



Stephen Hester Patton

December 29, 1948 - January 11, 2026

PATTON – Stephen Hester Patton, age 77, of Clarkesville, GA, passed away on Sunday January 11, 2026. A Funeral Service will be held in the Chapel of McGahee-Griffin & McEntire Funeral Home, 175 VFW Road, Cornelia, GA, 30531, on Saturday January 17, 2026, at 2:00 PM, with Reverend Hobie Wood officiating. A 1967 graduate of Central Gwinnett High School, he pursued his education at DeKalb College before answering the call to serve his country and community. Steve dedicated his career to the Army National Guard, where he exemplified the values of discipline, leadership, and sacrifice. Over decades of service, he rose through the ranks to retire as a First Sergeant. As a 1SG, he was the "backbone" of his unit, mentoring countless soldiers with a firm hand and a compassionate heart. Steve also retired from the Building and Planning department of both Gwinnett and Habersham Counties. Steve and his beloved wife, Sybil, spent many years raising their family in Lawrenceville, building deep roots within the community. Following his retirement, they moved to Clarkesville, where they have enjoyed the beauty of the North Georgia mountains for the last 29 years. A legacy of service remains an inspiration to all who served alongside him. He is preceded in death by his parents Mary Alice (Church) & C. Hester Patton, father and mother-in-law Robert and Velma Gunter, brother-in-law Bobby Gunter, brother-in-law Gerry Gunter, sister-in-law Vicki Gunter and sister-in-law Lynn Gunter. Steve is survived by his loving wife of 58 years Sybil (Gunter) Patton of Clarkesville, GA, son Stephen (Michelle) Patton of Lavonia,

GA, daughter Kristin (Ryan) Walls of Opelika, AL, son Jonathan (Casey) Patton of Clarkesville, GA, brother Bruce (Joan) Patton of Winder, GA, grandchildren Bree; Blythe; Brennan; Gunter Stephen; Shelly Rae; Ken; Elijah Hester; Lilly; Elizabeth; Caitlin Mary, two great grandchildren, sister-in-law Jane (Jimmy) Sell of Lawrenceville, GA, brother-in-law Joe Gunter of Franklin, NC and sister-in-law Sandra Gunter of Lavonia, GA. A Visitation will be held at Tim Stewart Funeral Home, Lawrenceville, GA, on Friday January 16, 2026, from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM and on Saturday January 17, 2026, from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the McGahee-Griffin & McEntire Funeral Home, Cornelia, GA. In lieu of flowers please make donations in Steve's memory to <https://www.vfwpost7720.org/donations>. Arrangements by Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Road SW, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046. 770.962.3100. Please sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Tim Stewart Funeral Home Lawrenceville
300 Simonton Road SW
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
(770) 962-3100

Visitation

JAN 17. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McGahee-Griffin & McEntire Funeral Home
175 VFW Road
Cornelia, GA 30531

Funeral Service

JAN 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

McGahee-Griffin & McEntire Funeral Home
175 VFW Road
Cornelia, GA 30531

Tribute Wall



“ *Tim Stewart Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Stephen Hester Patton*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - January 15 at 04:18 PM

TP

Sybil, So sorry for your loss. Many prayers for you, your children and Grands that God will wrap each of you in his arms. Giving each of you faith and strength moving forward. Love you, Tina and Frank Patton ❤️

Tina Patton - January 17 at 05:18 PM



SYBIL, I'm so sorry to hear about steve I really thought a lot of him and admired how well he took care of you 🙏. BLESSINGS ON YOU AND YOUR WONDERFUL FAMILY ...LOVE U ...CALL ME IF YOU NEED HELP AT ALL .

Robin Sims - January 20 at 09:32 AM

DL

“ *Steve was such a good friend to Pete. Their lifelong friendship was treasured by Pete who I am sure greeted him in heaven. They both were true Patriots, loyal spouses, and Godly fathers. I have always adored Steve and Sybil and my heart truly aches for the loved ones he has left behind. May the Lord comfort each of you through this great loss. Love, Donna Lee*

