

Steven Jack Kline

October 6, 1947 - June 4, 2018

Steven "Steve" Kline, 71, passed away peacefully at home on June 4, 2018 in Chelan, Washington. He is survived by his wife Linda currently in a care center; daughter Kelly; son Ty and granddaughter Rian, all of Aloha, Oregon. He was preceded in death by his brother Christopher Kline of Wenatchee, and parents Irene and Jack Kline of Chelan.

Steve was born on October 6, 1947 in Wenatchee to Jack and Irene Kline. He graduated from Chelan High School in 1966 where he was active in scouting programs and an outstanding pitcher on the high school baseball team which went undefeated during Steve's high school career. He and his wife Linda, a flight attendant on a major airline, were married in 1973.

Steve was drafted by the New York Yankees in 1966 upon his graduation from Chelan High School, and pitched for the Yankees until 1974 when he was traded to the Cleveland Indians. Later, in 1977, he was traded to the Atlanta Braves, but retired from Major League Baseball that year. Steve also served in the Army Reserves from 1968 to 1974, during the Vietnam conflict. He was proud to serve his country in the Reserves.

Steve and his wife eventually settled in Portland, Oregon where he worked as a Lumber Broker for 30 years and where he and Linda raised their two children. He was active in the baseball community in Portland, coaching teams for both his son and daughter and, as they grew and moved on to different

teams, he was the pitching coach for Jesuit High School and gave lessons to promising athletes before retiring to Chelan where he was an active member of the community.

Once Steve returned to the Lake Chelan Valley, he found great pleasure in fishing local streams and lakes and reconnecting with his high school friends. He worked with Meals on Wheels delivering meals to senior citizens in and around Lake Chelan; volunteered at Re-Runs, a second hand store at Chelan Station

which benefits the Chelan Senior Center; and continued to offer coaching tips to many youth in the area, including assisting with teams at Chelan Brewster, and Wenatchee High Schools before retiring from coaching. He has been a large and vocal advocate to bringing affordable housing to the Lake Chelan Valley and increasing public access to Lake Chelan. His magnanimous personality will be missed.

A memorial service for Steve Kline will be held at Chelan High School June 23, 2018 fro 2 to 5 PM. Precht Rose Chapel is in charge of arrangements. Please make donations to honor Steve Kline at Home Delivery Meals or an organization of your choosing within the Lake Chelan Community.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **23**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Chelan High School
215 W. Webster Ave.
Chelan, WA

Tribute Wall



“ *Precht Rose Chapel and Barnes Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Steven Jack Kline*



Precht Rose Chapel and Barnes Chapel - June 21, 2018 at 12:37 PM



“ *Steven Jack Kline*

January 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *Steve was a freshman when I was a senior at WSU. He was the most amazing, admirable mix of athleticism, intelligence, and personality that we all gravitated to him. I must have told Steve Kline stories a couple hundred times. Playing basketball, watching him pitch behind Gannon/Goldsworthy, hearing and repeating tales of his accomplishments. Sure wish I would have visited with him again. This death hits hard.*

*Robb Menaul
West Seattle
Centralia High, 1963
WSU, 1967*

Robb Menaul - September 19, 2018 at 02:52 PM

TM

“ Steve was clearly one of the most positive, uplifting and inspiring men I have ever met. He always found a positive spin to put on any situation. His zeal, enthusiasm and genuine love of life infected everyone he crossed paths with and has had a major impact on mine. I had the great pleasure of coaching with him in the early 90's at Jesuit. Steve was a gifted story teller. After a few minutes around him you couldn't help but feel better about yourself and the world. I sincerely regret not having kept in better touch. Steve was a truly special person and an incredible friend. He is a model for all of us to live by.

*With immense gratitude, respect and empathy,
tim massey*

tim massey - June 25, 2018 at 11:58 AM

JH

“ We remember Steve from the early 70s as we were friends with his cousin Kelly Haines and got together with them a few times when Steve would be in Portland. He was a gregarious, fun, outgoing and humble person. Reading of his life, we were not surprised to learn of how much he gave back to his community in a multitude of ways. We were extremely saddened to hear of his passing and extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family.

