



Stephen Tucker Goforth

NOV 9, 1959 - MAY 1, 2020



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Bixby-South
Tulsa Funeral Service
& Crematory

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S tephens Goforth Obituary

A memorial service honoring and remembering Stephen Tucker Goforth will be live streamed 10 AM Thursday, May 7, 2020 at Southtulsa.live. The family will receive visitors from 5-8 PM Wednesday at Bixby Funeral Service. Attendance in person will be restricted due to Covid-19 guidelines and recommendations.

To Live is Christ -

Stephen Tucker Goforth was 60 years old when he went home to be with the Lord on May 1st, 2020. He lived in Tulsa, OK, and passed away in a tragic accident while working at his ranch near Chelsea, Oklahoma.

Stephen was born on November 9th, 1959, in Raleigh, North Carolina, to Doris Ann Goforth and Willard "Tuffy" Goforth. He spent most of his younger years in Stanton, VA before heading off to college at Oklahoma Baptist University. He received a Bachelor of Music Education from OBU. He went on to earn a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from Florida State University and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Oklahoma.

Stephen loved the outdoors. From the very beginning of his life, he could be found in nature. As often as he had the chance, he would find the opportunity to enjoy God's creation. An avid fisherman, he could compete with the best of anglers with home-grown wisdom and a savvy eye for prime fishing holes. He was a master hunter, leading so many others to the thrill of harvesting an animal. Beyond the sport, he found joy in simply being out in the wilderness—the further from cell signal, the better – just him enjoying his God. If there was an opportunity to be outside, he took it. The family ranch was perhaps Stephen's favorite place to be. The square mile of land represented many trips, countless hours of projects, and fellowship. He loved to bring friends and family to enjoy the property, to catch and eat fish, and to check out from the world.



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Stephen loved music. He was an exemplary musician, receiving accolades of all kinds over many years. He was an expert trumpet player, a jack-of-all-trades in terms of style and ability. Stephen warmed many hearts with his brilliant, yet personal performances. He performed in thousands of programs ranging from solo recitals to nursing home dinners. He played with church orchestras, full big bands, symphonies, small and large ensembles, and everything in between. He collaborated with too many great musicians to list, the likes of Doc Severinsen, Arturo Sandoval, Bobby McFerrin, and many others. He was most recently the principal trumpet player for both the Signature Symphony in Tulsa and the Bartlesville Community Orchestra. He was also a tremendous educator, teaching at Oklahoma Baptist University and Oklahoma City University, leading regular masterclasses and clinics for hundreds of programs and working with countless private students. Much of his greatest joy was in his broad studio of music students – he loved them dearly and considered teaching them a ministry. Stephen’s musical heritage lives on in his many compositions, recordings, and in the music of countless colleagues that shared the beautiful craft with him.

Stephen loved people. He embodied the heart of discipleship. Each of his activities was for the betterment of others. He took many a young man or family under his wing to offer encouragement and guidance. He ‘adopted’ so many older families, building a remarkable group of ‘parents.’ He was like a father to so many students through his time as an educator. His ear was always prepared, his phone was always on, and his door was always open to welcome in whoever needed it most. He was always ready with a joke, a story, an encouragement, or all three at once. He lived out the desire to lay down his life for others – each breath was to serve. With just a quick interaction, strangers became friends and friends became family. His humor, tidbits of wisdom, and practical advice will last in the hearts and habits of his many connections.

Stephen loved his family. He loved his dear wife, Sharon, for 35 years. He was fiercely loyal to her and cared for her in such a beautiful, respectful way. He truly embodied the model Scripture describes: he loved her as Christ loved the church and laid his life down for her. He modeled that relationship for his two sons, demonstrating how to protect, serve, and cherish a spouse. He was the best father anyone could ask for, raising his children well in their youth so that he could be their friend through life. He constantly expressed his great pride in his boys and their spouses, lifting them and spurring them toward greatness. He was also a proud and tender Papa, bursting at the seams with love for his grandson, quick to share the latest development with photographic evidence. He was a loving sibling, proud, and supportive of his brother and sister. He was a model



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son, caring for his parents through their years, a comfort to his mother, and a steadfast work and play partner for his father.

Stephen loved the Lord. His life was for the glory of Christ, and his blood, sweat, and tears were all for that purpose. His enjoyment of the outdoors was to celebrate God's creation. His passion for music was to proclaim God's greatness, using the voice with which he was gifted. His care for others was a reflection of the love he had been shown through Jesus Christ in the hope of showing the way to redemption. His love for his family was based on the bond of Christ, knowing that fellowship will continue with God for eternity. He would often say that he didn't want to be remembered for anything he did. He would say that his passing friends and family shouldn't think "what a great man" but "what a great God he served." To die is truly gain - he is now rejoicing with his God and King in a holy union that he lived to point to.

