



## Stephen F. Gacek

September 9, 1942 - January 19, 2023

Rye Beach - Stephen F. Gacek, 80, of Rye Beach, passed away at his home on January 19, 2023, with his wife, Jackie, at his side, from several health issues.

Stephen was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, on September 9, 1942, the first son of the late Francis Gacek and Emilia (Tebich) Gacek. After attending St. Stanislaus School, he graduated from Lowell High School and Northeastern University.

At a very young age, Stephen became intrigued with the stock market. After accepting a position in Boston, his love of the financial markets soon led him to become the head macro investor and trader for Dresdner Bank's Boston office. At age 21, he became the youngest member of the Boston Stock Exchange Board of Governors. He was highly respected in Boston and New York by his colleagues. Called Papa Bear or Professor, known for his discipline and honesty, Stephen was very bearish his entire life. He generously enjoyed sharing his knowledge and expertise with many younger men, becoming a patient mentor to those who could grasp his fundamental and technical analysis of domestic and international financial markets. He was a very kind and gentle man with a wonderful sense of humor. Until he became a close friend of Bill's, his wild youthful escapades were hilarious and hard to believe. Stephen loved the ocean, he loved to travel, he loved shopping in

New Orleans for European antiques, he loved wintering in Naples but also loved summers at Hampton Beach and the Cape, belonging to the Polar Bear Club during his youth. He loved life itself.

In 1986, Stephen met his sweetheart Jackie on an arranged blind date. His sister-in-law Gisele knew that neither he nor Jackie ever wanted to get married again. Two years later, they were married in Sanbornton, NH, and bought a house in Rye Beach, where they built a life together. As a team, they enjoyed rehabbing their home, gardening, and hosting family and friends, candidates meetings, volunteering their house for garden and house tours.

Stephen loved being a grandfather and adored his grandchildren, becoming a kid himself again, taking them to the beach, rewarding them for hitting targets at the driving range, fun at Jokers Arcade, Canobie Lake Amusement Park, buying them surf boards, ice cream treats, creating wonderful childhood memories for them. He loved passing out “walking around cash” which he told them all little kids should have.

When commuting from Rye to Boston became too much, Stephen co-founded his own distinctive investment company in North Hampton, NH, employing and continuing to mentor young, up and coming traders. His generous benefits offered them and their young families a very comfortable life. He expanded North Hampton Partners offices as business grew, thus also reducing the commute for those from the Boston area.

When cancer forced Stephen to retire in 2005, he took up golf at Abeniqui Country Club. Golf being a very challenging game and, as a member of the mens league, he named his group “Special Needs” because their scores were so high, but they had such fun forming lasting friendships.

Never a braggart or name dropper, Stephen regarded every highly successful

friend in the financial industry as a “regular guy.” He never flaunted his brilliant intellect or his success. He was gifted with an incredibly sharp, analytical mind. He studied and digested voluminous highly technical Federal Reserve reports, breaking them down and identifying the most consequential points from which he would then apply to his advantage while daily monitoring all the world markets.

Stephen never really “retired” from the stock market, remaining bearish till the end. He was lovingly cared for at home during a long period of health issues. His devoted wife, and more recently added caregivers Estely Schlieman and Joanne Simmons, provided him with excellent personal care. Our family is grateful to these women and to the Rockingham VNA for their very caring services. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Predeceased by his youngest sibling, Mark, he is survived by his wife, their daughters Pamela Werner Ruppa (Paul), Stephanie Werner Maxon (William) and Heidi Werner Panosh (Thomas). He was the best Grampa Steve to Connor Maxon, Claire Maxon Lake (Cory), JoAnna Ruppa Sapp (Taylor), Anderson Ruppa, and great-granddaughter Rowan Sapp.

Among his survivors are brothers Francis and Michael, sisters Loretta LeClerc, Eleanor Hebert, and Shirley Stanley, sister-in-law Janet Gacek, many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life is planned in late Spring. Contributions are suggested to Rockingham Visiting Nurses in Exeter, NH by clicking here (<https://www.exeterhospital.com/Rockingham-VNA-Hospice/RVNA-Hospice-Events>), or to St. Joseph’s Indian School in Chamberlain, SD 57326 by clicking here ([https://give.stjo.org/site/Donation2?df\\_id=8943&8943.donation=form1&s\\_src=memorial-pg&autologin=true](https://give.stjo.org/site/Donation2?df_id=8943&8943.donation=form1&s_src=memorial-pg&autologin=true)).