Donna Lee - January 16 at 02:23 PM

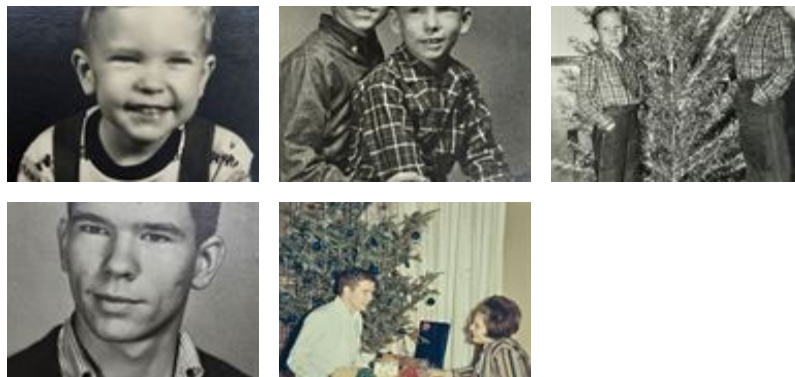
TM

“ Sybil and family, may God wrap his arms around you and give each of you peace and comfort. Steve will always be remembered for being such a loving husband, father, grandfather and a wonderful friend to everyone he met. I love you all! Theresa

Theresa McDade - January 16 at 12:21 PM



“ 90 files added to the album Life Tributes



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - January 15 at 04:15 PM

GW

“ Sybil and family, it saddens me to hear of Steve's passing. He was such a wonderful person. Always smiling, friendly, caring and ready to help. He will be greatly missed. My prayers are with you,

Gail Kerlin Watson

gail watson - January 15 at 09:46 AM

DF

“ *Dwain, Darryl, Diann, Sarah, & Families. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Stephen Hester Patton.*



Dwain, Darryl, Diann, Sarah, & Families. - January 13 at 10:27 PM

MJ

“ *Sorry for your lost, it's sad to here of a Fellow Brother In Arms passing. Prayers you.*

"The Harris Family"

MSG Harris, Joshua - January 13 at 04:29 PM

TG

“ *The families of Sandra and Rita Gunter purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Stephen Hester Patton.*



The families of Sandra and Rita Gunter - January 13 at 04:12 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Hester Patton.*



January 12 at 09:35 PM

SB

“ Steve was a dedicated soldier who loved his country and serving others. I had the privilege of soldiering with him for several years in the 277th Maintenance Company. Please know that my prayers and thoughts are with his family and friends. Steven E. Blanton

Steven E. Blanton - January 12 at 08:13 PM

LS

“ Neil and I are so sorry to hear about the passing of Steve. I went to CGHS and my husband is Sandra's brother. Your family will be in our prayers.
Linda Martin Stephens and Neil Stephens.

Linda Steohens - January 12 at 08:13 PM

IG

“ We are praying for your family and we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Matthew and John have such fond memories of Steve.
Love, the Gray family

Irene Gray - January 12 at 07:44 PM

LR

“ Lynne R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Hester Patton.

Lynne R. - January 12 at 02:14 PM

PH

“ Sybil and family,

I am so sorry to learn about Steve's death. He was a sweet gentle soul. May God's love comfort you as you grieve.

Pam Caudell Harris

Pamela Harris - January 12 at 01:39 PM

BR

“ Bobbie R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Hester Patton.

Bobbie R. - January 12 at 11:28 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Hester Patton.



January 12 at 11:28 AM

KE

“ Many people touch our lives, but only a special few like Steve, become like family in our hearts. Steve's legacy of devotion to Sybil, his soft spoken words of kindness and love will remain in our hearts forever! May the precious memories of Steve as a wonderful loving husband, a loving Dad, Granddad, Brother and Friend bring you comfort and strength through the days ahead! May God's love and peace surround you all during this difficult time.

Kathy and Ralph Earle

Kathy and Ralph Earle - January 12 at 11:13 AM

GL

The words that come to mind when I think of Steve are uplifting and positive. He was truly a great guy, who exemplified kindness in words and deeds.

Greg really enjoyed all of their phone conversations over the past few years as well as growing up together as first cousins.

We are praying for strength for you all as you navigate the days ahead.

We love you!

Pat and Greg

Greg and Pat Lanthier - January 14 at 09:55 PM

DC

“ *So very sorry to hear of your loss. Prayers of comfort for you all as you walk this difficult path.*

Donald and Kaye (Holland) Cash - January 12 at 09:58 AM

PH

“ *So shocked to hear of Steve's passing. My precious Sybil, I am praying for you now and in the days to come. May GOD comfort you and your family with His Peace my sweet lifelong Friend.*

Peggy Jo Harvey-Abercrombie - January 12 at 09:12 AM