It may seem like hyperbole to describe Stephen in such a glowing way, but he was truly remarkable. The breadth of his impact is difficult to comprehend, as he was involved in so much with so many. He was always running and never slowed down. As we remember Stephen's life fondly, we do so with hope. He was a treasure and a joy to all who knew him, and his legacy will extend through many generations to come.

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Stephen Tucker Goforth, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



Tribute Wall

Stephen Tucker Goforth

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Bixby Funeral Service shared a **Video**.



April 22 at 7:43 AM



Michael Isaacs posted:

My most sincere condolences to the family. I first met Gofe in the summer of 1987 in the Oklahoma Baptist All State Orchestra. He was a tremendous talent to say the least, but he was a wonderful mentor, and encourager to me and to the other members of the orchestra. In the following years at OBU and years later at QSBC I had the opportunity to develop a relationship with him that I will always treasure. I had no idea about his passing until just moments ago, I was talking to a co-worker who is also a trumpet player and I mentioned him and his talent. She told me she understood he'd passed. I'm so sorry to not have known sooner, but I would be remiss to not reach out to you. I watched his beautiful memorial video, and in doing had many memories come back to me. Even though it's been years since I've seen him, I will always cherish having known him.

June 8 at 9:08 AM



Jane Woods posted:

I remember Stephen when he attended QSBC. His talents and gifts for the Lord were always such a blessing to me. As I viewed the video tribute to him today, I literally wept. I often wonder why God chooses to "call home" His talented and vibrant children when "to us" they appear to have more of their testimony and ministry to offer the Lord. Certainly they have much life ahead of them. Yet God says, "well done, it's time to come home. For the family he has left behind, my prayers are with each of you. In Him, Jane Woods

May 27 at 3:11 AM



Jim Ellis posted:

I was a neighbor while Stephen was at Southwestern Seminary. He stomped me in racquetball every time that we played. I remember how much he liked a clean car. We would wash and detail our cars together, sometimes. He made you feel important, and he was very inclusive with people. Stephen was so fun to be around. He and I played many pranks on each other. He liked kids. He would play with and hold my son, Philip, anytime that he could. He was a special person.

May 20 at 11:24 AM



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EC

Elaine Chard posted:

Dear Sharon and families Like so many, I can't begin to find the words to say to you. Steve and I began playing together years ago in Shawnee and continued the rest of his life--concerts and innumerable weddings. Our last time was this past Christmas (2019). Every time we saw each other he would break in to that fabulous smile and give out a warm greeting. Every note we shared was pure joy. The pain of his leaving us is eased only through knowing how much he loved the Lord, how he walked every day with Him, and is now in the arms of Jesus. He lived more for others in his short life than most could in hundreds of years. The memorial service was beautiful and comforting. Elaine Chard

May 13 at 8:03 AM

KR

Katy Rackers posted:

I know what it is to have a love for music. I am still playing the organ and piano at the Catholic church in Collinsville and played the organ and piano for 30 years at St. Henry Catholic Church in Owasso. Father J. Paul Donovan was our pastor there and each year he would have a trumpet player on Easter Sunday and it was Stephen Goforth that came many times. I felt so privileged to work with him; he was so professional. He definitely left an impression on our congregation, our choir, and me with his God given talent. May he rest in peace. My prayers are with his family.

May 7 at 1:27 PM

JM

Jim And Donna Mills posted:

We got acquainted with Stephen and Sharon soon after joining STBC at a fellowship dinner. I am an old (84) cornet, baritone and trombone player, but haven't been able to play in years due to partial-plate problems. I enjoyed playing music immensely, and talking to Stephen about music, which we both loved, was such a lift for my spirits, and refreshed many happy memories. From then on, we had quite a few brief, but pleasant exchanges with this multi-talented and gracious man and his special parents, Tuffy and Doris. We also attended many Signature Symphony concerts where Stephen's talents were always important and often individually displayed. What fun this was, not to mention all the pleasure, praise and glory to God he brought to our church music. All this was never just about him, but such a beautiful example of a Godly man, happily using all his God-given talents to serve and glorify his God in such delightful ways! How wondrous his new home must be! How blessed we all are by Stephen and his example of a truly Christian life, so well lived!

