



## Stephen K. Taylor

March 28, 1944 - January 17, 2019

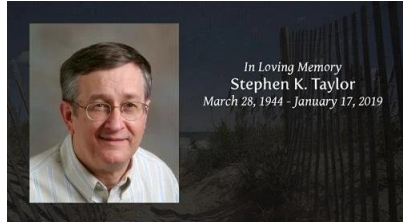
Stephen Keith Taylor, 74, of Holland, entered the presence of Christ at Lakeside Vista in Holland on January 17, 2019. Stephen was born in Los Angeles, California, on March 28, 1944, the son of Jolly and Inez Taylor. He graduated from Eagle Rock High School in Los Angeles in 1962 and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to 1964, during which he was stationed in the Philippines. Stephen married Nancy Carol Thomson on August 22, 1969, following their graduation from Pasadena College. They moved to Nevada, where he earned his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno. He worked as a research chemist at DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware, for four years. While there, Stephen and Nancy had a son and a daughter. In 1978, the family moved to Bourbonnais, Illinois, where Stephen was a professor of organic chemistry at Olivet Nazarene College. Seven years later, he took a similar position at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. He spent the rest of his career at Hope, teaching and doing summer research with students, retiring in 2009 after 24 years. He attended Central Wesleyan and Park Christian Reformed Church in Holland. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy, in 2013 and his sister, Barbara Kellogg, in 2017. Stephen is survived by his children, Daniel (Jennifer) Taylor of Zeeland and Melissa Taylor of Holland; a grandson, Drew, and granddaughter, Brynn; a sister, La Donna Taylor of California; a brother, J. Roland Taylor of Quebec, Canada, as well as several cousins, nieces, and nephews. Stephen dedicated his life to mentoring students in chemistry and loved to share and discuss his Christian

faith. (He also enjoyed sharing a familiar joke or two.) He touched the lives of those around him in deep and meaningful ways, with his warm and compassionate personality, leaving a legacy of faithfulness to God and love for others. Visitation will be 4:00-6:00pm Friday, January 25 at Park Christian Reformed Church, 1496 W 32nd St., Holland. The funeral service will be 10:00am Saturday, January 26 also at the church. Rev. Daniel Steen will officiate. Burial will be in Graafschap Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Stephen's name can be sent to The Navigators, P.O. Box 6079, Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679. Arrangements are by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home and condolences may be left online at [www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Stephen K. Taylor*



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**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - January 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Stephen K. Taylor*

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August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Professor Taylor was my undergraduate research advisor, mentor and friend. I just learned of his passing, and while my heart aches I know he is now without pain and reunited with his wife. Godspeed, Steve."*

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**Mark Whittaker** - April 20, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LC

“I remember Dr. Taylor as a kind and gentle man, father to my good friend, Dan, and a mentor and teacher. As an undergrad at Hope College, I spent a semester in one of Dr. Taylor's chemistry courses, thinking that it would be my last since I had no plans at the time to earn either a major or minor and was frankly intimidated by the comments I heard about organic chemistry from upperclassmen. By the end of the semester, however, with Dr. Taylor's kind encouragement, I had decided to continue on, to face my fear of organic chem, and ultimately ended up earning a minor in biochemistry. A seemingly small thing that may have ended up opening doors for the medical degree I would later earn.”

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**Lee Ann Cuny** - January 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JP

“I attribute much of my career path to Dr. Stephen Taylor. He was my research advisor at Hope College and encouraged, and inspired, me to be a chemist and a professor at primarily undergraduate institution. He was able to seamlessly integrate research into teaching (and vice versa). Although I enjoyed all my work in his lab and the skills and techniques I learned from him, his senior seminar on faith and science was one of my favorite courses. It was how he integrated his two passions and encouraged all of us to reflect on ours.”

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**Julie Pollock** - January 21, 2019 at 12:00 AM

VM

“Steve was a gentle and kind man. As a colleague, we had many conversations about philosophies on teaching and mentoring students, which were so helpful to me when I was a young prof. Years back, when I would occasionally bring my (then) young sons in to work, they would always ask to go visit Dr. Taylor down the hall. Steve always had time to chat with them and share his prize chocolate. He made everyone, no matter what age, feel welcome.”

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**Virginia McDonough** - January 21, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DA

“We first met Steve when he moved to Illinois with his family in 1978. We soon became friends and his son, Dan, and our son, Brad, both age three at the time became lifelong friends. We shared many good times together and also often visited each other after their move to Michigan. We especially remember our family camping times at Chain O' Lakes State Park in Indiana. Steve was a gifted chemist and researcher. He was adept at securing grants and guiding students in their research. A number of his students have gone on to significant achievements. We will miss Steve as we also miss his wife, Nancy, and will always cherish our memories of them. Dave and Ann Atkinson”

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**Dave** - January 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CH

“Steve's and my paths crossed serendipidously in the 1960s as we both attended Avenue Gospel Hall in Los Angeles and later in the 1990's more intentionally when he looked me up when I was a professor at Olivet Nazarene University after he had left there to go work at Hope. It was a challenge back then for young intelligent evangelical men with brains to find work within Christian communities and it looks like he and I both settled on similar paths even though we studied and taught different academic disciplines. Rest in peace, dear brother.”

