



## Joseph P. Stahlman

May 4, 1956 - June 27, 2019

Joseph Preston Stahlman, 63, of Clarion, Pennsylvania died peacefully on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, surrounded by his family.

Joseph was born on May 4, 1956 in Brookville, PA to John and Helen Stahlman. At 15 years old, he began working at his father's business, Clarion Builders Supply, which has been owned by the Stahlman family since 1947. Following his brother Jack, Joseph took over the family business and proudly continued his dad's legacy. He happily spent his life in Clarion County and recently celebrated the business's 72nd anniversary.

In the years before owning Clarion Builders Supply, he had various occupations, including carpenter, general builder, and draftsman. He spent time as a sound man for local bands after attending the Institute of Audio Research in New York City, often working large outdoor concerts. He was also a partner in C&J Sound Labs and Sound Cellar Studios with friend Chuck Glenn. They installed sound systems locally and supplied audio, video, lighting, and power for rock and roll venues and tour buses.

Apart from his many accomplishments and work in the Clarion community, Joseph's greatest joy was being a father to his daughter, Ashley. He was immeasurably proud of her.

In February 2017, after seven years together, Joseph got engaged to Holly Ordiway, a constant source of light in his life.

In his free time, he enjoyed ATV riding with Holly and his dog Lila. Lila was a true companion. No matter where he went she was by his side, often seen accompanying him around town.

Joseph is survived by his daughter: Ashley Stahlman Leighlitner and her husband, Jacob; his fiancée: Holly Ordiway; his step-son: Crowe Thiem; his brother: Jack Stahlman and his partner, Marnie Prescott Walsh; his sisters: Jill Shirey and her husband, Michael and Jody

Smith and her husband, Karl; his sister-in-law: Peggy Stahlman; his nieces and nephews: Joanna Kariofilis and her husband, John, Lindsey Shirey and her fiancé, Andrew Cygan, Jay Shirey and his wife, Kimberly Shadwick, Nicholas Shirey and his wife, Angela, Alexis Smith, April Smith, and Andrew Smith; and his four-legged best friend and partner-in-crime: Lila.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister: Joyce Caruso; his nephew: Christopher Stahlman; his uncle: Tom (George) Stahlman and his wife, Julu.

Family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion.

Additional viewing will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the funeral home on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 with Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 1 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion with Rev. Samuel Bungo, pastor of the Saint Nicholas Catholic Church in Crates.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Tri-County Animal Rescue Center in Shippenville, PA in honor of his deep love for four-legged companions.

# Events

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**JUL** **Viewing** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

**2**

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Robert V. Burns Funeral Home  
638 Wood Street, Clarion, PA, US, 16214

**JUL** **Viewing** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

**3**

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Robert V. Burns Funeral Home  
638 Wood Street, Clarion, PA, US, 16214

**JUL** **Mass of Christian Burial** 01:00PM

**3**

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Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
720 Liberty St, Clarion, PA, US, 16214

# Comments

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“ I am very deeply sorry. Please accept my deepest condolences.

Rita Gresko  
Connecticut

Ritag1091960@gmail.com - July 29, 2019 at 09:14 PM

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“ So long dear friend.

I first met Joe and the his best friend Chuck in 1974.

The three of us and a few others, namely Curt Thomas, became friends instantly when we met in College Park during my freshman year at Clarion.

One of the first things we shared was our love for a new band named Little Feat.

When that band's lead singer passed, Bonnie Raitt commented on how much she would miss her dear friend. I think she said..."I'll miss Lowell (George) more than 3rd grade recess."

I'll miss Joe like that. He was the friend I could always share a good belly laugh with. He was fun. Joe's laugh was infectious.

A few years later, it seems every time we got together or spoke he was nursing an injury. From wrecking dirt bikes or some equally crazy endeavor he pursued in the name of fun, he often paid the price.

He worked hard but boy did he play hard.

A couple years ago I told him he should get a good lawyer and go after the networks that have that show about tiny houses. Joe built the first tiny house. He invented the concept.

