



Stephen J. "Steve" Herwat

June 6, 1954 - July 12, 2025

Stephen J. Herwat, 71, passed away at his home on July 12, 2025. Steve was born in Toledo, Ohio on June 6, 1954 to Donald and Phyllis (Allan) Herwat. He was a 1972 graduate of Waite High School. Steve earned three degrees from the University of Toledo: a B.S. in Civil Engineering (1976), a Master of Public Administration (1989), and a Juris Doctor degree (2001). He met his love, Joyce Knieriem Herwat and they married on September 23, 1978.

Steve had a robust career in public service. He was a civil engineer with the City of Toledo, where he rose to the positions of Manager of Traffic Engineering and Commissioner of Building Inspection. He served as Director of the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions until his retirement. Steve served as the Deputy Mayor of Operations for the City of Toledo, under Mike Bell. After retirement he consulted for various organizations, such as The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and the City of Perrysburg, as their Interim City Engineer Project Manager.

Steve is survived by his wife, Joyce, sister Kathryn LaRoche, brother in laws Tom (Sharon) Knieriem and Jim Knieriem, several nieces and nephews, and his lifelong best friends Ralph Brockett and Gary Wiegand (Heather Bradley). Steve loved to travel with Joyce, often visiting baseball parks around the country. Wrigley Field was his all-time favorite. He was an avid Toledo Mud Hens fan. Steve loved hockey and enjoyed watching and following the Toledo Goaldiggers, Storm and Walleye.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Road, on

Tuesday, July 22, from 2:00-7:00 p.m. The Funeral will be held at Coyle on Wednesday, July 23 at 10:00 a.m. and burial will be at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be given to the Toledo Humane Society, St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Graytown, Ohio, or charity of donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

Ottawa Hills Memorial Park

4210 W Central Ave
Toledo, OH 43606

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **22**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Funeral Ceremony

JUL **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Tribute Wall

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - July 22, 2025 at 09:57 AM

AL

“ I am saddened to hear of Steve's passing. I had the pleasure of working with Steve during several of his roles with the City of Toledo. Steve was an asset to the City and worked tirelessly on its behalf. A great person who will be missed.

Adam Loukx - July 22, 2025 at 08:27 AM

LM

“ Love -Tim and Ayako Martin purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Stephen J. "Steve" Herwat.



Love -Tim and Ayako Martin - July 22, 2025 at 07:02 AM

SS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Steve in his various capacities for the City of Toledo over a period of a couple decades. Truly one of the finest and most sensible guys I have known.

Scott Searle

Scott Searle - July 20, 2025 at 03:29 PM

MM

“ Steve was an incredible boss who always had a smile to share or a memory from the early days at the city. I am forever grateful that I was able to work with him and to see how he would process the best or the worst cases. Steve's leadership was truly outstanding, and I will never have another boss who could fill his shoes. Our condolences and prayers for Joyce and the extended family during this difficult time. Sincerely, Molly Maguire & Bob Kline

Molly Maguire - July 20, 2025 at 11:36 AM

ML

“ Molly L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen J. "Steve" Herwat.

Molly L. - July 20, 2025 at 11:28 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Stephen J. "Steve" Herwat.



July 18, 2025 at 11:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Stephen J. "Steve" Herwat.

July 18, 2025 at 11:26 AM

TC

“ To Joyce and the Loving Family of Steve Herwat:

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on Steve's very untimely passing!

I had the opportunity to work with Steve over ten years at the City of Toledo. I never met a more dedicated, capable, knowledgeable and funny guy than Steve. He will certainly be missed by all of us who had the great fortune to know him! .

May God be with you all during this time of great sorrow.

Tom Crothers

Tom Crothers - July 17, 2025 at 11:33 AM

SS

To Everyone who Loves Toledo

Our community is better because of Steve's long and dedicated tenure as the Plan Commission Director and Toledo Chief of Staff under Mayor Bell.

I served as the Chairman of the Plan Commissions while Steve was the Plan Commission Director. Steve was a respected leader of his staff and a person who believed that good planning was important to creating a positive & beneficial future for our community.

Toledo also lost one of the Mud Hens biggest supporters.

Rest in peace my friend.

Steve Serchuk

Steve Serchuk - July 18, 2025 at 03:33 PM

MS

To the family of Steve Herwat and his wife Joyce:

You have my sincerest condolences on your loss.

It was a great privilege to have worked with Steve during my years with the City Law Department, particularly as the Law Director when he was often in my office consulting on various matters. Steve's knowledge of the municipal code, especially the administrative and zoning sections, was encyclopedic. Steve's insights were an asset to our attorneys defending administrative appeals of zoning matters as well as the occasional court challenge to enforcement of a zoning provision. Even then it was apparent that Steve had a keen interest in the law, so I wasn't surprised when he later obtained a law degree.

Steve always embodied the best attributes of a public servant: he was smart, personable, hard-working, and result-orientated. The City and all of us were better for having him there.

Respectfully,

Mark Schmollinger

Mark Schmollinger - July 21, 2025 at 10:37 AM

BL

I was saddened to read of Steve's passing. I very much enjoyed working with him at the City of Toledo and sharing some night classes at the University of Toledo College of Law. I had the privilege of sitting across the table from him during contract negotiations for the city. He was professional, fair and always the voice of reason. Beyond his professionalism, he cared about others and was always ready to share a smile. He is greatly missed and will be remembered fondly. Prayers for Steve and his family.

With utmost respect,

Barb Lane

Barb Lane - July 24, 2025 at 06:09 PM

MD

Sorry to learn about Steve. Our life's journey took us on different life paths. I met Steve at Doctor Pet's, a retailer in the former Woodville mall. We were working to pay for our respective college tuition, at TU. I went with Steve on a memorable summer vacation across western Canada, trans-Canada highway. Steve had the vision while I had the travel expertise and resources to make the college summer trip. We hit it off. Likely because of our love for animals, my playing on the UT hockey team, etc. He visited me at my dorm upon transferring to OSU.

Joyce was the love of Steve's life.

Steve was very successful. My parents kept me abreast of Steve's career through my US career travels. FYI - They too passed through Coyle's. Steve would have enjoyed learning my career was just as rewarding in other ways.

Again sorry about Steve's passing.

*Mike Danyko
Wellington, Florida*

Mike Danyko - July 25, 2025 at 09:08 AM