



William Steven Ball

December 30, 1963 - June 3, 2024

William Steven Ball passed away in Town Creek on Monday, June 3, 2024, at the age of 60.

Funeral Services will be Friday, June 7, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Shelton Funeral Home Chapel in Decatur, Alabama, with Bro. Phil Kimbrough officiating. The family will receive visitors from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM prior to the service in the chapel. Interment will be at Decatur City Cemetery following the service.

Mr. Ball was born on December 30, 1963, to James E. Ball, Sr. and Pauline Agatha “Wolford” Johnston in Virginia.

Mr. Ball loved to fish and work with his hands. He worked for NASA as an Engineer. He had degrees in both Law and Engineering.

Mr. Ball was preceded in death by his parents, James and Pauline Ball.

Mr. Ball was survived by his brother, James E. “Jim” Ball, Jr. and a host of cousins and other loving family.

Cemetery Details

Decatur City Cemetery

Highway 20
Decatur, AL 35601

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Shelton Funeral Home Chapel
2105 Beltline Road SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Funeral

JUN 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Shelton Funeral Home Chapel
2105 Beltline Road SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Burial

JUN 7 (CT)

Decatur City Cemetery
Highway 20
Decatur, AL 35601

Tribute Wall



“ *Mark lit a candle in memory of William Steven Ball* ”



Mark - January 02, 2025 at 06:19 PM



“*Sad news of the passing of my good friend, Steve Ball. I see that a lot has already been shared, so aside what a wonderful individual he was, I will mention what else comes to mind. I first met Steve in a trig class at Calhoun Community College in 1983. After a period of acclimating to his high level of self-confidence and enthusiasm, we ended up much on the same path for a while, taking a lot of the same classes, at Calhoun, where we were fortunate to have Mr. Carl Prince for calculus, and Dr. Russell Shelton for physics; both of whom we developed friendships with, and (I'm sure Steve would readily agree) whom had long lasting positive impacts on us.*

After graduating from Auburn, Dr. Shelton reached out to both of us to find out how things had turned out, and invited us to speak to his current class to highlight the importance of physics for prospective engineers and scientists, and to offer encouragement in these directions, which we eagerly did. Steve encouraged me to join him on memorable Biology field trips to Gatlinburg, and then Dauphin Island - where we were accompanied by a lot of young ladies, and renowned Astrophysicist, Dr. Richard B. Hoover - who entertained us with nerdy (but funny) jokes and his hobby of collecting diatoms.

Steve and I eventually headed to Auburn, where we were neighbors at War Eagle Apartments for 2 years, with a lot of fond memories. Another item worth mention, Steve was an Eagle Scout - which is the highest rank attainable in Boy Scouts, at a rate of only 4%. Steve had a knack for making friends easily, and he had a lot of them wherever he went, and I was certainly fortunate to have been one of them.

Although I had only spoken with Steve a few times the last 2 or 3 decades, I recall him well. Steve had a 'fun' side (where any measure of boredom was strictly banned), and he had a serious side. Steve's positive attitude, and high levels of enthusiasm and self-confidence, as a young man, are what I will mostly remember him for.

Being on the West coast, I regret that I am unable to attend Steve's funeral and tribute.

Roger Wilson

Roger Wilson - June 06, 2024 at 06:04 PM

JP

“*Steve and I met at Auburn University as we both were in the mechanical engineering curriculum in the 1980s. I had been out of school for about a year and all of my friends and previously known students had passed on to higher classes. It was Friday afternoon of my first week back in the last class of the day at the end of the class I hear this booming voice from the back of the room " hey y'all party at my place this afternoon and ". That was how I met Steve. A continuing friendship started that day and Steve helped me to integrate back in to a social life that made School much more enjoyable. Many folks that I have met through Steve I continue to be lifelong friends. A year or so after Steve and I became good friends his brother Jim returned to Auburn and Steve introduced us sparking off a very interesting and loving friendship with his brother Jim. I cherish all of time spent both with Steve and Jim. Once everyone had graduated many of us located to the Huntsville Decatur Alabama area. This continued the friendships and lessened the stress of becoming an independent person post college. My life would be very different had I not met Steve that Friday afternoon in an engineering class.*

Jeff Pope - June 06, 2024 at 12:11 PM

SF

“ I am so sorry for this loss...he was such a good guy and a forward-thinking person. I worked with Steve for the past few years and really knew him better before COVID sent us all home. He was always interesting to talk to and had great ideas. I am so sad by our loss. Prayers to all his family and friends.