The first time I was in it I thought it was the coolest house in the world.

Stumbling around Times Square in NYC while he and Chuck were there in school learning how to pursue their dreams of becoming sound engineers to swimming in the Clarion while in an altered state to keggers on the plateau, boy did we have fun.

Whether it was showing me software he wrote that would help you design your house or building and flying his hobby helicopters or assembling intricate model trains that (later) made my kids mouths drop, he was a genius.

He loved his family and did for them like his friends. Selflessly.

I can say without hesitation that I loved him. I was looking forward to seeing him this Fall and he told me we were going to have a..."couple hundred drinks together".

His sense of humor always amazed me. He was a cherished equally crazy friend with an equal ability to see things for what they really are.

His balance of the business and his family made me admire him. He had his priorities straight.

He was dealt some pretty shitty blows....but always rose above the setbacks and managed to stay himself...and smile.

I'll miss his laugh and his heart. A couple years ago I needed someone to step up and help me while I was in Clarion...the friend that didn't blink....Joe.

The first time he and Chuck and I sat in the woods in Fisher where they built Chuck's

house, we formed a bond that lasted for over 40 years.

From sitting with him at that loony bin called 'the Roost' where he always made the band sound better than they might have actually been to hanging in the old Fryburg church he and Chuck turned into a recording studio....the memories I will always have of the guy that I think inspired Sam Elliott to grow a mustache are part of my soul.

Thanks Joe.

I'm gonna miss you more than 3rd grade recess....and lunch period.

Joe had recently told me he and Holly were going to come visit....as we both realized life is too short.

I'm sad that didn't happen, but have a tear in my eye as I write this about my dear friend and how damn lucky I am to have had him as a friend.

I'm sure we will have the chance to have those drinks in another life.

Dale

**Dale Machesic** - July 06, 2019 at 03:13 PM

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“ Derek And Jennifer Fague lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Stahlman



**Derek and Jennifer Fague** - July 03, 2019 at 10:57 AM

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“ Jeffrey McLaughlin lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Stahlman



**Jeffrey McLaughlin** - July 02, 2019 at 03:35 PM

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“ Jeffrey McLaughlin lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Stahlman



Jeffrey McLaughlin - July 02, 2019 at 01:42 PM

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“ 130 files added to the album LifeTributes



Robert V Burns Funeral Home - July 02, 2019 at 12:18 PM

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“ Joe, getting to watch you do your sound magic, and getting to sit down and talk to you about all the things we're both interested in when you just came to see the band was the high light of every trip I've made to Clarion for decades. It won't be the same without you.

Cliff Howell - July 02, 2019 at 07:19 AM

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“ I was very fortunate to have grown up with Joe, and to have been partners with him in several business pursuits. It is easy to get caught up in life, and just work at keeping things moving forward, but when I look back at the life we had, the wild stories are endless...

In high school we were on a technical committee for a Wizard of OZ production, and we needed a video of a huge explosion for the show. (This was back before you could just download videos from You Tube). So we had the bright idea of going out to the strip mines and shooting a propane cylinder with a 22 and filming it. We did it with extreme thought and planning, and did it from a safe distance, and it worked beautifully. (It was a huge explosion, don't try this at home). We were really pretty proud, and thought we did a great job of accomplishing what we needed for the show, with no budget, but instead we caught hell for doing such a dangerous stunt. They just didn't understand yet that Joe had a knack for figuring how to get things done...

My life will forever be enriched for having known Joe. One of the traits I most admired about Joe, was there was never a challenge to big. He was never afraid to tackle any project, and it was infectious to be around. And I can't think of anything that he ever put his mind to, that he didn't accomplish. There are a lot of the things I have done in my life, I maybe would have never tried, had I not known Joe, and adopted his don't be afraid of any challenge attitude.

Being a part of Joe's life also meant being a part of his family, and I will be forever grateful and appreciative of the entire Stahlman family, who always accepted me and treated me like I was one of their own. My heart goes out to all of you.

