



Alexander Steve

November 2, 1925 - December 13, 2019

Long time swim coach and M.H.S. school teacher, Alex Steve died at 94 years old.

November 2, 1925 to December 13, 2019

Alex Steve passed away comfortably in his own home Friday morning at the age of 94. He leaves his daughter, Marianne Steve of Maui, HI and son Donald Paul (D.P) Steve (Kim) of La Salle to mourn his passing. He will be sadly missed by his grandchildren, Alexa Steve and Lauren Steve of La Salle and Mahana Merrill of Maui, HI.

He was preceded in death by his former wife, Marge (Goff) Steve and daughter Christine Steve. His parents, George and Mary (Pallis) Steve, brothers, Christy Steve and Harry Steve.

Alex was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 1138. A veteran of World War II, Alex served in the U.S. Army Air Corp. from Nov. 20, 1943 until being honorably discharged on Mar. 9, 1946. He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon and the American Theater Ribbon,

“Coach” Steve was born November 2, 1925 in Dover, OH to Greek immigrant parents.

Alex excelled in both swimming and track and field while graduating from Canton McKinley High School. After serving his country, he graduated from Bowling Green State University where he was a Mid American Conference finalist in swimming. In 1949-1950 he received his M.S. degree and was the freshman swim coach for BGSU. The following year he became the assistant swim coach at Ohio University serving until 1952. That year, Alex became the head coach of swimming and cross country at Monroe High School, a position that he held from 1952-1981 compiling a 284-164 record in swimming for MHS. In doing so he coached 23 High School All-Americans. Coach Steve was inducted into the Monroe High School Hall of Fame, the Canton Ohio Hall of Fame and received the Matt Mann award for the State of Michigan honoring his career in the sport of swimming. Coach also served for 20 years as the head coach of the Sylvania “Sea Lions” in Sylvania, Ohio where he won every dual meet but one over that 20 year period. At Sylvania Country Club, he coached three National Record Holders: Gretta Fleck, National Woman’s 50 Free Champion, Nancy Westhoven 50 Breast Record Holder and Jaime O’Hara who set the National 6 under and 8 under 25yd Free Records.

Alex also coached Jim Behren of Sylvania who was the last man to defeat Mark Spitz

(world record holder) in a dual meet. Behren defeated Spitz in both the 50 and 100 yd freestyle during 1969's dual meet between Indiana University and Ohio State University. Former Swim Coach, Ron Evans who swam for coach and coached with him as an assistant from 1974-1981 called his "coach" the finest man I ever met. Coach Steve has had an enormously positive influence on many, many young men and women. 'He could teach a rock to swim' and made champions out of young Monroe swimmers for many years! "I know of 100's of his former swimmers who kept in touch and still today call him Coach. "We will never forget him"

Family and friends may visit from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. until time of service at 4 p.m. Sunday at Bacarella Funeral Home. Chaplain Mike Gilbert of ProMedica Hospice will officiate in conjunction with military honors provided by Monroe VFW Post 1138.

Cremation will follow in accordance with his wishes.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Melinda M. Curley Memorial Scholarship Fund at University of Toledo Foundation (<http://www.utfoundation.org>).

Online condolences and special memories may be shared with the family by visiting the obituary page at <http://www.bacarellafuneralhome.com>.

Events

DEC 21 **Visitation** 02:00PM - 07:00PM

Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc.
Address: 1201 South Telegraph Road, Monroe, MI, US, 48161

DEC 22 **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc.
Address: 1201 South Telegraph Road, Monroe, MI, US, 48161

DEC 22 **Funeral Service** 04:00PM

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Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc. - December 21, 2019 at 03:43 PM



“ Coach Steve was a great man with a smile that lit up the room, and the perseverance of a true role model. He will be missed, and remembered with love.

Amy (Dimeff) Robinson - December 22, 2019 at 07:41 AM



“ My number is 562-536-1975 I have your family photos text me Alexander R Dimitt or family and I'll text a few picture to see if their his photos they were found in a storage unit

Teresa Turner - March 01 at 02:02 PM



“ I'll miss you Dad! I will forever cherish all the great times we shared on Maui. Shhh no tell!!! I scored in life when I got you for a dad. You really new how to live life to the fullest. Your legacy lives on! I love and thank you for all you've done, taught and been to me. Forever in my heart!! Never will I forget you!! Aloha, Mariannie PS. You forgot your wallet!!

