



Stephen L. Hartzler

May 14, 1932 - January 19, 2016

Stephen L. Hartzler, 83, of Akron, Indiana passed following a valiant effort to live, passed on to join his wife of 64 years at 6:35 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016 at Memorial Hospital of South Bend, Ind.

He was born on May 14, 1932 in Miami County, Indiana to Lester "Joe" and Helen Marie (Thompson) Hartzler.

He was married on June 17, 1951 in the Athens EUB Church to Kathryn I. Walters, who preceded July 13, 2015.

Raised on the farm, Steve's first job was at General Tire in Wabash. He worked his way on to Sonoco Products Company of Akron, Indiana, where he retired as Plant Superintendent. During his 32 years at Sonoco, he and his wife raised their family while working their successful livestock and farming operation. His family's involvement in 4-H led to a Hereford herd that they maintained throughout their lives.

Steve moved from Gilead to the Akron area the summer before his senior year. He continued to play basketball and baseball at Akron High School before graduating in 1950. There he also met his future wife, Kathryn Walters. He started his political career as a Republican Precinct Committeeman. In 1980, he was elected as a Fulton County Councilman and later, a Fulton County Commissioner, where he served as President. He served on numerous political boards and was a current member of Fulton County's Alcoholic Beverage Board. He was awarded a Sagamore of the Wabash. He also served on the 4-H Fair Board and Community Foundation Board.

Steve and wife, Kathryn, were avid sports fans, having held season tickets at Tippecanoe Valley High School for the boy's basketball games since the school's inception, as well as having season tickets to the Notre Dame Women's Basketball games for many years.

Survivors and place of residence: Daughters – Stephenia Barkman – Rochester, Ind. and Melinda and husband Pete Pratt – Rochester, Ind.; a Son – Mark and wife Deb Hartzler – Akron, Ind.; Grandchildren – Melea Powell-Hoffer, Stephen Heinzmann, Stacey McGriff, Blaine Hartzler, and Ashley Marrs; Step Grandchildren – Stacy Barkman, Scott Barkman, Tara Wolfe, and Tabitha Floor; 19 Great Grandchildren, anticipating the birth a great granddaughter; a Sister – Patsy and husband Channing Utter – Akron, Ind.; and a Brother – Larry and wife Bev Hartzler – Akron, Ind.

Preceded in Death By: Wife – Kathryn I. Hartzler on July 13, 2015; Parents - Lester "Joe" and Helen Marie Hartzler; and Brothers – Richard "Jack" and Jerome Hartzler

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 am, Monday, Jan. 25, 2016 at Hartzler Funeral Home 305 W. Rochester Street Akron, Indiana with Pastor Phil Pratt officiating. The burial will take place at the Akron Cemetery, Akron, Indiana. Visitation will be from 2 pm to 8 pm, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Akron, Indiana

Memorial Contributions to: Stephen and Kathryn Hartzler Memorial Scholarship entrusted at the Northern Indiana Community Foundation. Share a Memory or send an Online Condolence at: www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com

Cemetery Details

Akron Cemetery

S 1075 E
Akron, IN 46910

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home
305 West Rochester Street
P.O. Box 856
Akron, IN 46910
(574) 893-4423
info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com
<https://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 25. 10:30 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 24, 2016 at 08:13 AM

MQ

“ *Melinda, Stephanie and Mark,*

I'm so sorry for the loss of your father earlier this year and of your mother last year. I have many fond memories of your parents, visiting the farm and their involvement with 4H. Please know that memories of you and your family made living in Akron a rich and wonderful experience. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Sincerely,

*Marga Thomason Queen
Mechanicsville, Virginia*

Marga Queen - May 14, 2016 at 07:42 AM

MP

*Thank you so much Marga. It has truly been a life changing year for us all. It is still so very difficult everyday. I appreciate your sharing that you have fond memories. Mom and Dad touched so many lives. It's so good to hear from you. So thoughtful. Hoping all is well in your life.
Melinda*