Although I will greatly miss Joe, he will always, always, always be a big part of my life.

RIP Joe, and thanks for sharing your life with me.

Chuck Glenn

Chuck Glenn - July 01, 2019 at 09:52 PM

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“ I met Joe 30 years ago. Five years earlier we had bought his brother (Jack's) home on the Fisher Rd. We decided to add an addition and Joe went above and beyond to make sure the addition blended well with the original structure. Joe would climb on our roof - take numerous measurements, show us countless ideas and supplies. He assisted with the design and the addition was just perfect. Anytime we had a project I would go in and visit with Joe and he would spend individualized time with me as a customer and a friend.

Later on I became the Exec. Director of the local United Way - our office needed a new door and I knew Joe would be able to assist. Once again he went above and beyond. He donated the door and the labor to the organization ---just one stipulation - no recognition for himself or the business . Few months later Joe asked if ."the United Way would provide him with a "family in need of Christmas gifts." He wanted to help a local family with all of the costs of Christmas - gifts - food - clothes -- Once again the same stipulation - no mention of his name or the business. For three (3) Chrstmas Joe provided families with a special Christmas.

I moved on and our paths continue to cross less and less. My husband and I were not born in Clarion and sometimes we still feel as an outsider. I met the Stahlman's in the early 80"s as I taught school with Jill. I met John and Helen Stahlman - Jack and Jody. The entire family always welcomed us into their homes and this community. - Joe of course went above and beyond.

John and Pam Zahoran

Pam Zahoran - July 01, 2019 at 05:42 PM



“ 17 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Robert V Burns Funeral Home** - July 01, 2019 at 02:49 PM

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“ Jack, Jill, Jody, Ashley and Holly we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all that this time. I (Jacque) will always be thankful that Joe and I always kept in touch. Sincerely, The Gresko Family.



**JacqueConvertito** - July 01, 2019 at 07:06 AM

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“ Diane Banner Whitton sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph P. Stahlman



**Diane Banner Whitton** - June 30, 2019 at 09:34 PM

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“ The Leightitner Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph P. Stahlman.





“ Very sorry to hear this news. Joe was a crucial member of the FRENZ Band, and we all remember him with the Love he shared. Rest well Joe. See you at the jam.

**Frank Feroz** - June 30, 2019 at 03:22 PM

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“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Joseph P. Stahlman.



June 30, 2019 at 12:42 PM

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“ So sorry to hear this, I remember Joe as the long haired hippy dude who was into music, and he did the theme music for our prom Jill, Jody and Holly may you find peace and comfort through the memories of Joe. God Bless

Michael D. Shaffer

**Michael Shaffer** - June 30, 2019 at 12:08 PM

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“ I am deeply saddened to hear about Joe. My prayers and condolences to his family and close friends.

**Cara J Cherico** - June 29, 2019 at 07:44 PM

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“ I worked with Joe for a short time as he built the WWCH studio that Bill Hearst did on Wood Street. Joe worked as a sound engineer for a short time after. This was in '77, 78, 79. Joe became a friend of mine during this time. Not just extremely intelligent and talented but extremely motivated to attain perfection. He was a perfectionist when it came to sound engineering. RIP Joe.

