



*Steven Joseph
Stafstrom*

July 2, 1958 - Aug. 13, 2025

Steven Joseph Stafstrom, 67, of Nebo, NC, passed away on August 13, 2025 after a courageous, seven-year battle with cancer.

Born in Waterbury, Connecticut on July 2, 1958, he was the son of the late John Francis Stafstrom and Joan Oberer Stafstrom. He was a graduate of Newington High School in Connecticut, and a devoted alumnus of St. Anselm's College and the University of Notre Dame, where he played rugby and graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree.

As a businessman, Steven was a successful and well-respected Manufacturing Operations Executive, having worked at Textron at the Stratford (CT) Army Engine Plant and for 2 decades at Stanley Black and Decker, where he retired as a Senior Operations Executive, holding a Board position. He was a leader and a mentor, intrepid in his endeavors. While being a savvy executive, he was an optimist who always looked for the good in others.

Those who knew Steven, knew of his great passion for all things Notre Dame. He was an avid football fan, becoming a season ticket holder which was a great point of pride for him. He loved being able to take family to tour campus, share the Irish spirit, tailgate and cheer the team on to victory.

Steven was a loving father, grandfather, and brother, and had a great love for his large extended family. Steve especially relished the Stafstrom Family Christmas Eve, a tradition started by his father, and he took on the task of preparing the Swedish Meatballs, keeping the tradition that the whole family loved alive.

Steven was an accomplished runner, completing the Boston Marathon twice. He volunteered as a Little League coach in Orange, CT for his children for many years. He loved the beach, the lake, and became an avid golfer in his retirement years.

In his retirement years, Steven found peace living with his wife Valerie in the beautiful foothills of western North Carolina on Lake James. They were very happy to enjoy their most special place with their extended families. He and his wife became members of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Morganton, NC.

In more recent years, along with his wife, he established the "Steven and Valerie Stafstrom Foundation" for charitable giving. The Foundation's mission is to help fund higher education, medical research, the underserved, and the preservation of our natural resources and wildlife.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife Valerie Ann Hugick Stafstrom; children, Steven Stafstrom, Jr. (Christine) of Bridgeport, CT, Eric Stafstrom (Sarah) of Fairfield, CT, and Kristen Stafstrom Adolph (Lee) of Columbia, MD; six grandchildren (Jessica and Julia Stafstrom, Kaylee and Elena Adolph, Oscar and Sally Stafstrom); and four brothers, John Jr. (Dennis), Paul (Clare), Greg (Suzanne), and James (Margaret) Stafstrom, all of Connecticut. He also predeceased his first wife Linda (Ferris) Stafstrom of Trumbull, CT, the mother of his children.

Calling hours for neighbors and friends in NC will be 1 – 3 PM on Monday August 18, 2025 at Sossoman Funeral Home. Expanded services will held at a later date in Connecticut.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Steven and Valerie Stafstrom Foundation, c/o Fusco Financial Associates, 505 Baltimore Avenue, Towson, MD 21204.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the

arrangements.

Tribute Wall

Steve was respected and liked by many, I especially though a lot of him since the day I started my employment with Stanley Black and decker, he helped me learn the company and always made time to talk no matter the situation or what he was involved in with the company, I was saddened to hear of his passing, and hoping his family can hold the memories they have. RIP Steve.

—Keith Warner



Exceptional leader in my earlier days at SBD! Still quote him and will continue to as his legacy shall remain strong. Rest in peace Steven! Will keep you and your family in my prayers during this challenging time.

—Monika Chamberlain



My condolences and prayers to all who knew Steve

—Jeff Tartamella



I'm devastated. He was a light in the dark. A spirit that left an indelible mark on my life. I miss him but will forever hold onto the memory of his smile.



—Micaela Morales



Deeply saddened to hear about the loss of Steve. I will always recall our time working and traveling together with

the utmost fondness. I am grateful to have crossed paths with him, and fortunate to have experienced not only a strong professional partnership...but also a friendship. Extending my deepest thoughts and prayers to Steve's entire family and his many friends during this difficult time. Rest in peace my friend.

—Christopher Harrison

Steve was an incredible individual, professionally and personally. He was a tremendous leader and a person of integrity, with a great sense of humor. He had an extraordinary ability to work effectively with people from the BOD & CEO level to hard-working employees in the plants and distribution centers, and everyone in between. As others have said, he was always a voice of reason and remained calm regardless of the conditions, and everyone valued his input and guidance. I consider myself very fortunate to have worked for him. We will miss Steve dearly, but his memory will always remain in our hearts. I extend my deepest condolences to Steve's entire family.

—Steven Schiavone



I am so grateful to have known Steve. We met while I was working with the SBD leadership team as an independent consultant connected with Morgan State University. Steve was always such a wise source of council with an open door policy. I could stop by his office and if he was free, we would chat and he would provide guidance and direction that led to a successful initiative that delivered business value. His confidence in me helped me launch my 2nd

valued. The confidence in me helped me launch my 2nd career as a consultant and I am very grateful for how he touched my life in such a brief period of time (over ~ 2 years: 2017 - 2019). Praying God will bless the family at this time of loss. With thoughts and prayers. Pam Lindsey
L4 Services LLC

—Pam Lindsey

Steve was one of the most influential leaders that I had the pleasure to work under at SBD and I'm saddened to learn of his passing. He was always the voice of reason in the room and truly cared about people. His wit and wisdom were second to none and I feel truly blessed to have known him. Prayers for all the family during this difficult time.

