



## Stephen Owens

June 30, 2009

Stephen Lee Owens, age 49, passed away June 25, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Marsa Leigh Owens of Willis; children Clare Alexandra Owens, Meredith Grace Owens, and David Connor Owens of Willis; mother Anne Marie Owens of League City; sister Sallie Villarreal and husband Michael of Harlingen; sister Frances Yeane and husband Brad of Katy; brother Donald Owens of Houston; brother Robert Owens and wife Barbara of League City; brother Michael Owens of League City; brother Travis Owens and wife Denise of Temple; and numerous nieces and nephews. Stephen is preceded in death by father Milton Owens. Stephen was a history teacher at Ricky C. Bailey Middle School with Spring ISD. He also taught in Dickinson ISD and Clear Creek ISD. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Visitation with the family is scheduled for Monday, June 29 from 6-8 PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Willis, with Rosary beginning at 7 PM. Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, June 30 at 10 AM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Conroe, with interment following services at Smith Memorial Park in Willis. Pallbearers will be Ray Dixon, Mark Stelly, David Poole, Marty Surman, Wen Mares, Joey Bayer, David Willey, and Howard Theiss, Jr. You are invited to leave a written condolence to the family on our website at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen Owens*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Rarely a day goes by that I don't think of and miss O-Head. We grew up as neighbors since his family moved next door in 69. The many memories we shared make for so many flashes of a great memory. I don't know how I found this, forum/tribute to Steve today but it will help me keep life in prospective. I guess this was meant to be read by me today for a bigger reason, so many people with so many great things to say. Marsa, I hope you, the girls and your son are all well, I know Steve is. (It's been a year and a half since Steve passed and the words of Ray should have been the last, they said it so well, please excuse my late entry.)*

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**Mark Stelly** - January 16, 2011 at 10:05 PM

“ Tribute to Steve Owens  
Monday June 29th 2009

*Good evening to everyone. My name is Ray Dixon and I was given the honor and privilege of speaking with you tonight about Steve. When Marsa first asked me to do this I thought that this would be easy - to get up and talk about the man who I have known for 37 years and who I hold as my closest friend and really more like my brother. In trying to organize my thoughts for this, the challenge became apparent. How in the world can I define a man who was so unique, so complex, yet so uncomplicated? I think that the best I will be able to do is to share a few thoughts, insights and lessons I learned in my time with Steve. I hope that my ramblings will make sense. For those of us who grew up with Steve we knew him as “The O-Head” so if that term slips out in the course of our conversations you will know who we are talking about. O-Head – a definitely unique nickname for a definitely unique person. It went past being just a nickname, it was a persona, it was even an Icon. The other day Mark Stelly commented on the other prominent figures who, like Steve, passed from this earth on June 25th in saying “that two icons had passed today - Farah Fawcett and O-Head”. I wish we could hear what clever and hilarious comment that Steve would have for that because, if he was nothing else, he was the Master of observation and comment. And they were almost always hilarious. Steve’s enduring sense of humor is probably what we will all remember best. I know that if I had a nickel for every time he has made me laugh in the last 37 years, I would probably belong to the same country club as Bill Gates.*

*Steve’s sense of humor was so strong and pervasive and he didn’t let his illness take that from him. MAJOR LESSON IN LIFE HERE. I sat with him a couple of times while he was getting chemo treatments. My thought was to be there to “cheer him up” and help him pass the time. As usual, Steve had me rolling with laughter and we got in trouble with the nurses more than once for being a bit too rowdy for a healthcare setting.*

*What has become apparent to me over the years with Steve is what was behind that sense of humor. Steve's Mom remarked the other day about how he could find humor in so many situations. I think that really came from both his incredible powers of observation, and a desire to really "see" things. Steve was always "looking" and very little ever escaped his attention. I know there were several times in my life that I wished he weren't quite so observant. As many here will know, Steve really didn't let you get away with much. The observation powers and the sense of humor made for adventure when you were around Steve. Something simple like driving to a convenience store to fill up the truck might turn out to be a memorable experience if Steve was with you. Come to think of it all road trips (long or short) with Steve were incredibly memorable - especially if you were in the Shark.*