Marianne Steve - January 16, 2020 at 01:56 AM



“ marianne steve is following this tribute.

marianne steve - December 26, 2019 at 05:44 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



E.J. & Nancy O'Leary - December 23, 2019 at 12:38 PM



“ Coach Steve, I regret not swimming for you at MHS and that was my fault and you told me so, “you’ll have plenty of time to work”. However, many years later I was blessed to have you coach me at our noon swims at the Monroe YMCA and you did and I greatly thank you!

Marty Nadeau, MHS 1974

Martin J Nadeau Jr - December 22, 2019 at 08:12 PM



“ The Coach is a legend. A fine and kind Coach and Teacher.

My favorite line from Coach -- "Pec's Cha-pell, pec's."

Swim easy Coach.

Craig Chappell - 1980

Craig - December 21, 2019 at 05:22 PM



“ When I started coaching at Erie Mason in 1962, I knew Coach was at Monroe because his friend Sandy Wilson was at Mason for one year without swimming meets and was my college Freshman coach and he told me to look Alex up. He also told me that Mason would never have swimmers as they were all farmers. Three years into my tenure he asked me to coach Diving and the 9-10 year old swimmers at Sylvania Country Club.

That one thing changed me and my family's lives forever. I learned a great deal and my children became excellent divers and are known all over the world. Alex was one of the most unforgettable characters I have ever known, and I say that in the most flattering way I can. I owe so much to the Steve family as my children grew up with Chrissy, Marianne and DP and I learned more history about the Civil War at lunchtime at SCC than you can possibly imagine.

My sincere condolences to Marianne and DP at this time

Jack Michael - December 20, 2019 at 11:02 PM



“ Although I only had a few years with Coach Steve, I still use things I learned from him working with young swimmers. RIP.

Kevin Shopshire - December 20, 2019 at 01:26 PM



“ 138 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc. - December 20, 2019 at 01:08 PM



“ Very sad to hear of Coach Steve's passing. He was a great man and a great coach. I swam for Coach Steve from age 11 as a Monroe Marlin at MGCC and three years at MHS. What great times and memories. No one could beat Coach Steve in POM POM. The guy was brutal in the deep water!

All my sincerest condolences to Donnie Paul and Marianne and families. Monroe has lost a great and beloved son. He will be missed.

Henry Fischer - December 19, 2019 at 05:28 PM



“ Don, Kim Steve and family,
Although I never met Coach, I felt like I have. His legacy that's being shared and cherished by many are wonderful. My prayers are will all of you.

Love,
Sherry Brown

Sherry B. - December 19, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ The first person that allowed me to drive his car ,my family had none,he let me paint rooms in his home for spending money. I will miss his greatness, I was lucky to have known Coach Steve.

EDWARD J KANE - December 19, 2019 at 03:00 PM



“ So sorry for your lose! Such a great man!! Sending thoughts and prayers to his family!! Love, Claudette and Ron Sosnoski

Claudette Sosnoski - December 19, 2019 at 10:01 AM



“ What can I say about Alex? I was amazed by him, often annoyed by him(I mean Bonzai, really?) looked forward to seeing him, and sometimes very worried for him- as when my husband Duane carried him out of his house across his back, because he was too sick and weak to walk. Even tho Alex was protesting that he thought he was better- his temp was only 104 now and was higher before. Wherever Alex was it was sure to be exciting. I met everyone I know or knew in Monroe through him. And these last 5 years have loved him dearly as has my husband. Good-bye old friend. You will be missed beyond words.

Bonnie Peterson - December 18, 2019 at 11:15 PM



“ Coach will be missed especially on Boys Night Out. Deepest sympathy DP and family.
Steve McCollum

Steve McCollum - December 18, 2019 at 06:43 PM



“ Honoured to have swam for you Coach Steve, and Ron Evans too. Some of my best friends and memories were made through swimming. Sending our love and prayers to DP, Kim, Lexi, Lauren and all his family & friends. Mike “Cluck” Clark 83’, Sarah and girls.

Mike Clark - December 18, 2019 at 06:05 PM



“ Donnie Paul and family we r so sorry in u'r loss of your Dad! Blessings from Cecil & Jo Ann
♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂

Jo Ann Nisley - December 18, 2019 at 09:07 PM



“ "Coacheeze" you will be sadly missed.
~Kevin & Karen Morgan

Kevin Morgan - December 18, 2019 at 05:15 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alexander Steve.



December 18, 2019 at 04:21 PM



“ I have been ever grateful to Coach Steve for changing the trajectory of my life. I hope the sadness you feel at this time will soon be replaced with wonderful memories.
Dave Clark '55

Dave Clark - December 18, 2019 at 02:30 PM