



Stephen Sanford Witt

January 16, 2025

Stephen Sandford Witt, beloved husband to Carmen (Usiak), father of Matthew, Ann, and Mark, and mentor and friend to legions passed on January 16th, 2025. Steve was born in Oakland, California and moved to Queens, New York City and back to the Bay Area as a boy. Steve was rigorously educated by the Jesuits, first attending Bellarmine College Preparatory and then graduating from Santa Clara University as a scholarship student. At Santa Clara, he unwittingly disproved his own graduation thesis, submitted it anyway, and was allowed to graduate due to a combination of honesty about his findings and good writing. Steve credited much of his success in life to the skills imparted by his Jesuit education. He joined the Army, serving as an officer in the Adjutant General's Corps, where he held one of the highest security clearances possible. After mustering out of the Army with an honorable discharge for meritorious service, Steve joined The Hartford, where he had a long and productive career. Steve freely acknowledged that his success at work would not have been possible without Carmen's support. Steve and family relocated repeatedly, bouncing from coast to coast and overseas to England. As a result of his travels, his children were born 3000 miles apart from each other, Matthew in Hartford, Ann in San Francisco, and Mark in London. While living in England, Steve traveled around Europe fixing many small and often amusingly dysfunctional insurance companies that The Hartford acquired. These continental trips provided many a great story involving fantastic food, fine bottles of wine, and often sketchy characters.

During his thirty four years of service at the Hartford, he started as a ratings clerk and retired as Vice President of the marketing, sales, and corporate research departments. Outside of work, Steve loved hiking, opera, gardening, sports, and poker with his fellow Hartford retirees. He relished a good meal out with friends and family, after which he was known to declare, "Oh, how we deprive ourselves!" Before and after retirement, Steve served his community by sitting on a number of boards of charitable organizations including the local YMCA. In later years, never one to sit still, Steve stepped in to help organize the West Hartford farmer's market and provided work advice and counsel to his daughter-in-law, Jen. Steve taught his grandsons, Elliot and Owen, to play chess but did not impart upon them his love of the New York Yankees. He shared a passion for Shakespeare, reading, and good movies with his son, Matthew. Steve enthusiastically supported other's dreams and aspirations and as a result became a surrogate father figure to many work colleagues, relatives, and neighbors. Steve was a giant personality and all who knew him have a "Steve" story to tell. We will miss him greatly but know that he will live on through the retelling of his stories by each of you. His family wishes him well on his journey into the undiscovered country from which no traveler returns.

Tribute Wall

RF

“*Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
And I must pause till it come back to me”*

Richard M Flancs - February 21, 2025 at 01:00 AM

BH

“*I worked with Steve at the Hartford, and thoroughly enjoyed knowing him. He had a great sense of humor, was a good businessman and I consider him a good friend. My wife Helena and I enjoyed knowing Carmen and Steve; We will miss him. Bill and Helena Harrison Nashua NH*

bill Harrison - February 16, 2025 at 10:33 AM

PS

Oh how Steve loved my corned oh how Steve loved my corned beef and cabbage. Steve always asked are you sure you're not Irish. I will miss you and think about you every time Carmen and I have corned beef. Love you Paula

Paula Steinberg - February 17, 2025 at 01:09 PM