



Mr. Steven Charles Coatney

May 13, 1952 - February 17, 2021

Steven “Steve” Charles Coatney, 68, of Columbia, passed away Wednesday, February 17, 2021. He was born in Manhattan, Kansas on May 13, 1952, a son of the late Loren Charles Coatney and Sue Perkins Coatney.

Mr. Coatney graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in Music Education. He later earned his master’s degree in Music Education from USC in 1975, where he served as a graduate assistant with the USC band under Tom O’Neil. He was a middle school and high school band director for 10 years, serving from 1979 to 1985 as band director at Lexington High School. During his tenure, the Lexington Band earned numerous Superior Ratings at Concert, Marching, and Jazz Band contests. Mr. Coatney was elected to the American School Band Directors Association, served as President of the SC Chapter of the National Band Association, and served on many committees of the SC Band Directors Association.

Mr. Coatney was an accomplished trombone and bass trombone player. He was a member of the SC Philharmonic Orchestra for four years, played with Dick Goodwin Big Band for 15 years, and performed in concert with several national stars, including Dizzie Gillespie, Andy Williams, Cab Calloway, and Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons.

Mr. Coatney then earned his Master of International Business Studies (MIBS) degree from USC in 1988, where he completed a six-month internship with Siemens AG in Karlsruhe, Federal Republic of Germany. He worked for IBM as a programmer and technical specialist from 1989 to 2002. He then worked for BlueCross BlueShield of SC, retiring in January 2013 as a Sr. Systems Analyst. During this time, he earned the prestigious Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in 2005.

Mr. Coatney was a devoted Christian and a member of Shandon Baptist Church from 1991 to present. During this time, he served as Director of Single Adults for several years and taught a Single Adult Sunday School class for 20 years. He played trombone in the Shandon Baptist Church Orchestra. He also enjoyed running and completed the Marine

Corps Marathon in Washington, DC in 1996.

Mr. Coatney is survived by his sister, Ann Coatney Donahue (Gerald); nieces, Kendall Cliatt Wright (Billy), Ashley Cliatt (fiancé, Adam Hixon) and great niece, Cassidy Wright. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Leslie Coatney.

A graveside service for Mr. Coatney will be held at 2 o'clock, Sunday, February 21, 2021 at Greenlawn Memorial Park, 7100 Garner's Ferry Road, Columbia, SC with Rev. Barry Gray officiating. The family will receive friends following the service at the cemetery. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family.

All are invited to attend; however, masks and social distancing are required to create a safe environment for all.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial gifts be made to Shandon Baptist Church, 5250 Forest Drive, Columbia, SC 29206 or to The Salvation Army of the Midlands, 3024 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203.

Events

FEB **Graveside Service** 02:00PM
21

Greenlawn Memorial Park

7100 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC, US, 29209

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Shives Funeral Home - February 22 at 02:03 PM



“ Steve was a dear neighbor and friend to our family. We shared many good times at his home. We looked forward to movie nights and game days. He introduced us to great friends and we always enjoyed wonderful food. Steve was also my walking buddy and he was a wealth of knowledge. We loved him and he is truly missed. ~ Rebecca Taylor

Rebecca - February 25 at 12:32 PM



“ I met Steve in the singles Sunday School class at Shandon around 2001 and we have been friends ever since. He was a good man with a great sense of humor. I have enjoyed many movie nights and Super Bowl parties at his house. He always liked for me to bring the BBQ and I was happy that we were able to do it one more time before he went to be with the Lord. Thanks for the memories Steve.

Keith Gibson - February 22 at 10:34 AM



“ Steve's "magnetism" caught me shortly after I arrived in South Carolina in 2004. We were both working at Blue Cross and I started thinking about putting together a local trombone choir. Right away he liked the idea and enthusiastically pointed me to some of the rest of the local boneheads. That often magical ensemble was one of the more meaningful parts of my life with good friendships and rewarding experiences as a direct result of having met Mr. Steven Coatney. Steve, I offer you my most heartfelt "thanks" -- you will not be forgotten.

