

Steve Stone was born on November 6, 1955 in Oklahoma. He moved to Gunnison, CO with his father Bill, mother JoAnn, and brother Jesse when he was just four years old. In Gunnison the family welcomed his sister Pam, and the three grew up together making memories and causing mischief throughout the Gunnison valley.

Steve attended Gunnison High School where he excelled at football, basketball, and baseball. On September 11, 1971 Steve was with his JV Football team when the bus they were on went off Monarch Pass. Eight of his teammates and one coach were killed. In 1995 many of the survivors, classmates, and community members began the 1971 GHS Football Memorial Foundation to raise awareness of bus safety. With the continuous effort of the Foundation committee over \$100,000 has been distributed locally in college scholarships. Steve served as President of the 1971 GHS Football Memorial Foundation for over 10 years and continues to serve as its secretary.

During his junior year, Steve began dating a Gunnison High School cheerleader, Dee Ann Randall. Steve and Dee Ann have been married for over 40 years, having raised three daughters; Becky, Aeron, and Andrea in Gunnison.

Steve was an incredible athlete and his love of sports continued on after high school when he began officiating high school basketball. Steve's career as a referee quickly extended to include football and baseball. He successfully officiated for over 25 years in junior high, high school, and college sports. His dedication and devotion to the Delta/Montrose Officials Association was unmatched, holding every office within the association. Steve became President of the Colorado State Basketball Official's Association in 1998, where he served the State of Colorado for 2 years. He was inducted into the Colorado State Basketball Officials Hall of Fame in 2001.

Steve also ran a successful plumbing business with his dad. Stone Plumbing & Heating operated in the Gunnison Valley for nearly 38 years before his dad retired and Steve had to stop working due to ALS. It was during the 80's that Steve and Dan Keenan became friends when Dan worked for Stone Plumbing & Heating for a couple of years.

Steve is an avid outdoorsman and his passion took him to multiple states and 2 different countries to hunt and fish. He spent every chance he had on his boat with a fishing pole in hand, in the trees hunting elk and deer, or in a field hunting birds. One of Steve's favorite getaways was Lake Powell. He took pride in the share he and Dee Ann had in a houseboat, and worked hard to keep it running for the many trips he took there each year. Later in life Steve developed a love for pheasant hunting. Steve raised and trained a chocolate lab named Dunken, and the two of them have hunted side by side for over 8 years. Even as Steve's ALS has progressed Dunken is still his loyal companion, never leaving his side.

The countless hours spent in the outdoors with his daughters sharing with them his love of nature created memories together that are priceless and deeply cherished. By the request of most of his nieces and nephews, it was "Uncle Steve" who took them on their first elk hunts.

Even though it is more challenging now he continues to make every effort possible to share his love of the outdoors with his grandchildren as they begin their outdoor experiences.

For Steve's family, words can never express the deep gratitude we have towards the Keenan family for the use of the van. Since Steve's ALS diagnosis in May 2010 his goal has been to spend as much time as he can with his family, especially his 5 grandchildren; Cody, Anna, Peyton, Eli, and Zeke. The use of the Keenan Van will allow him to do just that. The van will give him the mobility to go out with his best friend and wife Dee Ann, giving them the opportunity to create more memories together. Our family has relied heavily on our faith to help us through the journey ALS has taken us on. The use of the Keenan Van is yet another one of God's blessings that enables Steve additional mobility in order to spend time with all of us. Thank You and God Bless!