



Steven E. Gifford

October 13, 1945 - March 13, 2018

Steven E. Gifford, 72, of Bonita Springs, FL died Tuesday March 13, 2018 in Juniper Village, Naples, FL. He was born October 13, 1945 in Worcester, MA a son of the late Dr. Richard O. Gifford and Elizabeth Murch Gifford.

After graduating from Classical High School in Worcester, MA, Steve attended Clarkson University, where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1967. He was then hired by Chrysler Corp. in Detroit, and was able to take part in the Chrysler Institute, a work/study program which resulted in him earning a Master's degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1969.

He served in the U.S. Army for 2 years at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, in Maryland, where he worked on evaluating and updating military vehicles, as well as serving in the Honor Guard.

After returning from the military, he went back to Detroit, where he worked at Ford Motor Co. in the light truck division until joining American Motors/Jeep in 1978. In the meantime, he'd enrolled in the Master's program of business administration, attending evening classes the next few years at the University of Michigan, graduating in 1984.

His sales and marketing career in the automotive supplier world started in 1984 when he joined Bendix in South Bend, IN with the antilock brake

division, which went on to become Allied Signal, and then Bosch. His final position was with BorgWarner. Steven served there as Vice President, in Global Sales & Marketing for BorgWarner Transmission Systems. He traveled to many countries for his work, and retired in 2007.

After retiring, he enjoyed playing golf year-round; at Signal Point Club in Niles, MI during the summer months and at Bonita Bay during the winters. He also loved his home, cars and motorcycles.

His 2 sons were his pride and joy, for whom he coached hockey when children, taught them to ski, then watched them grow up to become good men, husbands, and fathers.

Surviving is his wife of 42 years, Ursula "Sally" Jasch Gifford; 2 sons - William (Diana) Gifford of Grosse Pointe Park, MI and Robert (Allison) Gifford of Seattle, WA; 4 grandchildren - Owen, Ada, Josie and Jackson; and 1 sister - Jo Ann (Robert) Burns of Bonita Springs, FL.

No services are scheduled at this time.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial donations to Alzheimer's Association; Florida Gulf Coast Chapter

On line condolences may be left by visiting www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home & Crematory. Family owned and operated since 1978.

Tribute Wall



“ *Steven E. Gifford*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Steve is family to me. I hold dear the memory of Steve , Sally, Rob and Will coming to visit us (myself and Sally's father, Albert) here in California. Precious moments etched in my heart and mind. God Bless*

cecilia M. Jasch - April 04, 2018 at 02:56 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven E. Gifford.*



April 04, 2018 at 02:50 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Steven E. Gifford.*



March 22, 2018 at 01:24 AM

CS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I always remember Steve with a smile on his face and a positive comment. I knew him from Bendix/AlliedSignal days in South Bend. So sorry for your loss. I just loss my husband in December. My deepest condolences. Carol Senkbeil.

Carol Senkbeil - March 21, 2018 at 09:58 PM

RK

“ I will always remember Steve for his smiling face and upbeat attitude, regardless of the situation. My condolences to Sally and his family for their loss.
Ray Kosarski

Ray Kosarski - March 21, 2018 at 05:01 PM

JG

“ Sally and sons we are sadden by the death of Steve. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. We have nice memories of your time in Niles. Peace to you all.
John and Mary Carol Grinnell

John Grinnell - March 21, 2018 at 08:35 AM

SM

“ I always will remember Steve as happy regardless of the conditions. I always respected him for his knowledge and passion for the Automobile Industry and wish Sally and Family the best.
Stan Mason

Stan Mason - March 20, 2018 at 03:21 PM

CV

“ Dear Sally and Family,

I was so saddened to learn of Steve's passing. It was my pleasure and good fortune to work with Steve at BorgWarner from 1999-2004 on the Transmission Systems team. Then when I went to BW corporate, I still was able to work with Steve 3-4 times per year on the NSK-Warner board for several more years. We had so many interesting trips to Japan together during all those years, especially the trip to Kyoto that we got to enjoy with you Sally and my wife Karen. As I'm sure you know, Steve was loved by all who knew him. I've passed on the news to so many BW colleagues across the world in the last day and they all have such fond memories of Steve. In spite of our sadness, we all want to think about and hold onto all of those good memories we have of our time with him. We're better people for having known him. Sincerely, Chris Vance

Chris Vance - March 20, 2018 at 03:01 PM

MJ

“ Sally and family,

I'm so very sorry to hear about Steve's passing, I will never forget his kindness, and his laugh always made me smile. Your family will be in my thoughts an prayers.

Mitzi

Mitzi Julian - March 20, 2018 at 02:07 PM

DP

“ Sally and the entire Gifford family. Please accept our deepest condolences with Steve's passing. I worked with Steve the majority of time I was in BorgWarner Transmission Systems. Steve was a capable, fair and good man to work with. I will always remember the many group dinners we had , all over the world, and I will think of him each time I sip a cabernet that I think he would approve of. He is remembered fondly and we hope your memories of the good times help you through this transition. Dan and Judy Paterra

Dan Paterra - March 19, 2018 at 04:02 PM

JJ

“ So sorry to learn of Steve's passing. My sincerest condolences to Sally and the Gifford family. Steve was a good man, a great boss. I worked for him at BorgWarner and he treated me very well and I learned a lot from him. We had really good times back then and I look back on it always as some of the best times of my career. I also have a lot of great memories plying golf with Steve. Work was good but golf was better! I'm really glad I got to know him and share some good times, and I truly appreciate the memories.

