



Stephen de Gala

July 5, 1967 - October 1, 2025

Funeral services for Stephen de Gala will be held at 11:00 am, Monday, October 6, 2025, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Interment to follow at Enoch Cemetery. The family will receive friends 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm, Sunday, at McWhorter Funeral Home.

Stephen de Gala, 58, returned home on October 1, 2025. Steve was born on July 5, 1967, to Herman Sr. and Josephine de Gala in Tacoma, WA. He was the baby of the four de Gala boys and grew up in Denver, CO.

Steve never met a stranger and loved people. As a young man, he served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the England Coventry Mission. The friendships he formed during his mission and as a student at Ricks College were some of the sweetest and most rewarding of his life.

When Steve met Tiffany, she told her friends, “He’s funny, but he’s so loud he would get on my nerves after a little while.” They married a year later on Oct. 14, 1999, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. Steve stayed loud, and he did get on her nerves every now and then, and they are the proud parents of six amazing children.

A born salesman, Steve loved his work in the car business and those he

worked with and helped throughout the years.

He loved cooking for his family and friends, never needing a recipe. Participating in chili cook-offs and barbecue contests with his children and friends were some of his favorite times.

He was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served in many callings, but his favorites were with the youth and missionaries. He loved bearing his testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and though he wasn't a perfect man, he was a good one.

Steve endured many health challenges over the last several years of his life, and although he couldn't do many things he enjoyed, he could still tell you all the best restaurants in any given area and tell a pretty good joke. He was funny, loyal, had a great laugh, and, sometimes to the embarrassment of his children, a wonderful, booming singing voice. He was probably the most non-politically correct person you ever met, and Facebook stock may take a plunge now that he's gone.

Steve is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Tiffany; children, Stevie (Katie), Yabsera, Ashley Prather (Colby), Melat, Emma, and Kailani; his brothers, Herman Jr. (Gigi), Gregory, and David; nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was a big man with a big heart.

In lieu of flowers, give someone a smile, say hello to a stranger, or tell a joke today and think, "That's what Steve would have done."

Please visit Stephen's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Cemetery Details

Enoch Cemetery

3214 FM 49
Gilmer, TX 75644

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **5**. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Service

OCT **6**. 11:00 AM (CT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1122 Pine St
Gilmer, TX 75644
(903) 843-3307

Tribute Wall

DD

“ Steve was always so funny and welcoming. He loved if he could embarrass you in a fun way which he was very good at. He made everyone laugh. I remember playing racquetball with him back just after our college days. He was so good. He could just stand in the middle of the court and laugh as you ran your head off around him trying to return his shots. I was always happy for any point I made on him. He made you work hard to get every point. He was a great athlete but never made you feel bad or less than him. We will miss you.

Dorthy dodd - October 08, 2025 at 10:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Stephen de Gala Funeral Service



McWhorter Funeral Home - October 06, 2025 at 03:59 PM

GG

“ It has become real to me now that Steve is gone. Today, after my brother-in-law Stephen de Gala’s funeral service, the sadness feels deeper than I expected. Steve was my husband’s youngest brother — tall, almost six feet, and always ready with one of his big bear hugs that could lift your spirits instantly.

I’m grateful for all the times he drove his family of six kids from Gilmer, Texas to Denver just to see his mom, dad, and us. Even when his health wasn’t the best, he made those trips because family mattered to him. He wanted his children to know and love their grandparents and us, and because of that, they will always feel connected.

Though we hadn’t seen them for a while due to my husband’s illness, Steve and his family have always felt present in our lives. When my son Efren moved to Salt Lake City, it brought us comfort knowing Uncle Steve and Aunt Tiffany were nearby — and I’ll never forget how Steve would drive almost an hour just to pick Efren up so he will not be alone during the holidays.

That was Steve — always giving, always thinking of others. When our dryer broke down and we were figuring out how to pay for a new one, a dryer was delivered to us even though we never asked him. We bought all our cars through Steve because I trusted him completely to get us the best deal possible.

Steve had a big personality — a big laugh, a big heart, and even bigger love for everyone around him. My husband will miss talking to his baby brother. My sons will miss their Uncle Steve - they both know that he will be there should they need him.

And I.....will miss my brother.



Rest in peace, Steve. Your love and kindness will always live on in our hearts.....Gigi de Gala

Gigi de Gala - October 06, 2025 at 02:01 PM

ID

“ Steve was a close friend of my father in law. As I joined the Diaz family, I got to know Steve and Tiff and feel their love. It was so easy to love them back and I am grateful that they have become some of my great friends as well. My husband Joseph and I lived only about 20 minutes away from the de Galas and so every once in a while we would get together for dinner at their home in Springville, UT or go out to eat to some of Steve's favorite places in the area. He introduced me to some of my favorite places to eat in the Orem and Provo area and I will forever remember Steve through those places.

I remember for the last several years we celebrated the New Year with them. Between getting together for the holidays or in getting together for some food, I will be forever grateful for the love I felt from Steve. Even though we weren't his children legally, I consider Steve to be a father to me and my husband Joseph. He really treated us like his own children in every interaction.

I also was able to make the connection one year that he and my dad grew up in Denver in the same stake together. They didn't remember each other directly, but Steve said that he remembered my grandpa Richard Motto when he was serving in the stake presidency. Making that small connection made me feel even closer to Steve.

My memories of Steve are only filled with love, laughter, and joy. I will miss you Steve and I am grateful for what you've added to my life! You will be deeply missed. God be with you until we meet again!





Isabelle Diaz - October 06, 2025 at 01:15 PM

RC

“ Steve was a happy person, despite the health challenges he faced. He was always welcoming and inviting in his conversations and restaurant recommendations. He cared deeply about people; he shared fun stories, and he loved his family. We were impacted by his care and friendship. Thank you Steve! We will miss your laugh. :)

Ruth Campbell - October 06, 2025 at 01:11 PM

SC

“ So much fun to be around! Elder DeGala knew how to Rap and did it at zone conference. He was always pulling pranks so you had to watch your back when he was around. Loved Steve for being a real person and never worrying what others thought. He worked hard and played hard and I will miss you brother!

stuart clarke - October 05, 2025 at 11:31 AM

CT

“ I don't remember ever seeing him without a smile!

Claressa Tefteller - October 05, 2025 at 07:58 AM



“ 107 files added to the album LifeTributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - October 04, 2025 at 01:45 PM

JC

“ My boys Randy, Robert and David Clawson grew up with Steve thru their teen age years. A lot of fun was had y them.

jay clawson - October 04, 2025 at 10:46 AM

DF

“ Devin Bunnell Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Stephen de Gala.



Devin Bunnell Family - October 03, 2025 at 09:07 PM

DF

“ Devin Bunnell Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen de Gala.

Devin Bunnell Family - October 03, 2025 at 09:07 PM

SW

“ I met Steve as a freshman at Ricks College, and I joined his committee to get him elected for the '90-91 school year. I remember clearly his slogan:
de FACE! de MAN! de GALA! 😊
He reached out a couple years ago, and it was so fun to catch up on the phone and chat about mutual friends and old times.
What a huge loss. Such a good man. Praying for his family!
—Sherrie

Sherrie Burt Willey - October 03, 2025 at 07:07 PM

MP

“ Steve was like a dad to me. Ashley is one of my best friends and my favorite memories is when Steve would pop up on Ashley's phone as "best friend" no matter where we were or what time of day maybe even past midnight he'd go "you wanna go get some food" haha Steve was the best and could always count on him and I'm so glad I got to be around him! Love you guys dearly 💕💕

Merissa Evans Pili - October 03, 2025 at 05:16 PM

JJ

“ I met Steve the first day I moved into my apartment at The Normandy (Rick's College). He was going door to door inviting everyone to Sacramento the next day. From there on he checked in on Normandy 9,10, absolutely many at Sunrise on a weekly basis. If he saw me on campus I would hear " Hey Eppich". Always showed up to help, serve, laugh, eat, or just be a friend. He helped make my first year and other years at Rick's fun & memorable. May Heavenly Father bless his family moving forward with comfort and love. Steve is a great disciple of Christ. Your friend Jenny Eppich Johnson

Jenny Eppich Johnson - October 03, 2025 at 04:40 PM

CM

“Gone way too soon. Steve was the first Saint I met when I moved to Gilmer in 2008. My condolences to the family.”

Clifton Palmer McLendon - October 03, 2025 at 02:42 PM

LK

“Stephen was a traveling elder in our mission when I got to England. We all looked up to him for his happy personality and his love for Jesus. He was a fierce defender of the faith. Rest in Peace brother.”

Lance Kennington - October 03, 2025 at 02:21 PM

BE

“Great brother. Rest easy now.”

Ben - October 03, 2025 at 12:14 PM

RF

“Steve was in my zone in Birmingham when I was fresh out, always kind funny and very personable, acted as if he already knew you. I didn't see Steve until our last reunion and he made it fun, he played trivia games on Facebook beforehand and gave prizes out at the reunion, didn't matter if you answered wrong he gave to you for effort. I will miss him very much and treasure the memories I have of him.”

Robert T Aaron (Elder Forbush) - October 03, 2025 at 12:04 PM

KJ

“Steve was one of my youth church leaders and had a great impact on my life. We stayed connected over the years and he always made me feel loved and welcome. I knew anytime I had a car buying need, Steve would answer a call and point me in the right direction.”

Kyle Johnson - October 03, 2025 at 11:09 AM

BJ

“ Steve was my roommate at Ricks College for the 89-90 school year. He was a social butterfly and was so much fun to be around. He loved to dance, he loved to pull pranks on people, and he loved to eat (he even taught us how to make wontons). A few years later when I got engaged, Steve sold me a wedding ring set from the Bridal Ring Gallery in Salt Lake City. Then he took me out to lunch at Sbarro. Steve was a good friend and will be missed.

Brent Jones - October 03, 2025 at 10:53 AM

BG

I've known Steve for several years now, I didn't know Steve very well until me & my family moved into the same ward that Steve & his Family were in, & after I got to know more about Steve , I noticed what a joy it was to be around him , & the joy that he touched others with his smile , & great personality.

The Lord has always Counseled us that by their fruits ye shall know them, & I know that Steve had many good Fruits, for one example is sweet Family. I had the pleasure , & the wonderful opertunity to be several of his children's Sunday School Teacher, & I know by the sweet spirit that they have they were being brought up in a kind & loving family, & I know by all the meetings & activities that I was blessed to attend with Steve & his family there, He was that kind & loving Father , & son of our Heavenly Father.

My thoughts & Prayers of comfort Love & Condolences will continue to go out to Steve's wife Tiffany, their Children , Family, Friends , & love ones.

Bobby Gray - October 04, 2025 at 12:28 AM