Sabrina Faer - June 06, 2024 at 10:06 AM

TE

“ I worked with Steve at the STORM Project Office. I really enjoyed working with him. We will miss him so much. I am sending lots of thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

Teresa Ellis - June 06, 2024 at 09:55 AM

CC

“ I met Steve through work a couple of years ago. We became friends due to common interest. I also never been married, so it nice of him to always listen. For the past few years, we would talk after 5pm or 6pm when we both were done with meetings and and enjoyed our conversations. We would call it our Happy Hour - laugh and talk about all his interest and projects he had going on. I remember when his dog passed away and he was very sad. He had a very beautiful personality and I just enjoyed the conversations with him. He was a beautiful soul and will be missed.

Czarina Carrillo - June 06, 2024 at 09:10 AM

“ Many family and friends got to meet Steve at our house over the past few years. He was a truly decent, caring, talented, engaging, and more than anything, independent man. I have known Steve since he was in the fourth grade. About as long as I have known anyone in my life. He was one of the neighborhood kids who made growing up in the Bayside subdivision of Decatur so special. I always considered him more Darryl's friend than mine. He was Darryl's age and was one of a group of great boys who were all the same age. Included in this group was Greg Parker, Tom Reece, John Mark Goosby, Phil D. Mitchell, Jeff Brown, Steve, and of course Darryl. You know this group even if you don't know them. There is a group like this in every coming-of-age movie ever filmed. They were all special and mostly still in touch to this day. But in my eyes, Steve was especially special. I thought so back on the block, and I knew so as I got to know him as an adult. Steve pursued his interests with incredible focus. For years, his dream was to be a professional bass fisherman. He meticulously took his boat up and down the Tennessee River and mapped the bottom using his fish finder. He studied the science of fishing and solicited advice from anyone willing to share. He was also an avid woodworker. I was in awe of him for rebuilding a fiberglass over wood transom on his boat while still in high school. I remember him building a Queen Anne chair. He roughed out the fancy legs on a bandsaw, then carried around one leg at a time everywhere he went as he hand carved the details of a talon holding a ball that made up the feet of the chair. It took him months to complete the chair. Steve got an engineering degree from Auburn and did engineering work for a bit before deciding he wanted to become a patent lawyer. He got his law degree but realized he didn't really want to do that full time either. His passion was working with wood and working for himself. As fate would have it, at some point he bought an old factory building in Town Creek, Alabama and started trying to figure out how to make a living doing something he loved from there. He still had other work to pay the bills, but his passion was in his factory. For no other reason than because he was close by, and he was a lifelong friend of my brother's, Sharon and I started including him in

family gatherings like Thanksgiving and Christmas. Steve never married and his parents had passed and his brother lived hours away. He was reluctant to intrude, but became a regular in our house. For the past few years, I had come to rely on his advice for legal or technical/engineering problems. More than that, I just enjoyed conversations with him. Whenever Sharon was out of town I would have dinner with him at the Ranch House Diner. He would regularly text me a picture of whatever equipment he just bought or was rebuilding. He would ask me about my opinion on political matters or world events. He and I worked together on a charitable cause. I talked about how much I enjoyed retirement, he talked about how much he enjoyed working. All his conversations involved plans for the future. His goal was to run a business making things, preferably out of wood, that provided jobs and skills to members of his small community. His dreams had nothing to do with making money, and everything to do with creating and giving back. We talked several times a week, met several times a month, and never ran out of things to talk about. Not once did he mention that he was struggling. I can't help but wonder if one more phone call might have made a difference. I wish he had been just a little bit less independent and willing to reach out to me, or anyone. There are so many people who loved him.

By David Coffey

David Coffey - June 05, 2024 at 08:26 PM

BB

“ *An incredible guy and a wonderful friend. Will always miss him.* ”

Brent Barefield - June 05, 2024 at 01:50 PM