Melinda Pratt - May 16, 2016 at 09:50 AM

BB

“ *Bonnie & Bob Bernhardt lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Bonnie & Bob Bernhardt - January 28, 2016 at 09:01 AM

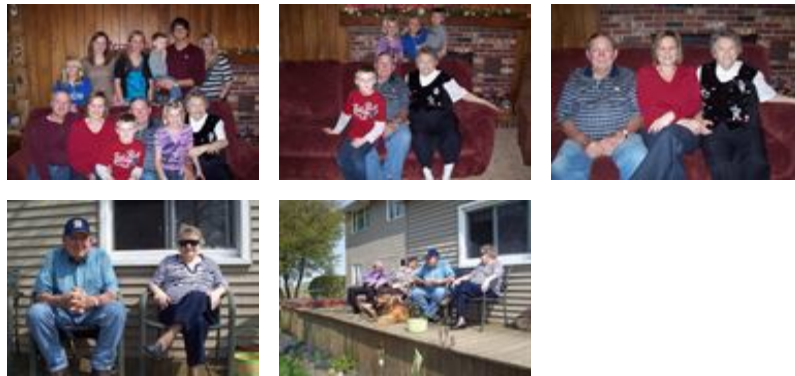
MM

“ *Praying for your family at this time of once again saying "good-bye" to a dear loved one. Both of your parents were special people and will be greatly missed by more than just your loving family.*

Marcia Mikel - January 25, 2016 at 08:51 AM



“ *5 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 24, 2016 at 07:57 AM

SC

“ *Very sorry for your loss you have been through a lot in the pass year. Miss you all very much think of you a lot. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Stephen Cumberland*

stephen cumberland - January 23, 2016 at 06:01 PM

PM

“ To the family of Steve Hartzler, we send our sympathy. Mr. Hartzler will be missed and remembered by many for his friendship, and service to the community. We pray that God will bless you with strength and comfort. Phil and Katie McCarter

Phil and Katie McCarter - January 23, 2016 at 05:29 PM



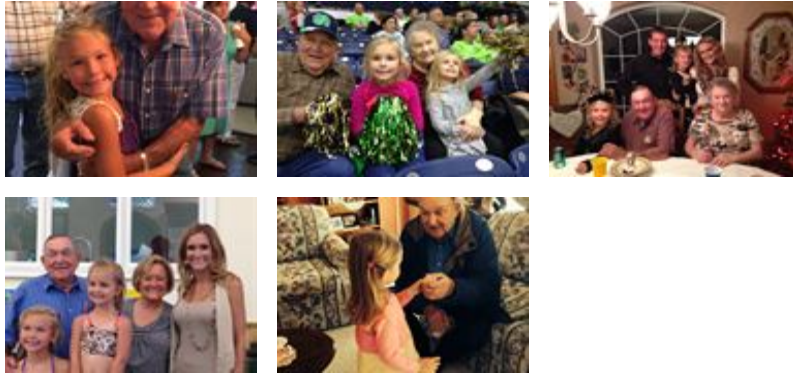
“ Ann Brucker lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



Ann Brucker - January 23, 2016 at 09:07 AM



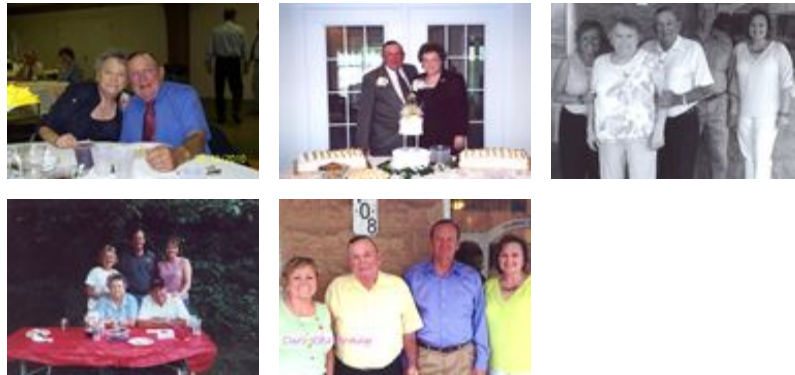
“ 9 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 23, 2016 at 07:15 AM