Alan Partis - February 20 at 10:43 PM



“ So sorry to hear this. When I moved to lexington I was in the band & played the clarinet. He was my band director. He always told me I had to much talent to waste by not practicing my clarinet mire. What he didn't know was I wanted to play the flute-lol. He was an excellent band director. It's such a loss.
My condolences to his family.

tami mccraw - February 20 at 01:31 PM



“ For many of us, a fondness for Steve was instantaneous. A friendship with Steve was like having a loyal and witty big brother who was nearby and knew something about the road ahead. Better than being a best buddy trombone player, Steve was my Brother-in-Christ. I am rejoicing that he is with the Lord, but saddened that we don't have a few more years of playing side-by-side in earthly orchestras.

Throughout our All State Band high school days, our USC music experiences, church activities, Lexington band directing years, trombone practices, and recent decades of rehearsals and reminiscing, Steve remained a true friend and confidant. His intelligence and humor, his honesty and politeness, his easy-going generosity and friendliness were the measure of a secure and decent man. Steve was dependable. You could play in tune with him.

Revealing his wit, Steve used to say after performances, “Of all the concerts I've ever been to, that was certainly one of them.” Or, “It has been a pressure playing against you.”

My favorite quote of Steve's was repeated many times by both of us in the halls of McMaster. “We're going to STRIKE IT RICH as band directors!” That turned out to be so true many times over. Now I cherish the thought, “I struck it rich knowing Steve!”

Thank you, Steve, for remaining faithful and true to our King Jesus. Looking forward to playing with you again in that Heavenly trombone section!

Russ Rhodes

Russ Rhodes - February 20 at 10:20 AM



“ I was introduced to Steve by Scott Cleland when he invited me to join them to watch a Carolina football game on Steve's large screen tv. I didn't realize it would be such a big screen, but it was the start of a great friendship. Then I found out Steve has been my brother's high school band director. Steve was smart, funny, talented, and a pretty good investor. We endured the highs and lows of being a Carolina football fan. The one constant, no matter the game outcome, was that the fellowship would be great. That evolved into movie nights and dinners. Steve always offered to read Greek poetry, but we were somehow always able to find a movie we could watch. He was so willing to be the host. Now he and Scott get to do movie nights in heaven and maybe he will finally get to recite his Greek poetry.

Ginger Macaulay - February 19 at 05:43 PM



“ I met Steve when our church was on Woodrow Street back in 1979 and our Singles Class was rather small. The Singles Department had a field trip to Myrtle Beach and he liked driving and I remember him saying to those in the car, NO FOOD ALLOWED. He was picky about his car. He was a great facilitator for our SS class and you could tell he loved the Lord by his commitment in sharing the Word with us all. Loved the times we gathered at his home to watch movies or football on his big screen (theatre style). He would join us ladies for lunch and have newsy conversations...bringing laughter which was needed at times. I will miss how he said my name, spreading it out. I pray that God blesses his family and all his friends. Rest in peace Steve till we all meet again.



Cynthia Matlack - February 19 at 02:27 PM



“Mr. Coatney" was my daughter's band director at Lexington High School in the 1980's. What a super person he was! Always had many good memories of him and the band trips, contests and gatherings. I have tried to find where he lived so we would know what he was doing. He has been in our thoughts many times. May God bless his family and friends and know that he impressed many students (and their parents) while he was at Lexington with his kindness, knowledge and patienc.

Claude and Elizabeth Lindler

Elizabeth Lindler - February 18 at 10:02 PM



“ Steve was a great and dear friend to me and numerous others. He loved his family and friends and most importantly the Lord. He provided his home as a sanctuary and gathering place for his friends and family consistently over many years. His wit and love of technology fueled many great and memorable evenings. I will miss him and not forget him.

Rick Ayers - February 18 at 03:41 PM



“ Steve was a fellow trombone player, USC classmate and a brother in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Delta Sigma chapter). Steve was always nice, talented and quick witted. If he was your friend, you were fortunate. Always liked, often admired--- He will be missed! Prayers to his family.. Carroll Bryant

James CARROLL BRYANT - February 18 at 01:28 PM



“ Steve was a dear friend even tho we had not had much contact for the last 30 years or so. When I came to Columbia we would share a meal or go to a concert. There was a special light in him and he was adept at remembering the good things. Now he has gone to be with his savior.

Newell Sheridan - February 20 at 07:44 AM