



## Marvin Stapper

January 3, 1941 - August 29, 2025

Marvin was born in San Antonio, Texas on January 3, 1941, and passed away on August 29, 2025 at the age of 84.5 years old.

He lived in San Antonio until he graduated from Highlands High School in 1959. He then graduated from Texas A & M in 1963 with a major in math. Marvin always looked forward to going to all his high school and Aggie reunions and reuniting with his buddies.

After graduation, he married Merry Martin and they had two boys, Erik Max Stapper, born September 20, 1967, and Brock Martin Stapper, born June 10, 1971.

Marvin is survived by me, his wife, Donna, for almost 35 years, his sons, Erik and Brock; grandson, Colton Stapper; granddaughter, Lyllian Stapper; and stepsons; George Fraser, John Fraser, and Robert Fraser and his wife, Amy; his stepdaughter: Marianne Fraser and numerous step grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is also survived by his niece, Shara Shafer Niesner and her husband, John; nephews, Trey Gatti, and his wife, Taylor, and Spencer Shafer; and numerous great nieces and nephews. Also, Brenda's husband, Terry Rutt, was an important part of Marvin's life.

The following is from his 3 siblings:

Marvin was the oldest of four siblings. He is survived by his younger brother, Dr. Frank Ernest Stapper and his wife, Doris; and two sisters, Nancy Stapper Gatti and Susan Stapper Shafer (the two sisters I always wanted and finally got); who all remained very close throughout his life, and always looked after one another. He was the best older brother ever!

He was preceded in death by his father, Max Ernest Stapper; mother, Ruth Marie Bush Stapper; step daughter, Brenda Fraser Rutt, and Step daughter, Mary Amico Fraser; and brother-in-law, Cliff Shafer.

I met Marvin in January 1987, and we were married on December 26, 1990. We were both in real estate. I had been a residential broker for about 14 years when I met Marvin, and he had been a commercial real estate broker since about 1985, so we both understood the challenges of living on a commission.

The real estate industry was not a good place to be in 1987. Although the interest rates had come down from almost 19% to between 9.5% and 10.5%, the market was still hurting and about the only thing selling was lender foreclosures. Both Residential and Commercial real estate both hit hard by Interest Rates, etc.

Eventually, I started working with Marvin in commercial real estate, but I never actually talked to buyers and sellers. That was Marvin's job. I just did the computer work and research, but together, we were a good team. He was horrible on the computer! I think springs actually jumped out of it when he walked too close! But, he could read a multi-paged financial report in no time, go right to the important facts he needed and determine about what a commercial building, retail center, land, etc. would probably sell for. He was great on the phone with both buyers and sellers, very personable and extremely knowledgeable.

He was not only very personable and easy to talk to, he was also extremely honest and fair with everyone, and unbelievably knowledgeable. His belief was, any time he discovered bad news about a property, tell your clients immediately before they spend time and money on due diligence, etc., just to have it fall out at closing, or worse. He was always upfront and honest with his clients and others he met along the way.

He loved life. He was Passionate about the people and things he loved and cared about, like Fantasy Football, NFL season, the Craps table at the Venetian in Las Vegas, his family and me.

He was a wonderful storyteller. He laughed at himself, and others laughed with him! His stories will outlive him and will be told over and over, and people will laugh and enjoy Marvin for many years.

Marvin was a true gentleman, and one of the nicest and kindest men I have ever met. He was my foundation and I will love him forever and ever.

A memorial service for Marvin will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, October 3, 2025, at Joseph Earthman Generations, 234 Westcott Street in Houston, Texas. There will be complimentary valet parking.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 3. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Joseph Earthman Generations  
234 Westcott  
Houston, TX 77007  
(713) 802-0000

*Complimentary valet parking.*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Earthman Generations created a Tribute Video in memory of Marvin Stapper*



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**Joseph Earthman Generations** - October 02, 2025 at 08:57 PM



“ *Joseph Earthman Generations created a View the Livestream in memory of Marvin Stapper*



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**Joseph Earthman Generations** - September 21, 2025 at 05:16 PM

SS

“*Marvin you'll be truly missed. He was that fun uncle and will be missed especially at Christmas. Christmas officially started when he arrived to talk football. His stories about the old Aggie days and travels entertained everyone. He would tell stories about himself that were too funny that others would be embarrassed to tell of themselves. I think I'm the only one who appreciated his music. Every time I walk into Arkey Blues I think of him. One of a kind for sure. Love you Marvin*

*Gig 'Em*

*Spencer*

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**Spencer Shafer** - October 03, 2025 at 02:45 PM

SN

“*Marvin was my uncle and ONE OF A KIND! I was blessed enough to see him every Christmas Day for the past 53 years. Walking in with a smile, always asking "Hey Shara, How are you doing?" Thirty-eight years ago, he walked in on Christmas Day with the most precious, God-given gift for all of us....Donna. Marvin met his match and together they were beginning the sweetest love story that will never end. Together, their laughter was contagious, and their presence was one everyone desired. The party didn't start until Marvin and Donna arrived! Marvin's impact was just not on me, but everyone he met. My Dad (Cliff Shafer) and Marvin quickly became the best of friends in 1968. Marvin would come over for Monday night football weekly when I was little. All I could hear is laughing all night long. I loved watching the relationship between Marvin, Nancy, Mom (Susan), and Frankie. Sibling love is God's gift. Donna is now part of that gift. Our five children grew up with their great-uncle Marvin and loved him very much. As our boys grew older they began getting tips on football, betting, and bookies. Haha He showed us that life is about laughter, especially at yourself, loving deeply, loving well, taking risks, being intentional, living life to it's fullest, having fun, telling stories, do not waste any days, travel, have dinner with friends, meet new people, most of all.....it's not about the things in life, it's about beautiful relationships you create while down here on earth that matter and that's what people remember. Marvin is an Unforgettable soul who made an everlasting impact on this world. Praying for God's comfort over Donna, Erik, Brock, Nancy, Susan, Frankie, and all that new and loved Marvin. In the words of Jesus "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." John 11 :25*

*Sending all of our love and prayers to you Donna. Love you so much.*

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SHARA NIESNER - October 03, 2025 at 12:10 PM

TG

“ *Marvin was a great person and loved by many. I will always remember all the great times I got to see him and talking football at our family Christmas gatherings. He will be missed.*

Trey Gatti - October 03, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marvin Stapper.