“ 155 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 22, 2016 at 06:36 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Stephen L. Hartzler.*



January 22, 2016 at 01:33 PM



“ *Randy And Denise Williams lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Randy and Denise Williams - January 22, 2016 at 12:51 PM



The "team" is back together again. Your Mom and Dad always made such a wonderful team. We are so sorry for your loss.

Randy and Denise Williams - January 22, 2016 at 12:53 PM

JK

My heart goes out to you and your family Jean Cox Kerby. God Bless you all.

jean kerby - January 23, 2016 at 06:16 PM

GC

“ George O. Callander purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Stephen L. Hartzler.



George O. Callander - January 22, 2016 at 12:21 PM

SC

“ Skip & Mary Callander lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



Skip & Mary Callander - January 22, 2016 at 10:38 AM

RJ

“ Ron And Pat Jones lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



Ron and Pat Jones - January 22, 2016 at 07:40 AM

MS

“ Steve was a great man who I will miss a lot, just got close to him and his wife a couple of years ago and they were very special to me, may we be together again someday



Mary Saner - January 21, 2016 at 09:25 PM

SH

“ He was a Great man and he will be missed! Blessings to the family and friends.

Sheila Cumberland - Hilker - January 21, 2016 at 04:45 PM

MC

“ Always have thought a lot of Steve and Kathryn and all they have done for the community and the Fulton Co. Hist. Soc. Thoughts and prayers with your family.

Melinda Clinger - January 21, 2016 at 11:16 AM

MW

“ Micheal & Annette Wise lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



Micheal & Annette Wise - January 20, 2016 at 10:17 PM

TM

“ *Tom And Wendy Murray lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Tom and Wendy Murray - January 20, 2016 at 09:46 PM

WM

“ *Wendell & Georgia Moudy lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Wendell & Georgia Moudy - January 20, 2016 at 07:44 PM

JP

“ *STEPHENIA, MARK & DEBBIE, OUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON; MELINDA & PETE:*

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES AS YOU DEAL WITH YOUR LOSS.

KNOW THAT DAD & MOM WERE VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS, OF THE DEAREST KIND.

IF JAN AND/OR I CAN DO ANYTHING, TO HELP ANY OF YOU, LET US KNOW; WE

LOVED THEM DEARLY, AND WE LOVE EACH OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES..

MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU: JAN & PHIL PRATT



JAN & PHIL PRATT - January 20, 2016 at 07:19 PM

DB

“ *Deborah O'Connor Bronnenberg lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Deborah O'Connor Bronnenberg - January 20, 2016 at 06:47 PM

DB

“ *You are in my Thoughts and prayers~*

Deborah O'Connor -Bronnenberg & family

Deborah O'Connor Bronnenberg - January 20, 2016 at 06:45 PM

JW

“ *Judy Walgamuth lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Judy Walgamuth - January 20, 2016 at 04:59 PM

RH

“ *Reg and Randy Hartman purchased the Lord Bless Digital Music Box for the family of Stephen L. Hartzler.*



Reg and Randy Hartman - January 20, 2016 at 03:56 PM

CB

“ Christine (Hileman) Bixler lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



Christine (Hileman) Bixler - January 20, 2016 at 03:52 PM

AC

“ Alfred & Sherri Conley lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



Alfred & Sherri Conley - January 20, 2016 at 03:19 PM

AC

So sorry for your loss. Lifting the family up to our Heavenly Father for peace and comfort in this difficult time.