# Tribute Wall

TF

“ Stephen was a great neighbor. He was always so friendly and warm. We know he'll be missed greatly by Jackie and the rest of the family. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. The Bondars

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**The Bondar Family** - May 27, 2023 at 10:31 PM

NF

“ Gentle Thoughts are with you, Jackie and your family, as you Celebrate and Remember Stephen's Life and Legacy. Peaceful Strength, Patience, Joy, Confidence and Love, Neal Fillmore

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**Neal Fillmore** - April 18, 2023 at 12:26 PM

SD

“ Dear Jackie and Family,

*I send my sincere condolences to you and your family.*

*Steve was a wonderful guy with a brilliant mind, who was kind, thoughtful and very generous.*

*I have many fond memories of Steve and "the special needs" crew at Abenaqui CC. They were a joy to behold!*

*Jackie, you took such great care of Steve and his health over all those challenging years. I know how much he appreciated it and how much your love meant to him.*

*Steve will be missed by all who knew him. I'm proud to have known him and to say he was my friend.*

*Love to you all.*

*Steve Demarais*

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**Steve Demarais** - March 27, 2023 at 11:15 AM

PR

“ As one of Steve's sons-in-law, I was lucky to spend time with him in very relaxed settings. On my family's visits from Milwaukee we'd stay with him and Jackie at their Rye Beach house.

Steve and I were always early-risers, so we regularly met at the breakfast table and talked for hours. I mostly listened and enjoyed the challenge of trying to follow the topics he spoke of with such authority and clarity. He wasn't showing off. Steve had a voracious appetite for knowledge and he shared what he knew in terms I happily worked at understanding.

Knowing him was an honor and a pleasure. Pam and I will be forever grateful for his generous spirit and the fun-loving kindness he showed to our family. The only thing that I truly envied about Grandpa Steve was the mutually respectful bond he effortlessly formed with his grandchildren. Grandpa Steve is now and will be continually greatly missed.



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**Paul Rupp** - March 19, 2023 at 05:51 PM

MR

“ Stephen will live on in our minds and thoughts. I vividly remember the day I met him. He was kind and caring. He was worried about Jackie and it was very clear how much he loved her. I saw him multiple times since our first encounter on 5th Avenue South in Naples. He was such an interesting man and he had a vast amount of knowledge that he willingly shared. He will be missed.

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**Margery Rose** - March 16, 2023 at 03:44 PM

TH

“ My experience with Steve as his muscular therapist, trainer and friend is that he was a man of quiet kindness. Never one for boisterous or grandiose gestures just very simply a good guy. My entire family and I have many fond memories to remember him. Attached is a short video of Steve putting my grandson behind the wheel of his Maserati. One of Steve's special traits was that he always found something to chuckle about. If you listen closely you'll here him chuckle at the joy on my grandson's face from Steve's subtle gesture. Steve will be missed but know he is now at peace.



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**Ted Heffernan** - March 16, 2023 at 02:54 PM

LB

“ He is now resting in peace



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**Lorraine Butler** - March 12, 2023 at 11:37 PM

JC

“ Jackie and family, I am so sorry for your loss. He was a very caring and giving man. You have so many wonderful memories 🙏 Love, Jeanne, Rob and Jason

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**jeanne Clark** - March 12, 2023 at 02:43 PM

JG

“ So sorry to read of Stephen's passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to Jackie and their family. As the UPS delivery person in the neighborhood for almost 20 years, it was always a pleasure to chat with Stephen and Jackie at their beautiful home along the Abenaqui Country Club!

*John Gisis*

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**John Gisis** - March 11, 2023 at 10:08 AM

HG

“ Stephen will be surely missed in Rye Beach and especially at Abenaqui. He and Jackie were a big part of the Rye Beach neighborhood.  
My thoughts and prayers go out to Jackie and her family.

*Happy Gilmore*

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**Happy (Bill) Gilmore** - March 09, 2023 at 05:26 PM