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**Craighton Hippenhammer** - January 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RD

“I got to know Steve at our facilities, Lakeside Vista. Every morning a greeting and a smile, everyday some kind of joke or just some good conversation, very nice person who seemed to know just how to get you to smile. I enjoyed his company, and enjoyed having Steve show others that having a disability, doesnt mean you give up. Steve was involved in my disc golf event at lakeside and actually was tossing discs from 30 feet from his chair into the basket. I will miss him and remember his love for life.”

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**Robert Duck** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BM

“Although I didn't know Steve, he raised an amazing son, Dan. That speaks volumes about the man that Steve must have been.”

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**Blake Myers** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

PD

“Steve Taylor was my undergraduate research mentor at Hope College. All of the professors there treat their students with caring and respect, but with Steve it felt like we were members of his family. Steve taught me a lot about chemistry and about life. I joined his laboratory at a time when I was charting my future, and Steve shared important advice that helped orient me toward a good career path and continued to guide me as I progressed. Many years later I drew renewed inspiration from his thoughtful book, "Publish and Flourish" which is available from Hope as a free download. Even through personal challenges, the loss of his wife, and his own illness, Steve never stopped giving. His memory is one to cherish and his example one to follow.”

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**Paul Deck** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TG

“I loved Steve's sense of humor and his passion for chemistry. He was an incredibly kind man, and went out of his way to help me through a difficult time. He will be missed.”

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**Tom Guarr** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JG

“Steve was a gentleman and a scholar, and most of all a faithful servant of his Lord Jesus. He made a lasting impact on the chemistry department at Hope, on SO many students, and on me when I was a new organic prof at Hope College. Steve always a corny joke or the same old story to share, which he always told with joy, compassion, and a desire to bless his listener with a laugh, encouragement, or enlightenment. He was passionate about research with undergraduates and the necessity to close the research cycle with publication... his little book "Publish and Flourish (not or perish)" has been an encouragement to me and many. I will miss you my friend, but take great joy in knowing your suffering has passed, you are in the presence of both your earthly love Nancy and the Lord you loved most of all, and that we'll see one another again... I bet they have Chinese food in heaven way better than your favorite buffet in Holland!"

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**Jason Gillmore** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MP

“Steve loved to talk UCLA basketball with me every Sunday after church. He had many stories and was always fun to listen to. He will be missed by many. Wonderful man. Mike Phelps”

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**Mike Phelps** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MR

“My sincere prayers for the family during this time of loss. I knew Steve when he was a faculty member at Olivet. We had many discussions and I appreciated his love of organic chemistry and of God. Many blessings for strength as you grieve his passing. Max Reams, Professor Emeritus of Geology.”

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**Max Reams Reams** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

VS

“Only knew Steve for a short time when he worked at Parke-Davis on his sabbatical. A very nice man who will be missed. Glad he shared his heart for Jesus.”

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**Virgnia Sloothaak** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

WF

“Steve, I appreciate and share your passion in teaching. "Fire in the Belly" book speaks loud of your commitment to serving the young men and women at Hope College. Rest in peace, my friend.  
Wally Fu”

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**Wally Fu** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“Steve and I shared a lot of memories of growing up in Southern California over our years together on the faculty at Hope College, and he (as an organic chemist) encouraged me (a tropical ecologist) to explore the chemicals responsible for protecting the seeds that I study while they lie dormant in the soil, waiting for an opportunity to germinate. The collaboration that we started continued with several other chemists over the years, but it was Steve who first helped me to put my fondness for the "big picture" in science into practice. He embodied one of the things that I've loved about Hope College, and I'll miss him even more now. Thanks, Steve.”

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**K** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TS

“Steve was always a great encouragement to me in both my professional life and in my Christian walk. His "child-like" faith (and I mean this as a very high compliment) was such a calming influence to be around. Thank you to the family for sharing him with the rest of us--he made life sweeter and better.”

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**Tom Smith** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“Steve was always a kind, quietly funny and thoughtful colleague - my deepest sympathies to his family at this time of grief. loss and difficult change.”

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**M** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“Steve' passing is a sad moment for so many of us, but we also know how very fortunate we have been to share life's passion with him. He was a loving and faithful friend, and I learned much from him. So long, pal! Harlan Wadley”

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**Harlan Wadley** - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM