



## John Ervin Steen

August 28, 1948 - December 31, 2020

John Ervin Steen, 72, of Summerville, widower of Deborah Ann Owens Steen died Thursday, December 31, 2020 at Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville, AL.

Born in Charleston, August 29, 1948, he was a son of the late James Edward and Sarah Bennett Steen. He was a graduate of Stahl High School where he was involved in and excelled at every sport he played. He was a US Army Veteran having served in the Vietnam War. A graduate of the SC Law Enforcement Academy, he was a former deputy for the City of Charleston Police Department and worked for US Customs and Border Protection where he served in Charleston and Atlanta, later retiring from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA in 2004 after over thirty years of Service. After retiring he and his wife moved back to the Charleston area to be close to friends and family. Having worked his whole life, John took a job with the Charleston Coliseum in security in 2005 and worked until earlier this year when his health declined.

While living in Charleston, as his children grew, he was very involved in all their sporting endeavors and even became an Umpire to get closer to the field and his passion of Baseball. After retirement and returning to the Charleston area, John loved to catch up with old buddies and go eat with retired co-workers whom he considered family.

John was a member of Hammerton Masonic Lodge #332 A.F.M and was a Shriner and member of the Omar Shrine Temple.

In addition to his beloved wife and parents, John was also preceded in death by a brother, James Edward "Jimmy" Steen, Jr.; sister, Jennifer Steen Heath; and daughter-in-law, Laura Chambers Steen.

Survivors include a son, Lieutenant Colonel John E. Steen, II, US Army Retired and fiancée Jana Kuner and her son Jones Kuner of Huntsville, AL; daughter, Brandi Steen Thomas and fiancée Don Strickland of Greenwood, SC; grandchildren, Private Jackson Thomas, US Army of Fort Campbell, KY, Tyler Thomas, Cooper Thomas, all of

Greenwood, SC (and their father Clif Thomas) and Chase Strickland also of Greenwood, SC, Hailey Steen, Owen Steen, Molly Steen and Eryn Steen, all of Huntsville, AL; a sister, Jacqueline Steen Poplin of Florida; very special friend, Sharron Burroughs; and several brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews also survive.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic private graveside services with Military Honors will be conducted at Oakbrook Memorial Park in Greenwood, SC.

For online condolences please visit [www.haistenmcculloughfuneralhome.com](http://www.haistenmcculloughfuneralhome.com).

Haisten McCullough Funeral Home, 1155 Everee Inn Road, Griffin, GA is assisting the Steen family.

# Cemetery Details

**Oakbrook Memorial Park**

Greenwood, SC

# Tribute Wall

EC

“ To John’s family: I just found out about John’s passing. It saddens me deeply. John and I attended Stall High School together. Although I haven’t seen him since we graduated, I still remember him, all in a good light. As I’ve aged, I’ve forgotten many of the people there but not John. He had a larger than life presence and personality! I remember him as handsome guy, very active in school activities, funny and kind. Over the years, I occasionally pull out the annuals and take a walk down memory lane. I always look at Johns smiling face and remember him fondly, as well as his sister, Jennifer. I do hope you get this, even though it is late. I’d like for you to know that my prayers are with you. May God bring you comfort and peace in knowing that John was a guy remembered for his goodness and kindness all those years ago by people you don’t know but share in your grief. God bless you.

---

**Eva Clement** - February 09, 2021 at 01:01 AM

JW

“ So sorry to hear of John’s passing, Enjoyed working with him for many years in Charleston and talking with him when he was in Atlanta. He was such a nice man. He always loved to talk about his children. He was so very proud of both of you. My thoughts are with you and the rest of your family.

*Judy Westmoreland*

---

**Judy Westmoreland** - January 07, 2021 at 11:01 AM

BM

“ I didn't know John very well, but I worked with him a day or two as a young agent with Customs in Columbia and he in Charleston. He was truly larger than life to us younger agents. He was the kind of special agent we all looked up to back in those days. Rest in peace, brother.