Alfred Sherri Conley - January 20, 2016 at 03:23 PM

JR

“ Jim, Brenda, Allyson And Tyler Ross lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



Jim, Brenda, Allyson and Tyler Ross - January 20, 2016 at 02:10 PM

JR

and Brenda

Jim, Brenda, Allyson and Tyler Ross - January 20, 2016 at 02:11 PM

MM

“ *Michael, Alysha, and Maxwell MARRS purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Stephen L. Hartzler.*



Michael, Alysha, and Maxwell MARRS - January 20, 2016 at 02:03 PM

BF

“ *Brian Fitzwater lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Brian Fitzwater - January 20, 2016 at 01:30 PM

JB

“ *Jim & Shirley Bickel lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Jim & Shirley Bickel - January 20, 2016 at 11:12 AM

SR

“ *Shari Rudd lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Shari Rudd - January 20, 2016 at 10:18 AM

JS

“ First week I owned sale barn, Steve had me out to tell him what cattle weighed and price. Of course I was very unsure and still learning. I told him what I thought and he said fine, have them in Sat. I missed the weight quite a bit, and oh my is Steve going to chew me. He came in to get check, and I was there to greet him awaiting his wrath. He says I knew you were off, but you were honest with me, and that's all I can ask from you. I considered us friends from that day forward and shared our enthusiasm with the ND Women's basketball. I will miss looking down our row and not seeing him at the games. Judy and I thought the world of both of them. May they rest in peace!

Jim & Judy Showley - January 20, 2016 at 10:05 AM

DL

“ David And Viki Lawson lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



David and Viki Lawson - January 20, 2016 at 09:46 AM


Rhonda
Hostetler
Miller

“ Rhonda Hostetler Miller lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler



Rhonda Hostetler Miller - January 20, 2016 at 09:31 AM

DB

*My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family~
Deborah Bronnenberg & family*

Deborah O'Connor Bronnenberg - January 20, 2016 at 06:41 PM

SC

“ *Sondra Cumberland lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



sondra cumberland - January 20, 2016 at 08:47 AM

SC

“ *He will be missed. Always had a smile.*

sondra cumberland - January 20, 2016 at 08:47 AM

PE

“ *Pudge And Janet Egolf lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Pudge and janet Egolf - January 20, 2016 at 08:32 AM

SR

“ *Sharon (Stallard) Rogers lit a candle in memory of Stephen L. Hartzler*



Sharon (Stallard) Rogers - January 20, 2016 at 07:50 AM

MK

“ I am so sorry for the loss to the family and our community! Stephen was a great guy! I really enjoyed touring the Fulton County courthouse with him. He so loved that building, and out county!

Mike Kenny - January 20, 2016 at 07:45 AM

NM

When Dick and I first met your Mom and Dad it was at George and Jeans we had such a good time with them. They were two of a kind and we loved and valued their friendship so very much. He really got on me when he found out I was a Democrat and that was OK. I was getting used to the raspberries from George too. We will miss seeing them at the fair. He sure loved watching his grandchildren show cattle and anything else they were in(very devoted) Please know you are in our thought and prayers. We will miss him too.

Nancy K Martin - January 20, 2016 at 11:20 AM

JM

Mark and Melinda,
So sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I knew he hadn't been well but it is still tough to say good bye. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Joe Moore - January 20, 2016 at 02:41 PM

SG

So sorry of Steve's passing. My love, sympathy, & prayers are with the family.
Shirley Gray

Shirley Gray - January 20, 2016 at 07:00 PM

LB

I respected your father for his service to Fulton County. As Commissioner he was always available to the elected officials and put politics aside once the election was over. I will always fondly remember your parents and was blessed to have known both of them. I'm very sorry for your loss, they both leave behind a void that will never be filled.

Laurie Baker - January 21, 2016 at 05:15 AM

KR

*Although I won't be there in person to support you at this difficult time, please know that you have my love, sympathy, thoughts, and prayers.
Your(double) cousin, Karen Sue*

Karen Ritchie - January 23, 2016 at 05:17 PM