—Craig Zielinski

Steve was a great leader here at SBD. While his expertise was in Supply Chain, we valued Steve's opinion across the entire business. He was always focused on the customer and understanding how decisions would impact the customer. Even in turbulent times, Steve was the voice of reason in the room - he remained calm regardless of what the conditions were like outside. He could go on for hours talking Notre Dame football, but he was humble even when they were beating up on the Seminoles! RIP Steve - you will be missed! May you have an endless supply of Dark-n-Stormy's in heaven. - Frank

—Frank Mannarino



I was deeply had saddened to learn of Steve's passing. I not only considered him a valued colleague, but also a good friend, who's integrity, wit, wisdom, and insight left a lasting impression on me and all of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. Anyone who knew Steve was better for it in many ways. I admired and respected Steve greatly. I extend my deepest condolences to Valerie

Steve greatly. I extend my deepest condolences to Valerie and Steve's entire family. I hope all are comforted with the knowledge that Steve is already in a much better place. Godspeed, my friend.

—Jim Tallaksen



Our heartfelt condolences to the entire Stafstrom family. Steve sounds like an amazing man who leaves a legacy of a life well lived! Hoping your wonderful memories with Steve will bring you comfort in the months ahead. Thoughts and prayers to his family.

—Richard and Sharon Zajack

I knew Steve as a senior colleague at Stanley Black & Decker. He was a tremendous leader and a wonderful person, highly respected and liked by everyone. He was inspirational, pragmatic and never gave up. He had the highest integrity, an endearing sense of humor and left a lasting legacy at SBD to be proud of. While I recently retired, I know his numerous former colleagues at SBD are mourning him. I also had the pleasure of working with Valerie at SBD in finance. My thoughts are with you Valerie, at this difficult time. My sincere condolences to you Valerie and to his beloved family. He was a great man and will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace. Michele Webster

—Michele Webster

Dear Valerie and family, I am so sorry about Steven's passing. He was an outstanding business leader who consistently added value through inspirational leadership. More importantly, he was thoughtful and compassionate in everything he did. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Sincerely, Joe

—Joe Voelker

I had the pleasure of working directly for Steve for 2 years while I was at Stanley and got to know him over a few more years while we were there. He was the consummate professional who believed in bringing out the best in his people. I hope the family can find peace knowing he is no longer in pain. My God shine his light upon your family during this difficult time.

—John Martino

Steve and I were blessed to be at the same place at the same time, but even more so, to be likeminded. We knew our strengths and weaknesses and readily differed to one another. We were also blessed with time, twenty years chewing the same dirt and a decade and a half spending most days together. Steve was a decade older than me so almost everything I went through he had already been through. I so respected his judgement that I sought his opinion on nearly everything important or not, professional or personal. Steve was honest, fair, wise and trustworthy. He was underestimated by some, but only by those that didn't know him well. Steve was a tower of strength, an abundance of calm and a fountain of youth. I have many acquaintances but few friends. Steve was my friend. In one of the final times we spoke, we spoke of the Lord and accepting his plan for eternal life. As such, I am not sad, as I know I will see my friend again. I will pray for Val, his sons and daughter, his grandchildren and the brothers Stafstrom as I knew he loved you all and you too will miss him, especially each Christmas Eve. I love you Steve, Jeff Ansell.

—Jeff Ansell

Steve will be missed. Great leader but even a better person. Rest in peace.

—Melvin A Franco

My acquaintance to Steve was during his glory days in SBD. Steve is a great leader, visionary and empathetic to people around him. Words cannot express our sorrow for this great loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time. May his soul rest in peace. Gonal

the darkest times. May the soul rest in peace. Gopal

—Gopal Balasubramaniam

Many of my fondest adult memories were acting like kids coaching youth sports with Steve, going to parties and events. Nobody had the ability to combine pure joy with seriousness like Steve Stafstrom. All who knew him are better for it. Both Elyse and I send our sincerest condolences to Steven, Eric, and Kristen and their families.

—Mike Berman

Steve was a true leader and mentor for so many at Stanley Black & Decker. I admired him greatly and he will be missed. The personal impact he had on me will never fade. My deepest condolences. Pete Murray

—Pete Murray



Rest in peace Steve. It was a privilege working with you all those years at SBD. See you on the other side my friend. Deepest sympathies to the Stafstrom family.

—Dave Fabris

So sad to hear of Steve's passing. I couldn't say it any better than Chris. I'm positive there are many of us that feel the same. Steve had a positive impact on so many. RIP boss. Bruce Watson

—Bruce Watson



I worked with Steve at Stanley Black & Decker. Steve was a great person. Inspiring and a leader you could look up to and always there to provide advice and guidance. I missed Steve when he retired and now all who have known Steve will miss him. Steve was a Rock and always there for

people.

—Tom Pelletier

—Kevin Lin

Steve was probably the most influential person in my career path and I owe him a major debt of gratitude. I reached out to him several times after retirement but it never seemed like enough. I am fortunate to have worked for such a visionary leader, mentor and incredible human being. He had a way of leading with authority but also making you know he had your back. He had a better vision for operations than anyone before him and combined with Jeff Were the two most Inspirational leaders of our company in 20 years. Steve could lead you to get ready for a mountain climb like a Sherpa or help you improve your performance in a way that motivated you instead of beating you down. He was a leader in every way and I learned a tremendous amount from his stoic nature and vision. I aspire to be the leader that he was and to have influenced so many in their careers the way he has. God must need amazing OPS leaders because he and Andrew went too early in life and from the same evil reason. I am forever grateful for Steve and proud to attempt to live and lead with his teachings. Since his retirement I have had a note on my screen of lessons he taught me as a reminder to help me guide others in their journey. He will forever be missed. Godspeed, Chris Sgobbo

—Christopher Sgobbo

—Tim Donovan