



George J. Steger

October 1, 1939 - October 7, 2011

GEORGE JOSEPH STEGER, 72, died early Friday morning, October 7, 2011, following a year of declining health. He was the former director of the Lucas County Job and Family Services Department and a lifelong resident of Toledo. Born October 1, 1939, to James and Mary Margaret (Hunt) Steger, George grew up in the family home on Parkwood Avenue in the Old West End. He graduated from Rosary Cathedral School and Central Catholic High School. George earned a Sociology Degree from the University of Detroit in 1962. He then served as Second Lieutenant for three years in the United States Air Force. In 1964, he married Jane Wolcott, also a Toledo native, and the couple moved to South Carolina and Japan for his duty. Upon the couple's return to Toledo in 1965, George joined the Lucas County Welfare Department staff, serving as caseworker and community resources and staff development director over the next five years. During that time, George earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan.

In 1970, George left the Welfare Department assuming the position of Assistant Director: Office of Community Relations for the Catholic Diocese of Toledo. His responsibilities included the evaluation of various community programs related to the Diocese's charitable giving.

In 1974, George returned to the then Lucas County Welfare Department as Director. George quickly became known for openness in communication with his more than 500 employees, respect for the dignity of his thousands of clients, and absolute integrity in dealing with civic officials, trade unions and

political administrations of any affiliation. Former Commissioner James Holzemer declared, "There now is regular and open communication between the department and the commissioners resulting in more productive and beneficial operations for both welfare recipients and staff." George's retirement prompted then Lucas County Commissioner Sandy Isenberg to proclaim July 20, 2002 "GEORGE STEGER APPRECIATION DAY IN LUCAS COUNTY."

George was active and generous in his commitment to community. He served on various boards, including most recently, the local Catholic Social Services Board. George also held teaching positions for the faculties of the University of Toledo, Mary Manse College and Lourdes College.

George enjoyed sailing, gardening, golf and travel, particularly to Northern Michigan. In recent years, eight grandchildren brought joy and energy only grandparents can comprehend. For many reasons George's priorities of Faith, Family, and Friends made for a life well lived.

George is survived by his wife Jane; son, George Joseph (Sandra Commager), Canton, Michigan and daughters, Sarah (Daniel) Gillig, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Elizabeth (Charles) Schiavello, Columbus Indiana; grandchildren, John and Katherine Steger, Connor, Maura and Aidan Gillig, and Zachary, Nicholas and Jack Schiavello; and sisters Ellen (Sister Mary Kenwyn, OSU); and Jo Ann (Nonie) (William) Hoffman of Cary, North Carolina.

A memorial Mass celebrating George's life will take place at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, October 13, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church on Dorr Street. The family will greet friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the church's Gathering Space.

Tribute Wall



“ I was so very fortunate to work under Mr. Steger for many years. He and his Adm. staff made us feel that we were a "family team." I was very blessed to have that experience in such a demanding field of work. My prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Cindy Roach##imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I was a classmate of George's @ St. Meinrad a great guy and I offer you my sincere sympathy and prayers to the whole family.##imported-begin##dan gergen gergen@iw.net##imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Nonie,

Irene and I send our sympathies and prayers. George was a sweet, kind man and an integral part of the Catholic Community for years and years. He will be deeply missed.

John##imported-begin##John and Irene Coyle jbc Doyle42@yahoo.com##imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ The Steger family: I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to you.##imported-begin##John M. Dorfmeister im4xu@yahoo.com##imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Steger was a person who truly cared for others. I am grateful for having the opportunity to work with him. He is at peace.##imported-begin##Michele Miller##imported-end##*

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



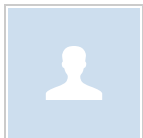
“ *Dear Jane and family, I was so sorry ti hear about George. What a wonderful husband, father and grandfather he was! My sincerest prayers and sympathy go out to you all. Love, Carrie##imported-begin##Carrie Norris ladnorris@aol.com##imported-end##*

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *George will be missed by the people who he worked with. May God keep you, his family, under his wings.##imported-begin##Ingrid Weir lweir37824@aol.com##imported-end##*

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Jane and Famly:*

Throughout our CCHS and St. Meinrad days, even to the present moment, George was a singular example of a man for others. His witness will always be with us.

You are all in my prayer-filled thoughts at this time.

Tom Meiring##imported-begin##Dr. Thomas Meiriing tommeiringphd@gmail.com##imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ i worked for mr stager from 1977 to 1998 i send condolennnces to mr stagers family he was a good director and will be sadly missed hope he rests in peace s sorosiak###imported-begin###sue sorosiak s usiec1938@aim.com###imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



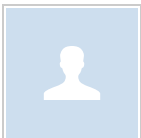
“ Dear Jane and family. I regret that I am not able to attend the Mass. I'm truly sorry for your loss.###imported-begin###Dinah Henderson dd dinah@accesstoledo.com###imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Wonderful, wonderful man to work with, he was a true gentleman. Enjoyed his fellowship both work and at many politcal functions. He really liked his job and cared for all his people. Thank you George for setting such a good example! Gods blessing to your family. You will be missed. Jeannie Abernathy###imported-begin###Jeannie Abernathy Jeanniefoy@bex.net###imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jane and Family,

My sincerest condolences on your loss. I have known George since our elementary school days at Cathedral. He was certainly a very accomplished family and business man.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.###imported-begin###Mary (Flahie) Egan maryegan3@yahoo.com###imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Steger was the last of a generation. A great Director and all around nice man that cared about his employees and the people he served throughout Lucas County. He is missed. My heartfelt condolences to the Steger Family.##imported-begin##Rayni Robinson##imported-end##*

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I enjoyed reading about all the wonderful things George did for the people of Toledo, but my memories are from long before that. My favorite memory is of George perched on a branch of the cherry tree in our backyard and pelting me with cherries. It was the summer after his father's death. The family had come over to pick cherries from the four huge cherry trees in our yard. When I saw him all I could think of was his dad (my Uncle Jimmy) and how much I missed him. I started to cry and he climbed one of the trees and began throwing cherries to distract me. He may or may not have remembered that year or so earlier when his family had come to our house my mom had given them a basket of cherries from our trees. Uncle Jimmy tried to teach me how to spit the seed out. Instead he managed to hit me with the cherry he tossed. And then when I giggled he threw another one to me. Then he turned to my mother and asked if she'd walked the fence to pick the cherries like she used to when they were children and my mother picked cherries from the tree next door.*

My prayers are with you and the family.##imported-begin##Madonna Mallett mamamoma48@yahoo.com##imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to Jane & the kids on George's passing. While it seems like a lifetime ago, from time to time over the years I have had flashbacks of all the fun & laughs we shared in the "old days" back on Pinecroft.....when we were all much younger. Some things in this life you just never forget. My prayers will be with all of you at this difficult time.*

James Sass##imported-begin##James Sass

JCSASS@aol.com##imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I had the pleasure of working with Mr Steger when I worked there. He was truly an inspiration to all the employees. He is in heaven with my Mom Sue Schwartzbeck and I am sure they are sharing stories about working at the lucas county welfare dept. May God give your family comfort at this time. God bless your*

family.##imported-begin##anne schwartzbeck-pierce keikeipeanut@yahoo.com##imported-end##

October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM