



## Stephen A. Thompson

December 20, 1951 - July 22, 2021

Stephen A. Thompson, age 69 of Mattoon, IL passed away on Jul 22, 2021, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Champaign-Urbana, IL.

A funeral service in his honor will be held at 1:00 PM, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend Matthew Froeschle will officiate. A committal service will immediately follow in Dodge Grove Cemetery. Military Rites will be conducted by Mattoon VFW Post 4325. The visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral Home.

Steve was born on December 20, 1951 in Mattoon, IL to the late Robert L. and Rhea J. (Christy) Thompson. He married Kathy L. Pardieck on April 20, 2002, in Mattoon, IL. He is survived by his loving wife Kathy Thompson of Mattoon, IL; two children, Erin N. Spurgeon and husband Ronnie of Mattoon, IL, Andrea K. Gilbert and husband Shane of Mahomet, IL; two brothers, Gregory M. Thompson and wife Gloria J. of Mattoon, IL, Douglas K. Thompson and wife Debbie A. of Eureka, MO; one sister, Mary Margaret "Cookie" Dooley and husband Jerry of Terre Haute, IN; three nieces, Bethany L. Thompson and fiancé Chris Schilling of Clifton, IL, Lindsey L. Hernandez and husband Lance of Aransas Pass, TX, Jordan N. Thompson of Eureka, MO; one nephew, Daley R. Thompson of Eureka, MO; one great-niece, Hannah M. Poffinbarger of Clifton, IL; six grandchildren: Dylan, Maddy, Aidan, Jackson, Mitchell, Ava;

and his canine companions, Cisco and Jaxxi.

Steve honorably and very proudly served our great country in United States Army in the 101st Airborne Division and 8th Infantry Division. Throughout the years after his brave service, Steve acquired an impressive collection of military memorabilia.

He obtained his bachelor's degree in History from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL and master's degree in Historic Administration from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL.

Dedicated to his passion, Steve was a historic preservation consultant and served in a variety of cultural resource management and preservation-related capacities with the National Park Service, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the U.S. Department of Defense. As the principal of the Mattoon-based Intrepid Consulting Services, Inc., Steve worked with public and private clients to achieve historic preservation regulatory compliance for projects affecting historic resources.

A post-Napoleonic military historian, Steve had the good fortune to work on unique historic property management and archaeological projects, such as the relocation and rehabilitation of the U-505 World War II German submarine exhibited at Chicago's Science and Industry Museum, and archaeological surveys of Little Big Horn, Stones River and Wilson's Creek National Battlefields, and the Mattoon Civil War Memorial Ellipse. In 1998, Steve was commissioned a "Kentucky Colonel" by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for his contributions in the development of the Illinois/Kentucky Ohio River Civil War Heritage Trail.

He loved playing his guitars, enjoyed riding his bicycle, and traveling. Steve

was devoted to his community, always lending a helping hand to friends and neighbors. As a true public servant and pillar in the community, Steve was rightfully awarded the National Jefferson Award in 2016, which honored ordinary people who do extraordinary things.

With his wealth of knowledge, many stories and charismatic personality that endeared him to many, Steve will never be forgotten. He was loved by many and will be sorely missed by all.

Memorials in his honor may be made to Coles County Historical Society, PO Box 1398, Mattoon, IL 61938 or Coles County Animal Shelter, 6818 North County Road 1120 E, Charleston, IL 61920.

Please visit [www.mitchelljerdan.com](http://www.mitchelljerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 27. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
[contact@mitchelljerdan.com](mailto:contact@mitchelljerdan.com)  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

## Service

JUL 27. 1:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
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<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen A. Thompson*

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October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *On behalf of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, the Order offers its deepest condolences and is proud of a life well lived by Colonel Thompson.*

*Sherry Crose, Executive Director  
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels*

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**Sherry Crose** - August 04, 2021 at 03:33 PM



“ *Back in 2011, I had the pleasure of meeting with Steve to persuade him to become a member of the Coles County Historic Preservation Advisory Council (CCHPAC), the Coles County-organization which serves as the county-wide advocate for historic preservation. I must admit I was a bit intimidated by his sterling reputation in all things historical and was unsure if he would consider joining. My fears proved to be unfounded. Not only did he accept but added his legendary passion to the Committee's deliberations. I believe his energy took CCHPAC to the next level as a Coles County historic preservation advocate as subsequent news articles and other publications demonstrated. One of the best professionals I ever met. He will be sorely missed! Doug McDermand, former Executive Director - Coles County Regional Planning & Development Commission.*

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**Douglas D McDermand** - July 27, 2021 at 01:07 PM



“ 71 files added to the album Life Tributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - July 26, 2021 at 06:09 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Stephen A. Thompson.



July 26, 2021 at 11:51 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Bledsoe - July 26, 2021 at 10:25 AM

DB

“ Deborah Bledsoe purchased the Lovely One Spathe Phillyllum Plant for the family of Stephen A. Thompson.



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**Deborah Bledsoe** - July 26, 2021 at 09:44 AM

SM

“ Steve, Kathy and I were MHS classmates. Later in my life, I had the fortune of meeting Steve when he has active in historic preservation. He was a tireless advocate in this field. He also was so proud of his family and our community. My condolences to Kathy and extended family.

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**Sue Beasley Meyer** - July 26, 2021 at 07:18 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen A. Thompson.



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July 25, 2021 at 07:40 PM

JH

“ Fred and I are so sorry to hear of Steve’s passing. He was a great guy and will be greatly missed in the Mattoon community as well as all who loved him. Our prayers are with you Kathy and your loved ones too.

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**janice Havlik** - July 24, 2021 at 05:01 PM

CS

“ *May his memory be a blessing and Gods Grace for Kathy and family.*

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**Candis Poorman Stein** - July 24, 2021 at 01:39 PM

RS

“ *I've known Steve for over 50 years and he could always be counted on for a stimulating conversation. He was a great historian, and provided me with guidance on many subjects, especially for my trips to civil war battlefields. He will be missed by many, but never forgotten.*

*Rob Selleck*

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**Rob Selleck** - July 23, 2021 at 04:58 PM

JO

“ *Kathy, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. Joy Adkins*

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**joy** - July 23, 2021 at 03:18 PM

PG

“ *Kathy I'm so very sorry for your loss. My condolences to you and your family.*

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**Paula Gordon** - July 23, 2021 at 01:58 PM

CW

*Kathy I am so sorry to hear about Steve. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. My prayers are with all of you.*

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**Carol Welton** - July 23, 2021 at 07:56 PM

BJ

*Kathy, I'm so sorry to hear this. My name is Bud Jones. Steve and I were in a band together over in Germany. 1980-1982. I will miss him dearly. God give you peace though this.*

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**Bud Jones** - July 25, 2021 at 08:31 PM