---

**Bryan Merrill** - January 05, 2021 at 06:08 PM

WL

“ My sympathy to all the family worked with John in law enforcement in the Charleston SC area Wayne Luther

---

**Wayne Luther** - January 04, 2021 at 08:20 PM

JS

“ John Steen was a friend that I met at work at North Charleston Coliseum, Convention and Performing Arts Center. John had a sense of humor and kept us laughing. He supported me as a breast cancer survivor every year in our walk to strive for a cure. John was faithful. I appreciate him and have missed him at work this year.

*My condolences to the family. God bless you  
Jeanette P. Smalls*

---

**Jeanette P. Smalls** - January 04, 2021 at 12:58 PM

MV

“ I worked with John for a short time in Atlanta. He was one of the first to welcome this New Yorker to Atlanta and remained a friend throughout my four years there. RIP John.

---

**Michael Vanacore** - January 04, 2021 at 11:34 AM

JG

“ I still remember you fussing at me for getting my ears pierced. I will always remember my first love even after 50 years. My God bless your family and loved ones. Jane Taylor Gaskins.



---

**Jane Taylor Gaskins** - January 04, 2021 at 09:00 AM

EG

“ I am saddened by the news of Johns passing. We worked together in the Atlanta office and he had the biggest and kindest heart of any person that I know. We shared lots of laughs together, and I really enjoyed getting under his skin when he was riding with me. John hated hearing the tires of the car hitting the reflective lane markers on the highway, so on occasion I would do intentionally and wait for him to explode then we would both laugh when he realized that it was intentional. I always dreamed we would spend some time together after it was all said and done, but I am guess we will have to do it in the heavens. Rest In Peace my friend, we all will miss you.

*Eric Greene*

---

**Eric Greene** - January 03, 2021 at 10:13 PM

RP

“ I had the honor and pleasure of working with John at U. S. Customs, Charleston, SC starting back in 1988. He was old school and great to work with. He will be surely missed but not forgotten. Rest In Peace my brother!

---

**Rob Purcell** - January 03, 2021 at 08:38 PM

CH

“ John, I have fond memories of working with you in Charleston. You were always good for a laugh. You'll be missed. RIP Brother.

---

**Craig Hannah** - January 03, 2021 at 07:22 PM



“ I would love to be with you once more before you are laid to rest Uncle Johnny. You have been a hero and inspiration for me my entire life. Your example of a life filled with service, compassion, hard work and love of family changed my path. I love you and pray you have peace.

---

**Barbara Power** - January 03, 2021 at 04:14 PM

TM

“ John was one of a kind. He was a friend as soon as we shook hands when we first met. He always found something optimistic to say when things were at their worst, and John had more than his share of those times...He will always be My Friend and comrade...he was a man whom I loved to work with and was proud to know. God Bless You, My Friend. I Love You, BRUF. 'Til we meet again.

*Tom Martin.*

---

**Tom Martin** - January 03, 2021 at 01:12 PM

SR

“ Was very sorry to hear that John had passed away. I knew he was extremely ill. But now he is no longer in pain, is in a place where everything is peaceful, and love abounds.

I remember John back when we worked on the same squad in the North area, Lots of times we both drove the "Crash Wagons" as they were called. Some awesome stories could come from those days.

John was a great guy, a super friend, a god police officer. His Law Enforcement career was extensive, many different agencies/areas he served.

It is my honor and pleasure to say John was MY friend, I will see him again someday.

Rest well Big John, you earned it.

Sincerely-your friend,

Stan Reeves

---

**Stan Reeves** - January 03, 2021 at 12:05 PM

CB

“ John, I also enjoyed working with you in Beaufort and Charleston, going back to 1983! Those were some great times! I'm sorry we were not able to connect in Chapin, on your travels between Summerville and Greenwood.

RIP, Brother

Your friend,

Chip Brown

---

**Chip Brown** - January 03, 2021 at 11:32 AM

RJ

“ You were an amazing law enforcement officer. I enjoyed working with you in Charleston, Atlanta and teaching some courses together at FLETC. Always a strong family man you let everyone you knew the importance you placed upon being a good father. RIP John Steen, you set the bar pretty high.

---

**Ray Justice** - January 03, 2021 at 09:11 AM