*Steve always lived in the time he was in and lived fully. By that I mean he wasn't putting conditions on his happiness like "I'll be happy and life will start after I get my degree, or this job, or this pay raise". That kind of stuff. I think he understood and practiced the notion that "Life is a Journey and Not a Destination" The biggest part of Living in His Time for the past almost 20 years for Steve was his marriage and family life. There was absolutely no question that Marsa, Clare, Meredith and most recently, David were the main focus in his life. I truly cannot think of a conversation I have had with Steve where we didn't discuss some aspect of family life even during the worst throes of his illness, He always seemed more concerned about the effect his illness was having on everyone else. Again MAJOR LIFE LESSON HERE!*

*Having said that that I think we know Steve had a good appreciation for the past. No surprise I guess that he chose History as his subject to teach. Steve could always lay a quote or historical tidbit on you and has been doing it since we were te*

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**Ray Dixon** - July 16, 2009 at 10:27 PM

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**Ray Dixon** - July 16, 2009 at 10:27 PM

RR

“ May the God bless you and your family. I only knew Stephen for a short time (I worked with him at RBMS), but he was always looking on the bright side of things. He never complained once in the brief moments we were able to communicate and had a jovial and kindred spirit. I will lift your family up in prayer that God will give you peace and understanding to your situation. May His love surround your home and keep you even in your darkest moments. May He raise you up and His words be in your heart and mouths forever. I rejoice because I know Stephen is in a better place, with our Lord and Savior. And from what I hear is that his son is a lighthouse to the same candid spirit Stephen always had, always a warming presence. It was a blessing to know Stephen and he will be remembered. To his wife and kids, though I don't know you, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your father was a great man, I hope you keep his spirit in your hearts as you go throughout this world. He is always with you inside. Be encouraged.

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**RaShida Roberts** - July 02, 2009 at 11:31 PM

DC

“ I am so saddened to hear about Steve. He was my family leader this year. He was always so positive about everything. He talked about his family a lot with us. My thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Dee Dee Clark

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**Dee Dee Clark** - June 30, 2009 at 03:53 PM

CM

“ My prayers and thoughts are with you. So sorry for your loss. Steve was a great guy and friend.

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**Cheryl Twyman Maughmer** - June 29, 2009 at 07:23 PM

JM

“ To all my cousins and Aunt Nancy,  
Words cannot convey how sad I feel with Steve's passing. It's so  
untimely. He fought a good fight to the end. I'll miss him and wish I  
could be there with you all. Mom and Dad will be our representative.  
I'll keep you all in my prayers.  
Your cousin, Jeanne

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**Jeanne Moyer** - June 29, 2009 at 04:18 PM

JW

“ Dear Marsa and entire Owens family,  
  
This is still surreal to us and one day I hope we all understand why  
these things happen to great people like Steve. I could fill this entire  
website with wonderful and funny stories about O-Head because  
anytime he was around you knew you were going to laugh and have  
a story to tell. He and Ray were as close as brothers and I felt like  
he was another brother to me too. I cannot even imagine the pain  
you are all going through and I pray that in time your hearts will heal  
and know that Steve is in a wonderful place and we all just got  
another angel to look after us down here. His family should be so  
proud of the fight he fought with such dignity and bravery. None of  
us will ever forget our O-Head. Peace be with you.

All Our Love,

Janet and Paul White

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**Janet & Paul White** - June 29, 2009 at 03:29 PM

DL

“ Marsa and family, so very sorry for your loss. O'Head has been  
such a great friend for so long he will surely be missed by many but  
will always be in our memories. Duane Lalonde

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**Duane & Susan Lalonde** - June 29, 2009 at 02:13 PM

PP

“ Marsa and Family, Nancy and family It is so hard to try to convey this note You have a Great Loss But I am sure with Faith and And Trust that you have in Our Lord He will Sustain you all. Since Travis is my son-in-law and Chad is my grand son I am sure Steve was a wonderful loving person May the Lord Bless you All My Love and sympathy Patsy Price

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**Patsy Price** - June 29, 2009 at 01:58 PM

SG

“ You are in our hearts and thoughts as you work through this difficult time. Steve's brother, Michael, is like a brother to many of us and his "Shell family" is saddened by your loss. May our friendship surround and help to lift you.

