



Steven Roy Napper

July 4, 1948 - May 24, 2020

Steven Napper was born July 4, 1948 in Lamesa, Texas to Lee Roy and Oletha Napper. He passed from this life on May 24, 2020 after a long illness.

The Napper family moved from Lamesa to Odessa in 1949. Steve attended school in Odessa and graduated from Permian High School in 1966 where he was a member of the marching band. He was also actively involved in the Boy Scouts throughout his school years and was awarded the level of Eagle Scout. He spent many week ends and summers at Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow where he served as Chief of the Tatanka lodge. In 1964 he was selected to attend the Boy Scout World Jamboree in Norway.

After graduation, Steve began attending West Texas State in Canyon (now West Texas A & M). He went on to to earn Bachelor degrees in Art and Secondary Education and Master degrees in Psychology and School Administration. In 1967 Steve and 3 other friends formed and organized the Kwahadi Heritage Foundation. Steve continued to serve on the Board of Trustees throughout his life. The Kwahadi Indian Dance team has continued to perform throughout the United States and abroad. Eventually the Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian was built in Amarillo where Steve painted several murals and where numerous paintings are displayed showcasing Steve's artwork.

After graduating college, Steve starting teaching art at Carver Learning Center in Amarillo. He always believed that art was a way for troubled children and young adults to express themselves, and he was able to relate to and help many young people. He was also Vice Principal at Travis Middle school and Palo Duro High School. He eventually moved to California where he worked as a Professional Scout in Whittier, California for several years.

After teaching and a career in Scouting, Steve decided that he wanted to devote his life to his art. God blessed Steve with the ability to bring life to the canvas. He eventually had studios in Amarillo and Georgetown. He eventually moved to Ingram and opened his last studio in the beautiful Hill Country of Texas. He also taught many art workshops

throughout the country and participated in many art shows. He continued his devotion to the Indian culture, Frontiersmen, and to the people of his beloved Texas by chronicling them in his paintings. During his career he has been recognized with both awards and memberships in many of the most prestigious art organizations in America. These include: Pastel Society of America, American Portrait Society, National Western Artist, American Plains Artists, Salmagundi Club, Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters, and the Texas Wild Bunch. Examples of his artistry have been published in such major publications as Pastel Society of America and Southwest Art.

About 10 years ago Steve decided to move back to Odessa due to some health problems. He resided with his sister, Teresa, and before long a 12x18 ft. Toughshed in her backyard was converted into his studio. It was there that he spent many hours just having time to himself, painting, working on bead work for different Indian projects, listening to CD's, and doing computer work.

Steve leaves behind his sister, Teresa Cates, nieces Christi Cates and Cari Cates, and many extended family and friends. We would like to thank Dr. Borra and Texas Oncology, Star Hospice, and all of those who contributed to his care.

Steve had a very full life. None of the awards and accomplishments given to him throughout his life can compare to the friendships he made along the way. Some of the comments his family has heard the last few weeks include: He was a great teacher, he was a great counselor, he was my best friend, he helped me to become the person I am today, he was such a great influence on my life. It is these things that he would want to be remembered for.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2020, at 2:00pm at American Heritage Funeral Home and Cemetery, 4100 FM 1788, Midland, TX.

A second memorial will held in Amarillo, TX, with the date to be announced at a later time.

In lieu of flowers we would ask that you consider a donation in Steve's name to the:
Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian
P. O. Box 32125
Amarillo, TX 79120
All contributions are tax deductible

Events

JUN Memorial Service 02:00PM - 03:00PM

6

American Heritage Funeral Home

4100 N FM 1788, Midland, TX, US, 79707

Comments



“ It's been 24 years since I have seen Steve-I moved from Amarillo to Missouri in '96- yet I can still hear his gentle voice and see his pleasant smile. I'm sure he will be missed by so many people who love his many talents but mostly love him.

denise - July 04, 2020 at 10:19 AM



“ I do have lots Great Memories of SteveI met him at one of the Dumas art shows back in the early 80's....and I was so lucky to be in the same shows with him, specially the Texas Masters at the YO Ranch Hotel and Resort in Kerrville, Tx...
...Vaya con Dios, mi Amigo, Rest in Peace....!

Manny Franco - June 05, 2020 at 01:23 PM



“ Steve was the best. His contributions to scouting were a gift to so many.I have never known a more genuine person. He will be greatly missed. What a great man.

Bill Chudej - June 01, 2020 at 10:48 AM



“ Teresa and christi and cari,
Asking our Lord to anoint you all with peace, comfort, and strength during this seson of loss. I treasue the paintings i have from such a great artist.Anna and i both send our love and please let us know if we can do anything.
Rip steve.

Rick cates - May 30, 2020 at 11:54 PM



“ Steve was one of the most generous and humble people anyone could meet. He not only helped budding artists find their feet with his workshops and private lessons, he also helped other accomplished artists create opportunities to sell their work. Most artists are not very good at organizing group art shows. For years Steve was the principal organizer and artist wrangler for the Texas Wild Bunch shows. He had a talent for anticipating and mediating the inevitable contretemps that arise when artistic temperaments rub each other the wrong way. From the inception of the Texas Masters of Fine Art and Craft Invitational Shows in Kerrville, Steve’s familiarity with so many other talented artists was indispensable in putting together a compatible group of exhibitors. He was the unofficial curator of the Texas Masters show and his insights were always valued. His main fault was that he could promote and sell other artists’ work better than his own. We will miss showing with him and especially his wry humor when sales aren’t very good. His stories have enlivened many a slow show. Dan and Linda Baker



Daniel Baker - May 30, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ Thinking of Steve a year from his passing....I worked with Steve at Carver Learning Center. He was so quiet and unassuming, yet quietly confident. He and Dave Bailey were so influential in scouting and Kawadhi Indian dancing. Thinking of you with fond remembrance.

david cain - April 23, 2021 at 04:40 PM



“ Steve is remembered for many reasons. He was so kind and extremely talented. For years I have loved looking at those Indian faces and vivid clothing done in pastels. His art has been loved by my family and friends, and he will be missed. Prayers for comfort for Teresa and family. Gail Etheredge

Gail Etheredge - May 29, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ I can’t remember a conversation with Steven that I didn’t walk away encouraged. I could come up with an off the wall art idea and share it with him. He could finish my sentences and add new dimensions to the thought. The world will be less intriguing with your passing, friend. Rest in explosions of light and color.

John Glover - May 29, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ On one of our many trips we had traveled out west to Gallup. It started snowing and we headed back to Albuquerque. They kept closing the roads and fortunately we got back to Albuquerque just before everything shut down. We had to use the reflectors on either side of the road to keep us out of the ditch. It was exciting just as every trip was with Steve. From Scout camp, to Kwahadis, to teaching together, and for all the trips we've made you will be missed but never forgotten.
Guy

Guy Giersch - May 28, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ My late husband, Roy Lee Ward travelled together to many art shows. Roy told many amusing stories about their trips. I didn't meet Steve until I married Roy in 2013. He was always kind and considerate. Rest In Peace.
Judy Ward



Judy Ward - May 27, 2020 at 08:56 PM



“ Requiescet in pace my friend. Many memories of visiting Steve at Las Teiendas.
Mike Mireles - May 29, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ One of my dearest friends since 1976. We were supposed to meet in Santa Fe in March...then Covid happened. RIP Steven.
Vanessa - September 16, 2020 at 03:07 PM