



## Stephen Charles Holder

October 16, 1940 - March 3, 2020

Stephen Charles Holder, 79, of Traverse City and Mt. Pleasant, passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at his Traverse City home, surrounded by his loving family.

Steve was born on October 16, 1940 to the late Frederick and Frances (Stephan) Holder in Lockport, NY. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Central Michigan University and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He was a professor of English at Central Michigan University for over 40 years. Steve's greatest joy was being with his family. He loved reading, traveling, boating, cooking, and woodworking. He was active for many years with the Chippewa River District Libraries' Friends of the Library and was a supporter of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy.

On July 23, 1999 in Mt. Pleasant, Steve married Tamara Ann Hewlett, who survives him. Also surviving are his children and grandchildren, Tanya (Michael) Stokes of Holt and their children, Rebecca and Jacob; Heather (Kevin) Lezan of Dimondale and their children Nathan, Brendan and Matthew; his mother-in-law Arleen Hewlett of Traverse City; his brother-in-law Kirk (Janet) Hewlett of Traverse City and his nieces Laura Hewlett of Ann Arbor and Nicole (Christopher) Hough and their children Samuel and Louis of Zionsville, IN. Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Frederick and Frances Holder, and his father-in-law, Rex Hewlett.

A graveside service will take place at a later date at Mt. Pleasant Memorial Gardens in Mt. Pleasant. The Rev. Nancy Fulton will officiate.

Memorial contributions honoring Steve may be made to one of his favorite charities: Friends of the Library or the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Halls Lake Natural Area, both in care of Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, P. O. Box 1283, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-1283. Please share your favorite memories of Steve with his family by visiting his online tribute page at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).

The family is being served and cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Comments

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“ Dear Tammy,  
Ann and I were saddened to hear of Steve's death, and we wish you (belatedly in these crazy times) the best in the difficult days that follow. Steve was one of my oldest friends in Mt. Pleasant, being already on the faculty when I arrived in 1970. Good memories go all the way back to that time. He was serious about the job, about literature and writing, and when he was Chair I always knew he had my back. He was cultured, sensitive and, though this may sound funny, a gentleman. No matter what the subject or occasion, I knew that Steve would be calm and considerate. I'm glad to have seen you both, however briefly, that last time in Traverse City. Be well,  
Eric and Ann

**Eric Torgersen** - March 21 at 12:02 PM

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“ Dear Tammy and Family,  
Kip Sophie and I are sure going to miss our good neighbor Steve. Always enjoyed our chats along the lane or down on the beach. You and your children and grandchildren are in our thoughts and prayers at this sad and difficult time.  
Janice, Kip & Sophie

**Janice L Nickel** - March 15 at 03:18 PM

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“ The world is a smaller, drabber place without him in it. We were close friends growing up, and even though we parted ways after college to pursue our interests in very different worlds, that friendship never changed. I learned much from Steve, and I'm a better person for having known him. Rest in peace, my friend, you will be missed.

**John Dasef** - March 10 at 09:47 PM

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“ So Sorry to hear of Steve's passing . I have many happy memories of him from the many years we spent at Camp Belgrade .

**Greg Schlosberg** - March 07 at 12:36 PM