teal - April 16, 2020 at 09:29 PM

KM

“ Kevin Morgan lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed



Kevin Morgan - April 16, 2020 at 09:15 PM

David Steed

Thank you, Kevin

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:54 PM

FO

“ Wonderful American. Always enjoyed his wit. Will be greatly missed.

Fred O'Neal - April 16, 2020 at 07:21 PM



Thank you, Fred. His wit and humor were with him until the end. Appreciate your kind words.

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:56 PM

JS

“ *Mike was a wonderful man, and some of my fondest memories are when he and I would sit and just talk at my music store in Carrollton. He was and is a great guy, and I wish him well on his journey. Rest In Peace brother.*

Joel Shipp - April 16, 2020 at 07:03 PM



He thought the world of you, my friend, and I do too. Thank you for your kind words. Miss your store and getting to hang with you.

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:58 PM

JA

“ *JanStitcher lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed*



JanStitcher - April 16, 2020 at 06:53 PM



Thank you, Jan

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:58 PM

DC

“ *Dottie Cavender lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed* ”



Dottie Cavender - April 16, 2020 at 06:45 PM



Thank you, Dottie

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:58 PM

LF

“ *LaDonna Fryar lit a candle in memory of Mike Steed* ”



LaDonna Fryar - April 16, 2020 at 05:45 PM



Thank you LaDonna

David Steed - April 19, 2020 at 07:59 PM