

A Celebration of the Life of Stephen Bridges

A year has passed since the loss of a man who at the age of only 48 years was a part of so many lives. The twinkle in his eye, infectious personality, sharp wit and charm combined with a love of travel, art, and music earned him friendships from around the country. Stephen Brenton Bridges passed away on Monday September 21, 2020 unexpectedly. The son of Bill and Linda Bridges Stephen was born on November 28, 1971 in Tyler, Texas.

Stephen was raised in Clear Lake City Texas. Graduating from Clear Lake High School in 1990. At Lake he was senior class president. He also was voted Class Clown and Most Handsome. After a wonderful four years at Lake he entered Pepperdine University in Malibu California. He was elected Freshman class president and 3 years later, Senior class president. Stephen got his degree with a major in advertising and a minor in journalism.

After college Stephen's way with words took him to many places where he applied his craft. In Houston he got one of his first jobs working in public relations which would be something Stephen would pursue as a profession for the rest of his career. Stephen then headed to Miami where he landed a job writing reviews for a city guide covering happenings and loved the lifestyle there and stayed for several years.. Stephen next traveled to San Francisco to work on the reality show where he helped develop story lines and find venues. Bouncing back home again to Houston Stephen found work at a visual arts center where he helped with event planning there for fundraising. This tapped into Stephen's great love of art . He was an avid museum goer always interested in visual arts of any kind that could fuel his imagination.

But work was not the center of Stephen's life and although he loved writing and had a real talent for it his friends and family were what he valued above all. The majority of his relationships lasted his lifetime because Stephen always made it his priority to check in or visit with them. He had a real ability to fold himself into his friend's lives and that included their children as well. He truly liked hanging out with the kids or taking them for adventures. He was a natural showman and loved to entertain them. This was natural for Stephen because he managed to hold on to a youthful curiosity about the world that he loved to share. Plus the kids loved his corny or gross jokes.

In recent years Stephen found a home in Palm Springs. Settling there for eight years he became a valuable member of the Palm Springs Writers guild. He handled their publicity for three years as well as PR work for other local companies. He also was a feature writer for Palm Springs Life Magazine and held a press card for The Desert Sun.

In 2019 Stephen and his partner Howard Cummings placed their mid-century home in the Vista Las Palmas Modernism House Tour which aided the neighborhood association charities. Stephen also volunteered time helping in writing the tour brochure. As much as Stephen enjoyed the Palm Springs life style, hiking in the high desert, pool parties and playing with his Boston Terrier Enzo his love of travel took him abroad and eventually returned to Houston.

Stephen, his father and mother spent the last five and a half months in the country on a ranch in Weimer, Texas quarantined because of the corona virus. They were so grateful for that time together. Every night they sat on the front porch watching the sunset. Simple things like as sunset meant so much to Stephen. His last days on the ranch were spent going on adventures with his parents, doing pastel sketches and listening to LPs late into the night .

Stephen was survived by his mother and father, Linda and Bill Bridges, brother Michael Bridges and sister-in-law Lisa Bridges, niece Taylor Bridges, sister, Amy Baeker, brother-in-law Sonny Baecker, nephews Trent Hurst, Preston Baecker, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. And of course his many friends.

A funeral service and burial was held Friday Sept. 25th , 2020 at Forest Park East in Webster, Texas. Because of Covid, attendance at the service had to be kept to a minimum. So a "Celebration of Life" will be held outside on Saturday September 25th at Stephen's Palm Springs home. If you wish to be included please email a request to : StephenBridgesmemorial@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers please send a donation to the Palm Springs Museum of Art in Stephen's name.