John Crabtree

John Crabtree Jr. - March 19, 2018 at 09:46 AM

TQ

“ *Dear Sally and Gifford Family:
I was shocked and saddened by the news of Steve's passing. I didn't know he was ill and I received the news on Saturday. Steve was always at the top of my list of great people to work with at BorgWarner. Steve interviewed me and hired me into his great organization in '97. I owe my career achievements and success to the leadership Steve provided to me over the 10 years I was in his organization. Working for Steve was like becoming a member of the extended Gifford family. From the family stories he told, to playing golf several times a year, and to Sally hand making personal gifts for us during the holidays. I miss Steve very much, and I will keep his smile and his spirit with me whenever things get tough... My condolences to your entire family and my prayers go out to all of you during this time of reflection and recovery. God Bless you and the legacy of Steven E. Gifford. ~ Tim Quinn*

Tim Quinn - March 19, 2018 at 09:42 AM

PM

“ *Sally & Gifford famiily, Elaine and I are very to hear the news about Steve. I truly enjoyed all my time working for Steve but more importantly considered him a great friend. I will always remember our times together especially on the golf course. I'm glad I had a few opportunities to get out with him when we were in Florida a few years go. In memory of Steve, I promise you that this year I will hit a few putts while looking at the hole.*

Pete McDonald - March 19, 2018 at 08:24 AM

MB

“ We can't recall a time when Steve was not part of our friendship group; first from Ford when we lived in Ann Arbor, then as neighbors in Niles, Michigan. it was always the double "S" representing Steve and Sally. We could hardly believe the sad news, yet, you prepared us Sally during our annual visitations to Grosse Pointe. We are so very sorry for your loss of a loving husband, the boys loss of a father and the grandchildren missing a Granddad. We are so very grateful for all the times we spent together; that is the Steve who will live on in our hearts and minds. My earliest memory of Steve is riding his famous bike even up to the hospital to see me. Who could forget the notable St. Joseph canoe races and their desire to win their division. We have loving memories of the Go Blue football games, all thirty seasons worth, often sharing chocolate chip cookies. We recall how thrilled we were when your family moved to Niles. They played golf and more golf and never tired of it. And, of course, all Steve and John's trips to Elkhart where The American Road van became alive and ready for the market. We remember a lot of laughter and crazy antics. We remember a good friend with many talents, achievements and a wonderful spirit. He was lucky to have you share his life and the joys. Our love to you and the family. With deep sympathy, Marcia and John

Marcia & John Blair - March 18, 2018 at 07:11 PM

TO

VIVIANE and I were very surprised to hear that STEVE dissapeared. We remember when you visited us in FRANCE and when we have passed our day to visit the debarkment in NORMANDY. I passed a long time with STEVE and he was for me a very good Partner . When he came to see us ,after I was retired, we have played golf near the sea at CANNES and we passed a good moment. I would like to assure you and your family my deep sympathy. VIVIANE and ROGER.

TOURNEUR - March 30, 2018 at 12:02 PM

DP

“ *Sally, I am sadden to hear of Steve’s passing. During my time working for him he was very supportive. Praying God will give you strength and comfort in the days ahead.*
Don Pottenger

Don Pottenger - March 17, 2018 at 04:06 PM

JH

“ *Sally, we are sorry to hear of Steve’s passing. I am thankful for all he did for me in my career and as a mentor in many ways. We had good times together. We are sad to know that your family has lost him at this time but we hope that you find peace in God’s plans for us all.*

Jason Hill - March 17, 2018 at 02:02 PM

LB

“ *Dear Sally,*
I am so very sorry to hear about Steve and your tremendous loss. Steve was a kind man much like my husband Nick who were residents at Inspired Living. Steve and Nick seemed to team up together on many occasions when I visited. They played in the courtyard together, putting, playing corn hole etc.
I will always remember his pleasant smile.
My condolences to you and your family, you are in my thoughts and prayers.
Linda Burnett

linda burnett - March 17, 2018 at 01:33 PM

DS

“ Dear Sally. We were so saddened to hear about Steve. Please know that you & your family are in our thoughts & prayers.
In deepest sympathy
Dee & Louis Sfreddo

Dee Sfreddo - March 17, 2018 at 08:29 AM

CA

“ Sally, my heart goes out to you and your family. This has been an arduous journey for you and I hope that you will find peace.
Thinking of you and praying for you at this time. Christine Anderson

Christine Anderson - March 16, 2018 at 06:15 PM

FR

“ Steve was a kind and thoughtful man. He was very intelligent. Most importantly, he was a giver. We first got to know Steve and Sally as neighbors in the Oakwood neighborhood. Steve took the lead in doing many nice things for his neighbors. He was a leader. We enjoyed a great Alaskan cruise with Steve and Sally. I visited Steve in the early stages of Alzheimer's. It was heart breaking to observe his decline. God bless Sally and Steve's family.

Field and Carol Retterer - March 16, 2018 at 05:08 PM