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In Memory of Steven Cary Millington

FEBRUARY 14TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Steven Cary Millington, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on February 9, 2025 at his home at the age of 67. His life was one of laughter, adventure, and unwavering love for those he held dear.

Born on September 5, 1957 in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to Wayne Millington and Pauline (Bailey) Millington, Steve was baptized on May 11, 1969 at Church of the Brethren in Frisco, Missouri. He married the love of his life, Julie Dawn (McElmurry) Millington on June 8th 1985. Steve is survived by his wife Julie, children Craig (Melissa) Millington of Willard, Missouri, and Jennifer (Ryan) Elder of Leawood, Kansas, grandchildren Rylie and Hayes Millington and Jackson and Hudson Elder, siblings Connie (William) Churchill, Janet (Gale) Cardwell, Tom (Jan) Millington, Melinda (Jim) Rainey, Harold (Paula) Miles, and Neil (Cindy) Miles, and many nieces and nephews who Steve loved so much. He was preceded in death by Pauline (Millington) Hart and Ruth Millington.

Steve graduated from Advance High School in 1975 and Southeast Missouri State University in 1983. A proud member and Past-President of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity (earning the nickname ‘Bird’) Steve has attended and enjoyed Pike float trips for the last 50

years—his presence on the river a testament to his lifelong spirit of camaraderie and adventure. He cherished the friendships he built through his fraternity and beyond, always the first to raise a glass, share a story, and ensure no one ever felt like a stranger.

For over 50 years, Steve dedicated himself to a successful career in banking, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues and customers alike. Inspired by Ruth Millington, at the age of 15, Steve began his banking career at the Bank of Advance. He has served as President, Regional President, Board Member of First Midwest Bank for the past 30 years, both in Sikeston and most recently Springfield, Missouri. Steve served his community in many ways, including the Sikeston Housing Authority, Sikeston School Board, as a member of Kiwanis, and several committees of First United Methodist Church. His integrity, work ethic, and genuine care for those he worked with and those around him left a lasting impact on the industry and the many lives he touched throughout his career.

Above all, Steve loved his family. He was a devoted husband to Julie, a loving father to Craig and Jenn, and the proudest grandfather, known only as “Gus”, to Rylie, Hayes, Jack and Hudson. His grandkids were his greatest joy, and he filled their lives with laughter, wisdom, and the occasional mischievous twinkle in his eye. Whether he was playing board games, letting the kids sit in his lap to drive the boat, racing go karts or building sandcastles, Steve always brought a smile and a laugh. “Stevie Ray” was blessed by the best group of friends, sharing countless memories of concerts, weekends at the lake, beach trips, New Years Eve celebrations, and Superbowl parties. His friends were like family, and his ability to make everyone feel welcomed and valued was one of his greatest gifts.

In the spirit of his eternal youthfulness, we remember his favorite words from Peter Pan:

"Never grow up."

Though he has left this world, his legacy of love, friendship, and adventure will live on in all who knew him. May we honor his memory by embracing life with the same passion, humor, and kindness that he so effortlessly shared with us.

Visitation will be held at First United Methodist Church in Sikeston, Missouri on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 11 am. until time of Funeral service at 1 pm. with Jennifer Moxley, officiating.

Interment to follow in Lightner Cemetery in Scott City, Missouri.

Pallbearers will be Karl Ritter, Craig Richter, Doug Kennedy, Jeff Allison, Tim Underwood and Bryan Young.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.nunneleefuneralchapel.com for the Millington family.

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