October 03, 2025 at 10:53 AM

SS

“ *Spencer Shafer lit a candle in memory of Marvin Stapper*

Spencer Shafer - October 03, 2025 at 02:07 AM

TB

“Marvin was one of a kind and he was no wallflower. He embraced that distinction. I was in the same Highlands High School (HHS) Class of 1959 with Marvin and also in the same Texas A&M Class of 1963 with Marvin. With this came many reunions, mostly with the HHS '59 guys who held annual stag reunions during the '80's up into the 2000's. There was always good food, plenty of beer, old stories some of which were sorta true while others were stretched a bit, and a makeshift craps table which Marvin ran with rowdy professionalism. The Texas A&M class reunions were less frequent but Marvin revelled here too. As background, most freshmen (fish) kept to themselves and spent a lot of time in their dorm room away from the pesky sophomores. But not Marvin. His attitude was, bring it on and give me your best shot. He had a favorite story involving Highway 6, the highway that would often be noted as running both ways out of College Station to those who did not appreciate the Aggie way of life. I forget the details, but I am confident Donna's head is full of stories she has heard many, many times. Marvin was a storyteller par excellence and many he told were with self deprecating humor. One I remember hearing more than once was a camping trip he was on in a rented RV where almost everything went awry. When we first met Donna at a HHS Class of 1959 reunion over 38 years ago, I think we will all admit we were interested to meet the lady who was signing on to be wife number four. It took us about 15 minutes to realize Marvin had met his match. When he introduced her as Quattro, we flinched but she embraced that moniker and does to this day. What has occurred over these past 38 plus years can only be characterized as a beautiful true love story, reciprocal in every way. In recent years, my wife Linda and I have had the opportunity to meet Marvin and Donna for lunch in Houston at their favorite Mexican restaurant. We were entertained with stories from both Marvin and Donna. We would hear that on more than one occasion in these later years with Marvin's declining eyesight he would stop at a table on his way back from the restroom, start up a conversation and talk on until the

*stranger at this table would ask, who are you and where do you belong. Was he embarrassed. No he thought it was funny, no harm done. Marvin seemed to always have a smile on his face. So when I was there, I would go with him to the restroom to keep him out of the women's restroom which he had done before and get him safely back to our table. Anyone who really knew Marvin would learn to love him and his unusual ways. I did and I miss him. Gig 'em Marvin. You were special and I am confident that God is enjoying your stories.*

*We love you Donna,  
Tom & Linda Boedecker*

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**Tom Boedecker** - October 02, 2025 at 06:11 AM

JR

“*Marvin had a gift for telling stories which were interesting and often very funny. I loved listening to him. He will be so missed!  
So sorry for Donna and their wonderful big family.*

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**Jane Raymond** - October 02, 2025 at 01:16 AM

FS

“ Frank Stapper (Frankie)

*Marvin is and always will be my brother. Obviously we had 1000s of memories together so I will share only 2. About 50 years ago, Marvin invited me to Houston to look for job opportunities, since I just graduated from college. He said that I could stay with him because he was living alone as he was between wives. I think it was between wife number 1 and number 2, but it could have been between wife number 2 and 3. I know it wasn't wife number 4 because that was Donna. This is why some friends greet Donna as quatro. Anyway, within 2 weeks, I received a call, and I was offered a great job opportunity. I could see the look on Marvin's face that he was so happy and that I would be moving out. However, I told the guy on the phone I wanted to wait a few months because I had it made living with my brother free and having access to the swimming pool and gym down the street and a housekeeper doing my laundry. Marvin was no longer smiling. I can't remember exactly what Marvin said nor could I put that in print. I did leave town immediately.*

*Recently, in Vegas. Marvin and I had conversations about politics, religion and even aliens from outer space and we had opposite views on all of these. But we went over to the crap's table and we were winning big and we're laughing and patting each other on the back and just having a great time. I'll never forget Marvin turning to me and saying, "families that gamble together stay together". Our earlier opposing views were no longer important. We had so many chips that I asked them to consolidate them into larger value chips so I could carry them in one hand to the cashier. In Vegas, you lay down your chips and ask for the person to "color me". However, Marvin insists that he can carry all his chips without a problem and I then turned around to head to the cashier. When all of a sudden, I saw chips flying everywhere. To this day, I have no idea how he did that.*

*But he's my brother and I miss him so much. Love you bro.*

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**Frank Stapper** - September 27, 2025 at 04:44 PM

PM

“ You were such a delight to be around. I loved all your stories and I loved how much you adored Donna. I will miss our times together.  
Pam

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**Pam Moore** - September 27, 2025 at 12:08 AM

BI

“ I got to know Marvin when we were next door neighbors on Post Oak Park Drive. Many weekends we sat at the patio to share a beer together. We would share stories about our travels and sports . Marvin loved football! .  
Marvin and Donna were always traveling and have traveled all over the U.S. . We also attended a few business meetings together. He loved to hear my stories about Africa and my travels as well . I will surely miss you . Rest in Peace my good friend .  
Ben Izegbu .

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**Ben Izegbu** - September 26, 2025 at 09:12 PM