



Stephen H. Frankel

May 14, 1942 - November 4, 2025

Stephen H. Frankel,

Of Mequon, Wisconsin, passed away on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025 at the age of 83. Loving husband of Mary Frankel (née Gauthier) of 44 years. Dear father of Dori Frankel (Jason) Steigman and Jill Frankel. Adoring grandfather of Ben Steigman and Natan Steigman; Zack Frankel and Michaela Frankel. Preceded in death by his mother, Lois (née Sternberg) and father, Rabbi Philip Frankel. Further survived by many loving relatives and friends.

Steve was born in Cincinnati and grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Lansing, Michigan. A proud Wolverine, he graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree. Professionally, he worked his entire career as an actuary at Northwestern Mutual in Milwaukee, from 1965 until his retirement as a VP and Actuary in 2004. Steve served on many boards and committees at Northwestern Mutual and in the insurance industry. He had been an active and impactful member of the Employee Trust Funds Board and the Group Insurance Board for the State of Wisconsin for over 20 years. In the community, he had served as a member of the Milwaukee Jewish Day School Board for many years. In retirement, he loved spending time with his wife, Mary, the rest of his family, and of course, his friends. He audited classes in history and political science at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee for many years.

Steve was an avid crossword puzzle maven, completing the NY Times Sunday crossword puzzle IN PEN every week. He was also an avid reader, often tackling several books at the same time (each of which he would read to completion). He amassed an impressive collection of Michigan Wolverine clothing and other memorabilia (mostly thanks to his loving and supportive wife, a Wisconsin Badger). One of Steve's most prized possessions was his collection of good friends and relationships that he cultivated over his lifetime. Steve's Friday afternoon happy hour group (some of his best friends) set a modern-day record for longevity that is ongoing, meeting most Fridays for several decades. Anyone who knew Steve couldn't help but love him. He will be missed by all.

The funeral service is set for 10:30 AM Thursday, November 6, 2025, at The Chapel, 3601 N. Oakland Ave., Shorewood, and will be streamed online (see link and instructions below). Interment to follow at Pinelawn Memorial Park, 10700 W Capitol Dr, Milwaukee. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association would be appreciated.

Following burial, the family will see friends from 5:30-8PM at the Steigman residence, 2301 E Newton Ave, Shorewood on Thursday and Saturday. Minyan will be at 6:30 PM on Thursday and Saturday.

To join virtually:

When: Nov 6, 2025 10:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Stephen Frankel Funeral Service

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88600939895?pwd=rlujUdNkV23a7hTxJ4Y5QalBKJ4i6G.1>

Passcode:Frankel

Phone one-tap:

+13052241968,,88600939895#,,,,*8617421# US

+13092053325,,88600939895#,,,,*8617421# US

Join via audio:

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

Webinar ID: 886 0093 9895

Passcode: 8617421

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88600939895>

Cemetery Details

Pinelawn Memorial Park

10700 W Capitol Dr.
Wauwatosa, WI 53222

Previous Events

Service

NOV 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

The Chapel
3601 N. Oakland Ave.
Shorewood, WI 53217

Visitation

NOV 6 (CT)

Steigman Residence
2301 E Newton Ave
Shorewood, WI 53211

Tribute Wall

BF

“Wow! What a loss. Steve and I go WAY back with NM and the retirees breakfast group, when I was able to attend. He was ALWAYS so kind and supportive of me. What a mensch. He touched so many in a positive way and will be missed.

Bob Frohman - November 06, 2025 at 04:15 PM

AC

“On behalf everyone here at the Alzheimer's Association - thank you so much for thinking of us at this time of loss to your family. Memorial donations made in Stephen's name will be put to immediate use serving families and supporting research. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Dave Grams, Executive Director

Alzheimer's Association WI Chapter - November 06, 2025 at 03:07 PM

JS

“ Steve was a remarkable man! I met him early in my career and he never let me forget that Michigan had a superior football team to Notre Dame and Iowa! How I loved to talk football with him, win or lose. When I did product development work on life insurance, Steve always took the time to teach and listen. He taught me so much about how the product worked, and he never laughed when I had ideas that he knew just wouldn't work. Sometimes, he would help me refine an idea into something that did work. He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. He is going to be watching and coaching Michigan football from the best seat in the house. He will be missed by all who were lucky enough to meet him! Mary and family, I am so sorry for your loss. May your memories of him bring joy to your heart.

Janie Schiltz

Janie Schiltz - November 06, 2025 at 12:17 PM

LO

“ I knew Steve when we worked an actuarial department, I remember it was Christmas time and Hanukkah fell on the same time. We were the only two Jewish people in the department I remember saying something about it and they gave us money to decorate the area and Steve and I were so happy about it. He was such a wonderful man. I always enjoyed talking to him and seeing him at the quarter century club dinners. He will be very missed by a lot of people.

Condolences to his family and may Mr Steve rest in please 🙏

Louise - November 05, 2025 at 05:54 PM

PB

Oh my, so sorry to hear this news. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend tomorrow. My deepest sympathies to you, Mary, and to Dori/Jason and Jill. Steve was such a special person. So many fun memories. He will be missed. Peter Bruce (Northwestern Mutual workmate)

Peter Bruce - November 05, 2025 at 09:37 PM

DD

I'm in a state of disbelief. Steve was the first actuary I met at Northwestern Mutual probably in 1973 or 4. I looked to him as a mentor, tutor and ultimately a friend. He will be missed by many including our 1505 breakfast club. Mary and family, I'm sorry for your loss.

Dan Dougherty - November 06, 2025 at 11:53 AM

KC

Dear Mary and family, I am very sorry for your loss. Steve was an intelligent and kind person who will be missed by many people. Please accept my sincere condolences.

Kathy Clark - November 06, 2025 at 04:20 PM

RR

I joined NML the year before Steve and we worked together for 8 years until I moved on. We became good friends and kept in touch over the years though now I wish it had been more frequent. Steve was a very good actuary and embraced all that made/makes NML such a great company. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was a thoughtful friend to all who were lucky to get to know him. I still remember his passion for the U of Michigan and that if you made any negative comments about it it was at your peril. Rod Rohda

Rod Rohda - November 06, 2025 at 06:13 PM

JK

Steve and I became good friends shortly after he began working at NML. Since I had grown up in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood in Milwaukee, although not being Jewish, we bonded. The friendship lasted for 50 years, even after my wife and I moved to Arkansas. I'm so glad we got to see him this summer on our trip back to Milwaukee. Rest in peace, Steve.

John keller

John Keller - November 06, 2025 at 09:05 PM