Brad and Jan Halverson

Jan Halverson - June 24, 2018 at 01:09 PM

KL

“ I had the pleasure of getting to know Steve when I was hired to be the Head Baseball Coach at Sunset High School in the summer of 1998. Within minutes of our meeting I knew that I was the fortunate one to have such a passionate baseball mind and great man as a part of my staff. I remember the last time I saw Steve was at the NW Baseball Coaches Clinic and was glad to hear that he was back coaching the game he loved. Steve you will be greatly missed. Rest In Peace my friend.

Kevin Lovings - June 12, 2018 at 10:58 AM

KS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Steve on a lumber trading floor. Steve was 'one if those guys'. Always had a smile, always had an interesting or funny story to tell. Always had a laugh for things he found amusing. He was a good friend, a guy you could trust, a guy you could look up to. He will be missed greatly.

Ken Smith - June 11, 2018 at 12:51 PM

DD

“ I heard some sad news yesterday. A friendly foe growing up all through high school from Chelan passed away. Steve Kline, the best athlete I ever had a chance to play against passed away this past week. Whether it was football, basketball, or his love, baseball, he excelled in it. Our senior year Steve asked if I would play on the Chelan Legend team with him. What a great summer. Of course he went on to sign with the NY Yankees and went right up to the majors within a year. Led the majors in ERA one year. I am so sad to hear of his death. I will always remember the great times we had beating each other up in sports. Rest In Peace , my friendly foe
Dave Dugwyler
Cashmere HS 1966

Dave Dugwyler - June 10, 2018 at 03:58 PM

SW

“ My prayers are with you all. Steve was an incredible source of encouragement to me as an aspiring lumber broker. He was fundamentally an authentic and beautiful person, always willing and able to mentor the new guy. His dedication to "right" as opposed to easy was, and remains, a cornerstone of my Success. I will miss Steve.
Stephen Walsh

Stephen Walsh - June 09, 2018 at 01:31 PM

SA

“ It was legion ball the summer after my senior year. I threw four innings during the spring, but I had come on during the summer as part of the starting rotation. I was days away from signing the next few years to the army and heading to boot camp, Steve came to me while I threw a bullpen after a home game and said, “you could go to Chemeketa and pitch.” He made a call for me, and Coach Hendrix at CCC was glad to see me in the fall. I ended up at Mt. Hood for a couple years and Western Oregon after that, never had much of a college career, but the opportunities and life afforded to me because of the path sparked by that one statement and phone call I’ll always remember. God bless you, and peace be with you, Coach K.

Sean Aker - June 08, 2018 at 05:51 PM

DH

“ I last saw Steve at Yankee stadium and while he did not pitch that day I was taken to the Yankee locker room for a visit with Steve. I was a rookie teacher/coach in his senior season at CHS and it was apparent that he was a very impressive individual...more than just a great athlete.

Dennis Hauff

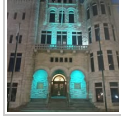
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dennis Hauff - June 07, 2018 at 08:27 PM



I have been a Yankee fan for many years. Learned about his passing during the Yankees Old Timers Day ceremony. Condolences to his family and friends. Mike Z, Upstate New York.

Michael Zink - June 17, 2018 at 09:55 PM



I remember Steve pitching for the Syracuse Chiefs in 1970 the year we won the International League Championship. He was so impressive the Yankees called him up and joined the starting rotation. I last saw Steve in Syracuse pitching for the Toledo Mudhens in 1977. I am very sorry to learn of his passing . God Bless.

Marty Nave - June 21, 2018 at 12:12 AM

BJ

“ *As a boy growing up in Brewster I was a fan of his. He proved that even a kid from a small town can make it to the big leagues. His uncle Ray was very proud of him. Bill Word Jr, Renton, WA*

Bill Word Jr - June 07, 2018 at 11:12 AM

CP

“ *Cody Preugschat lit a candle in memory of Steven Jack Kline*



Cody Preugschat - June 07, 2018 at 01:30 AM

GW

“ I have only known Steve for four years, as his health insurance agent for him and his wife, but I knew of his baseball years from reading articles about him in the Chelan Museum where I volunteer with organizing files. In the short time I knew him what most impressed me was his absolute devotion to his wife, Linda, who is ill and in a care center. He accepted her situation with some anguish, but he immediately took charge and became a dedicated advocate for her quality of life. Also, he was so sweet to his dog, Sassie, and that ranks high in my book. Lastly, he has been tirelessly working to promote affordable housing and rentals for working people in Chelan Valley so I have seen his passion to help working people. There are not a lot of people like Steve - I will miss his "battle for the underdog" attitude in our community. My heart goes out to his family.



Gaylen Willett - June 06, 2018 at 08:11 PM

LR

This guy. How can words describe what he has been and done for our family. Not only was this man an amazing coach and mentor for our son he was a true friend. Steve attracted those who got his vibe. He lived to help others. Never once did he toot his own horn even though he easily could have! Never did he brag or boast. Nor did he think he was better than others. We are blessed that he passed on and mentored our son in the game he excelled in and loved, instilling the same for him. His true happiness for Evan and his, though small, but worthwhile accomplishments so far in not only life, but baseball were fueled by Steve and his love and knowledge of the game and life. We will miss his wide smile and endearing friendship! Last time I saw him he was at the post office and he was so positive and looking forward to moving on. I wish that had been true but just another example of his positive attitude. May he rest in peace and no longer may that disease control his life. Thank you Steve for being our friend. We have truly been blessed and are better people because of you! Be free!
The Reister's

Linda Reister - June 08, 2018 at 05:59 PM

MN

He was a nice guy, and friend to autograph collectors. He's signed a lot of stuff for me over the years, and got a kick out of my asking him to sign "The Real" or "The Original" Steve Kline- so much so that he called me on the phone once to tell me that. Rest in peace

Mike Nunno - June 10, 2018 at 02:41 PM

JE

Steve [Sunshine] was a great athlete and passionate fly fisherman, He could throw a fly a long way and had one of the most beautiful casts around, it was like watching a master paint. We used to fish the Deschutes river together for Redsides. Steve did not like rattlesnakes. At all. One time we came back to camp after dinner and cocktails at the Rainbow Room in Maupin and I had brought a little firewood for an evening fire. I started to set the wood to light it and heard that distinctive buzz of a rattlesnake. Steve jumped into the back seat of my suburban and would not come out. I even offered to put all the seats down so he could sleep there but he said "Oh no, I'm fine" and stayed there the rest of the night. I will raise a glass of Evan Williams and Squirt tonight for you, dear friend.

John Eshleman - June 10, 2018 at 06:00 PM

SB

My deepest sympathy and warmest condolences to Linda and family. I pray for Gods comfort and peace for your family during this difficult time. You are all in my prayers.

Gods Peace

Steve Buske

STEVEN BUSKE - June 11, 2018 at 10:43 AM

GE

I have fond memories of playing basketball against his team from junior high on. What an athlete. I only talked to him once off the court and that was when we ended up setting together at a function (play?) at Brewster High School in the Spring of 66. He was as impressive off the court and field as he was on. So great to hear his name on the radio during his major league career and knowing he made the big time from a small town in north central Washington. By all accounts, his whole life was exemplary. My condolences to family and friends.

Gary Evans

Omak High School class of 1966

Gary Evans - June 13, 2018 at 09:10 PM

MA

So sorry to learn of Steve's passing. His name was included in the memorial portion of Old Timers Day at Yankee Stadium last weekend. I was the Yankees PR man during his playing days (we were the same age) and he was a great friend to me. And I might add, a great Yankee! Was sorry to have fallen out of touch - geography can do that - but it seems like he led a noble life, and there is indeed life after baseball. I remember one day when he wasn't pitching he sat with me in the press box and told me how each batter was going to be pitched to. What an amazing experience that was, and of course, he knew what he was talking about because he had to face the same hitters. Thanks for the memories Steve - and the Yankee t-shirt you got me from the Minnesota clubhouse man! I still have it.

Marty Appel - June 23, 2018 at 02:06 PM