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**Shell Projects Group** - June 29, 2009 at 01:16 PM

EK

“ Test

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**Edith Kreger** - June 29, 2009 at 11:01 AM

KB

“ Dear Marsa, Claire, Meredith, and David, from our family to yours. Please know that we wish you the deepest comfort in your time of sorrow. If there is anything at all we can do to help, please let me know. Marsa, We are right around the corner. We will be attending the funeral tomorrow. Again, we are so sorry for your untimely loss, Steve was a wonderful man, fabulous teacher, mentor, husband, father and friend to us all. He will be missed by many. You are in our thoughts and prayers.  
~Kimber

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**Kimber and Jerry Brown** - June 29, 2009 at 10:25 AM

PS

“ Dear Marsa... What a testament to amazing parenting Stephen and you display! Clare, Meredith and David are so bright and strong and gifted! They are a beautiful reflection of the amazing job and labor of love you both provide. May beautiful memories sustain you during this time of sorrow. With our deepest sympathy...The Shannon's

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**Patti Shannon** - June 28, 2009 at 04:25 PM

LK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I was able to enjoy Stephen's company at many of SISD Social Studies mtgs. He was a great guy and will be deeply missed by his colleagues and students. Please know that your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Laura Kress** - June 28, 2009 at 01:23 PM

BS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Steve was a kind funny man. I enjoyed the time we were together at bammel middle school. He like to joke around and have as much fun on the job like I did. I can remember the many times in meetings me and him would cut up and have fun no matter what the situation was. He will be missed by many. May God find peace with you at this time

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**Brian Sokol** - June 27, 2009 at 10:16 PM

KB

“ Marsa - I was saddened at the news of Steve's passing. I know through our many conversation's that Jesus is the personal spiritual power in your life. Continue to cling to Him my dear. He knows your hurt, pain, sadness, and anger. Our Holy Comforter cries with you and carries you. I do not believe God took Steve, but I believe God received Steve! Amen! Steve was and is carved in the palm of God's hand. I wish I were there to hug you and the children. We are thinking of you during this extremely difficult time.

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**Kathy & Gerald Basham** - June 27, 2009 at 08:48 PM

SB

“ So sorry for this trying time you are faced with. We are thinking of you and your family.

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**Suzanne & Bob** - June 27, 2009 at 01:41 PM

GS

“ Marsa & Family, Words can not express how sorry we are for the physical loss of Steve. His pain is gone and we all have a guardian angel to watch over us. Steve was such a special person; husband, father & friend. How lucky we were to have know him. May you find peace in God's word. Our prayers & love.

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**Greg, Gwen & Rebecca Stanley** - June 27, 2009 at 12:52 PM

PH

“ *Marsa and Kids...*

*It is with a heavy heart that I write this note. Steve was my mentor when I first moved to Houston to teach at Bammel Middle School. And what a gift I was given. His first words to me, after he introduced himself, were to say that if I just remembered "If it made sense, they will do the opposite", then I would be just fine. Over the years I would look at him with confusion, begin to ask a question, and he would stop me cold and ask, "What did I say to you on that first day we met?" He was always right!*

*I will forever remember the Rolling Stones blasting in the room next door and that deep laugh and the twinkle in his eyes. He was the dearest of friend and I will miss him forever.*

*No words could ever express how deeply sorry I am for your loss. Kids, your dad was the greatest guy and he adored you. Summers were for Claire and Madeline camp and he could not wait until the last day of school so he could have another great adventure with the two of you. He was so proud of you and of David. And Marsa, he spoke endlessly about you. You were the light of his life and he beamed when he spoke of you.*

*Again, my sincere sorrow. He will be remembered fondly and missed by so many.*

*Penny Hotchkiss*

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**Penny Hotchkiss** - June 27, 2009 at 08:00 AM

DR

“ *Sorry to hear about Steve our prayers are with the family.*

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**Dennis & Judy Ruhl** - June 27, 2009 at 12:24 AM