May 7 at 11:49 AM



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BF

Blackmon Family posted:

A time of glorious grief, but glorious to be sure. Praying. Love in Christ.

May 7 at 5:00 AM

BD

Beverly Davis posted:

Ron and I were shocked to hear of Steve's tragic accident. We fondly remember our friendship with your family in our OBU days together. May God hold you close, Sharon and family, through these coming days and months. We're praying that you will know His comfort and strength

May 6 at 2:04 PM

DL

Dr. Ed Lyon posted:

Stephen served as Orchestra Director at First Baptist, Tallahassee while I served there. He was loved and adored by all. I have wonderful memories. He was a terrific musician; a good friend; and a man who loved the Lord. Blessings to you all.

May 6 at 1:51 PM

RP

Ray & Shirley Penick posted:

Fellowship, fantastic fish fries and stories of the latest fishing trip were always at hand. Stephen and Sharon's, Tuffy and Doris's friendship made us feel cared for like family. They ministered encouragement and guidance from a Godly perspective. Stephen praised God with his music and with his generous, kind spirit to the rest of us. We are profoundly sorry for his loss. Deepest condolences. Ray and Shirley Penick

May 6 at 1:32 PM



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MP

Marti Pieper posted:

Tom's memory is fading, but he has not forgotten his good friend, Steve. He remembers so many fun and music-related stories from OBU. And we both recall Steve playing trumpet for our wedding processional, then standing beside Tom as a groomsman. We remember his delight in telling us about his (then) fiancée, and his greater delight in introducing us to Sharon when she joined us at SWBTS. We recall his driving back to Fort Worth from Oklahoma to play trumpet for Tom's Dad's funeral. We both wish we could be there in person in this day when not only distance but disease keep us apart. Please know we are holding all of you up in prayer and will never forget the impact this unique man of God had on our lives.

May 6 at 9:59 AM

JT

Joy (Ackland) Turner posted:

Truly thankful that God allowed our paths to cross. Praying for peace and calm assurance. Psalm 121. Joy (Ackland) Turner

May 6 at 9:36 AM

SW

Steve And Dana Wible posted:

I was saddened to hear the other day of his passing. He gave my son private lessons in Trumpet at Broken Arrow schools from the time he was in middle school until his junior year of high school. It was a time that my son always looked forward to each week. Mr. Goforth had a way of motivating him to grow as a student and pushed him to be one of the top trumpet players in his class. My daughter was going to start middle school next year and follow in her brothers footsteps playing trumpet. I had planned on calling him this month to arrange lessons for her. I am very sad she will not have the privilege to learn from such a wonderful instructor and person. Our prayers are with your family and friends of which you had so many.

May 6 at 8:24 AM



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JH

John Hall posted:

Dr. Goforth was my Trumpet Teacher for my freshman year at OBU (1991-1992), however this was not my first interaction with him. We first met through the Oklahoma Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra. It was because of him that I decided to pursue my education at OBU. Dr. Goforth was a true blessing to my life, as I'm sure he was to many other Trumpet students over the years. I even took a few private lessons from him in as an adult, returning to play the trumpet after a long hiatus. He was always uplifting, always looking for the best, always encouraging. You will be dearly missed Dr. Goforth, however I know we will celebrate again once we all reach Glory!

May 6 at 6:21 AM

CP

Christy Pue posted:

His love for Christ was always reflected in everything he said or played. He always was positive and willing to serve God in so many ways. His family is just like him! My family received so many blessings with his sharing of talents and time at South Tulsa Baptist. We are so grateful for all his beautiful worship he shared with us.

May 6 at 6:07 AM

JR

James Ruggles posted:

Stephen was one of the kindest people I have ever known. For many years, Stephen and I would have friendly conversation and laughter before Bartlesville and Signature Symphony Concerts. He never had an unkind word to say about anyone; he had a heart of gold. He and I would also do Chamber Music together. Tulsa Oklahoma Composer David Belanger had a Hyechka Club concert of solely his Compositions, and Stephen helped to promote this young composer. On another occasion, very recently, Stephen rehearsed with me (violin) and Dolores McCreary (piano), the beautiful Horn Trio in F, by Composer Johannes Brahms. The concert was to be dedicated to my step-daughter, Danielle, who is recovering from cancer. The composition, incidently was dedicated by Brahms to his mother, who had just passed away.

May 6 at 4:12 AM



Media

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Bixby Funeral Service shared a **Video**.

April 22 at 7:43 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Stephen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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