**Pete Denio** - June 29, 2019 at 07:00 PM

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“ JOE: MY FRIEND, MY VERY TRUE BESTUS FRIEND!  
NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE ON IN THE MOST FOND MEMORIES OF THE  
ENDLESS ADVENTURES & PROJECTS WE'VE EXPERIENCED TOGETHER  
OVER THE LAST FORTY YEARS.  
NOT TO  
BE SELFISH YOU WERE A GREAT PERSON AND A GOOD FRIEND TO ALL YOU  
ENCOUNTERED. NO-ONE COULD UTTER A BAD WORD ABOUT YOU, NOR DID  
I EVER HEAR A BAD WORD.  
ALONG WITH OUR CONSTANT LAUGHTER, I'VE LEARNED SO VERY MUCH  
FROM YOU, INCLUDING "HUMILITY".  
THOUGHT ABOUT SPEAKING AND RELATING MY THOUGHTS AT YOUR  
FUNERAL, BUT THERE IS NO WAY I COULD POSSIBLY MAINTAIN.  
ON A LIGHTER NOTE, A COUPLE OF LINES OF MANY I STILL USE TO THIS  
DAY AND FOREVER MORE:  
ON THE ROAD TOGETHER FOR THREE YEARS, JOE WOULD GIVE NEW  
ROADIE HIRES A JOB DESCRIPTION. "WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE JOE'S LIFE  
EASIER."  
AND  
AFTER HAVING INEPT HELP BUILDING A POOL DECK.  
" NEXT TIME I WILL TIE TWO BOWLING BALLS AROUND MY NECK AND DO IT  
SOLO, WILL BE MUCH EASIER."  
MAKES ME SO VERY SAD.  
YOU WILL BE FOREVER MISSED, ( MY VERY BESTUS FRIEND)

ROBIN BANNER - June 29, 2019 at 06:32 PM

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“ Mark A Mckissick lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Stahlman



Mark a mckissick - June 29, 2019 at 05:57 PM

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“ We are so sorry for your loss, Holly and the rest of Joe's family. Joe was a great neighbor and friend. He was always here for our family, and he and Holly were very generous with the time they spent with our dog, Buffy. Joe will be greatly missed.

Andrea & Lena Miller



Andrea L Miller - June 29, 2019 at 01:16 PM

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“ My Friend Joe!

It has been a few years since I last spoke to Joe and then it was only briefly, but I have many memories of the time we spent together starting in the early 1980's. I met Joe through my brother Steve, and my love of playing music in a few local area bands. We quickly became friends. When he and Chuck Glenn began converting an empty church building into a recording studio down the street from me in Fryburg, I started to show up every night and offer my help. I was probably more in their way than anything else, but the time I spent there with them is very precious to me! One extremely cold winter night, at about 3 in the morning, I was awakened by knocking at the front door of my parent's house in Fryburg. I stumbled groggily down the steps and looked out on to the porch and I saw two shivering figures that were LITERALLY covered with snow! AND I MEAN COVERED! I opened the door and there stood Joe and Chuck! The storm was so bad that they had become stranded down at the studio and without heat in the building, had to walk a quarter mile to my house find shelter! They came in and stayed the night, but would not sleep in the extra bedroom, or the couch that I offered, instead they laid down on the hard tile floor. The next morning my mother severely scolded them and said, "That's what extra bedrooms are for!" I still think of that night often! He and I also shared the same curiosity for how things worked. When personal computers first came on the scene, Joe bought one and instantly began to deconstruct it. He was so smart that he immediately began to write software for it. I was amazed! Not long after that, we were lucky enough to have Joe start working with our band as sound engineer and, of course as everyone already knows, he was brilliant at it! He was brilliant at a lot things, WAY too many to list here! We spent many, many nights traveling and working together over a several year period in the band, and those times were some of the best and most memorable in my life! I can only hope that they meant as much to him as they do to me! As years go by, and life separates us from people and places, we can think back and we can treasure those times! Joe, I treasure our friendship! I only wish that you were still here so that it could continue! I am so sad to have lost you, yet so happy to have had the privilege to have known you! Rest in peace my good friend!

Pete Obenreder

Pete Obenreder - June 29, 2019 at 10:08 AM

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“ So sorry for the loss. Joe's family is in my thoughts and prayers.



**Sherry Vowinckel** - June 28, 2019 at 08:36 PM

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“ So Sorry to hear of Joe's passing!! Our Deepest Sympathy to his Daughter Ashley, his sisters & Family!! May he rest in peace! We will keep everyone in our thoughts & Prayers.



**Regis & Pat Walters** - June 28, 2019 at 06:09 PM