



Steven James Szerlag

December 19, 1970 - November 12, 2024

Steven James Szerlag, 53, of Livonia, Michigan, passed away peacefully on November 12, 2024, surrounded by his family. Born on December 19, 1970 in Dearborn, Michigan, Steve lived a life dedicated to his family, his career, golf, and Michigan sports.

Steve is survived by his beloved wife, Kristyn Szerlag, and children: Jacob (Zaylie) Szerlag, Justin Szerlag, and Avari Zinner. Steve's family was his world, and nothing made him prouder than seeing his kids grow into fantastic people. He passed on his "skillz" to them and constantly reminded them to never be low fat.

After earning his Master's degree from the University of Michigan, Steve built a successful career as an architect. He most enjoyed his work with Ghafari Associates related to electric vehicles. These projects brought to life an idea he designed during college for a "town of the future" that envisioned a condensed city reliant on EVs for local travel. He loved bringing his visions to reality.

Our new purpose is to keep Steve's hobbies alive. He had an enviable green thumb that the rest of us will have to hone so we can continue growing his collection of plants and bonsai. He spent countless hours turning the backyard in to a special place where we will gather often for dinner from the grill, endless games of cornhole, and s'mores. And then there's golf. We promise to keep our heads down and just hit the ball.

Steve's spirit lives on through the people who loved him: siblings Deb (John)

Richards, Mark (Diane) Szerlag, Paul (Cindy) Szerlag, and Cathy (Frank) Ciavattone; brother-in-law Scott Kelley; parents-in-law Keith and Terri Kelley; nieces and nephews Grant, Blake, Eric (Jackie), Stacey, Tyler, Fletcher, Millie, Cam, and Molly; numerous cousins; his extended Morelli family; and a network of friends he was proud to call family. He is predeceased by his parents, Donald Louis and Claudia Jean (Sockow) Szerlag.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Steve's life at a visitation on Sunday, November 17, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (between Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth, Michigan. A Funeral Mass will be held the following day, Monday, November 18, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 North Haggerty Road, Plymouth. Steve will lie in state at 10:00 a.m., with Mass beginning at 11:00 a.m.

In honor of Steve's brave cancer battle, memorial contributions may be made to the Rogel Cancer Center at the University of Michigan, <https://www.umich.edu/medicine.org/giving/areas-support/giving-rogel-cancer-center>. The doctors and nurses there went above and beyond to provide Steve with exceptional care for over two years. Special thanks go to Steve's prayer warriors who stretched from coast to coast. We are eternally grateful for the love and support that surrounded Steve and his entire family throughout this difficult journey.

Steve was the strongest, bravest, absolute BEST dad, husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend any of us could have ever hoped for. We are beyond blessed to have had him while we did and are honored to be carrying on his legacy. We will make sure no one forgets that Steve is Awesome.

Those wishing to share memories and condolences may do so by using the "Share a Memory" tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Lie in State

NOV 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Kenneth Catholic Church
14951 North Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
vermeulenh@comcast.net

Funeral Mass

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Kenneth Catholic Church
14951 North Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
vermeulenh@comcast.net

Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Steven James Szerlag



Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - November 15, 2024 at 07:15 PM

DD

Deacon Mike, what an awesome tribute of comfort to the Szerlag family. May eternal rest be granted unto Steve O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. I look to the day of playing in that heavenly softball game like we did as kids at Lodge School.

Don Esler

Deacon Don - November 25, 2024 at 09:42 PM

TD

“ *Kristyn and family, I am so sorry to hear about Steve’s passing. I worked closely with Steve during our first go around at Ghafari and during our second round as well. We had a lot of good and not so good rounds of golf and many laughs. May his memory live on with you and your children. Todd Drouillard and family.*

Todd Drouillard - November 19, 2024 at 08:31 PM



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

November 17, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



November 17, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ *My favorite memory of Steve was the hair hat that he wore every week to the Ghafari golf league. While golf was his passion, he also had some amazing bowling skills and I envied his strike ball! Steve was a great part of the Ghafari team and always kept us laughing outside of work. God bless Steve and may he rest in peace.*

Ken Grabowski - November 17, 2024 at 12:05 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



November 17, 2024 at 10:12 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



November 17, 2024 at 10:01 AM

AM

“ So sad to hear about his battle over the past few years but knowing Steve, he took it on with all he had and that amazing strength, humor and wit. From beating me up on the bball court in the early years to fun times at work then softball shenanigans and of course golf, rest in peace #4.
Andy

Andy Morelli - November 17, 2024 at 09:58 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.



