



Stephen Edward Sowers

November 16, 1942 - October 2, 2021

A visitation and celebration of life will be held for longtime newspaper publisher Stephen Edward Sowers Nov. 6 at Oak Meadow Country Club, where he spent much of his spare time and was known as “King” by fellow golfers.

Visitation is 3 p.m.-5 p.m., with the celebration of life following from 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Sowers, 78, passed away Oct. 2, 2021. He was publisher of the Rolla Daily News for 25 years.

Survivors include his wife, Lonna Sowers; brothers, Tom Sowers and wife, Chris; Jim Sowers and wife, Francine Merenghi; sons, Stephen Sowers and wife, Linda; Seaver Sowers and wife, Serena; Seth Sowers; Shayne Sowers and wife, Amy; Sander Sowers; stepson, Zack Stephenson and wife, Lisa; grandchildren, Stephen Sowers III, Olivia Sowers, Gabriela Sowers, Marcela Sowers, Tucker Sowers, Max Sowers, Mia Sowers, Ethan Stephenson, Nico Basel and Jamie Goodhart; great-grandson, Ford Goodhart; nieces and nephews, Todd Nelson, Samantha Wallace, Kim Tanner, Tom Sowers II, Alyson Schoenfeldt; former wife (mother of his sons), Sheryl; former daughter-in-law, Meredith Sowers Koen.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Edward W. Sowers and Alma Skerik Sowers.

The family is asking Steve's golfing friends, close friends and family to share Sowers stories during the Nov. 6 celebration of life. Whether they would be stories of golf trips and adventures, newspaper-related stories or family memories, the family says Steve would love those stories and help them reminisce and heal through the grieving process.

Sowers was born November 16, 1942, in Jefferson City and was a lifelong resident of Rolla. He was married to Lonna Sowers for 16 years.

He graduated from Rolla High School in 1960 and was on the golf team for four years, the No. 1 player as a senior. He received a BA in Political Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1964 and a Master of Journalism in 1966 from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Sowers was a lifelong Tiger fan.

He served in the National Guard and was known across the region and state for his journalism career. After the death of his publisher father, Edward Sowers, in 1982, Steve was named associate publisher/editor. His brother Jim was responsible for the business management and brother Tom led the advertising department.

Steve followed in his father's footsteps by focusing on local news and investigative reporting, and was well known for his support of local businesses.

The family business, Sowers Newspapers, Inc., also published the Fort Gateway Guide, St. James Leader, St. James Journal, Rolla Advertiser, Rolla Herald, Dixon Pilot, Richland Mirror and Pulaski County Democrat during

Sowers' years with the company.

Upon the sale of Sowers Newspapers, Inc. to American Publishing Co. in 1988, Sowers was named publisher and held that position until his retirement in 2007.

Noted for writing "The Local Scene" for over 40 years, readers looked forward to reading his column. Recognition in his column was sought after (as long as it was positive!) Sowers wasn't afraid to take a strong stance on an issue and could inspire readers to take action.

Memorial contributions are appreciated and suggested to CASA of South Central Missouri for abused and neglected children or G.R.A.C.E. to help families in need with emergencies.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Oak Meadow Golf Course
Rolla, MO 65401

Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen Edward Sowers*

January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ *Stephen Edward Sowers*

January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ *I remember Steve as this beautiful 16-year old boy who asked me to my first dance and was my first date. I can still see us walking into the high school cafeteria and I couldn't have been more amazed had it been The Plaza in NYC. My thoughts are with his family now. We will all miss him.*
Peggy Mason Martin

Peggy Mason Martin - March 31, 2022 at 08:22 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Edward Sowers.*



November 04, 2021 at 02:58 PM