November 17, 2024 at 09:36 AM

JJ

“ I'm going to miss Steve a lot. I had the pleasure to work with him on several projects at Ghafari and he was such a great mentor and friend. He was always willing to help and his sarcasm always made me laugh. He was brave enough to let me drive his Camaro just so I could learn to drive a stick shift. Whether it was grilling burgers for the department luncheon, or enjoying a round of golf after work, Steve was always fun to be around. He truly loved his family and was always sharing stories about them. Because he was such a great husband and Father, I know his guidance and love will live on through his family.

Jonathon Jackson - November 17, 2024 at 07:56 AM

TC

“ Timothy and Wende Cavanaugh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven James Szerlag.

Timothy and Wende Cavanaugh - November 16, 2024 at 05:10 PM

TC

“ Timothy and Wende Cavanaugh purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Steven James Szerlag.



Timothy and Wende Cavanaugh - November 16, 2024 at 05:10 PM

SG

“ I am heartbroken about this unfortunate news...The best thing I can remember is that in the "sea of intense and the noisy Szerlag clan (all of us!) , I remember Steve as always being the 'center of calm and quiet. I am fortunate to have known you since your arrival...but sad I am here at your departure.., but , also blessed you are part of my Big family of Cousins...God Bless and give you Peace, 'little ' cousin ❤️ ~ Cousin Sherry



Sherry Guthrie - November 16, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



November 16, 2024 at 01:05 PM



“ *God Bless you, Patt Kelley Schafer purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



God Bless you, Patt Kelley Schafer - November 16, 2024 at 01:01 PM



“ *The Berniers, Praniitos & Krause's of LO purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



The Berniers, Praniitos & Krause's of LO - November 16, 2024 at 11:46 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Steven James Szerlag.*

November 15, 2024 at 07:01 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



November 15, 2024 at 07:01 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



November 15, 2024 at 06:52 PM



“ *Although I only knew him for a short time, his warmth and kindness were evident from our very first day I met him. He was not only a great colleague but also a wonderful mentor, and Friend.*

His positive impact and legacy will surely live on with all of us who had the privilege to work with him.

Joon Lim - November 15, 2024 at 06:06 PM



“ *Joon Lim - Coworker & Friend purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



Joon Lim - Coworker & Friend - November 15, 2024 at 05:57 PM

TF

“ *The Hatfield Edstrom Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



The Hatfield Edstrom Family - November 15, 2024 at 05:50 PM

JL

“ *Joon L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven James Szerlag.*

Joon L. - November 15, 2024 at 05:36 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Steven James Szerlag.*

November 15, 2024 at 03:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.*



November 15, 2024 at 03:42 PM

NM

“ Nancy Marcon purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Steven James Szerlag.



Nancy Marcon - November 15, 2024 at 03:40 PM

NM

“ Nancy Marcon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven James Szerlag.

Nancy Marcon - November 15, 2024 at 03:40 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven James Szerlag.



November 15, 2024 at 03:09 PM



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

November 15, 2024 at 03:09 PM

CF

“ Ahh the memories of night tag on Winston, and “destroy the guy” with the football. Feels like forever ago; moving away has its difficulties, but coming home and seeing my extended family when I did never felt like years had passed between visits. Although distance is a part of some families lives, the love within this family I am so proud to be a part of, is what I know will allow everyone to grieve, and to heal, and to always raise our glasses to Steve on every occasion. He will be missed. Love to all of my family from here in TN ❤️👍

Cindy Szerlag Fuqua - November 15, 2024 at 01:44 PM