



## Dr. Stephen Radley Close

April 25, 1948 - July 18, 2018

On Wednesday, July 18, 2018, Dr. Stephen Radley Close, devoted husband and loving father, passed away at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Treatment Center in New York City, NY, at the age of 70.

Stephen was born on April 25, 1948, in Joplin, MO, to Maxwell Otis Close and Roselyn Ruth (Radley) Close. He married Nancy Catherine (Turvey) Close on October 27, 1979, with whom he had three daughters, Sarah, Abbey, and Elizabeth. Stephen earned a B.S. in chemical engineering in 1970 from the University of Missouri at Rolla, an M.S. in psychology in 1974 from Oklahoma State University, and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 1978, also from OSU. His calm demeanor and analytical mind made him especially well suited to his career as a licensed clinical psychologist. He maintained a successful private practice focusing on the assessment of intellectual and emotional functioning and the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, especially for children and adolescents, for over four decades, primarily in Enid and Stillwater.

Over the course of his career, Stephen held positions as the director of the Bethany Guidance Center and the director of the Adolescent Unit at Meadowlake Hospital in Enid. He was a consultant to the Oklahoma State Department of Public Health, the Central Oklahoma Medical Group, the Rehabilitation Unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid, St. Mary's Center for Rehabilitation, and Youth and Family Services. He was twice appointed by

Oklahoma governors to the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, serving as vice-chairperson from 1987-1989 and chairperson from 1999-2003. He also served as an expert witness for numerous local, state, and federal trials.

A talented trumpet player, Stephen loved jazz and owned an enormous music collection, which he spent hours listening to in the acoustically optimized living room that he designed himself. He drove small, sporty cars and appreciated good design and high quality in everything from computers to coffee makers. He was extremely proud of his three daughters, and nothing gave him more joy than being their father. He was lucky enough to have been married to the love of his life, Nancy, for 38 years, and those who were lucky enough to know him will certainly remember his encyclopedic knowledge, dry wit, infectious smile, and genuine kindness.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters, Sarah, Abbey, and Elizabeth; mother, Roselyn; sister-in-law, Elaine Close Barnhill; and fourteen nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Maxwell, and his brother Lynn.

A celebration of life service will be held at Anderson-Burris Funeral Home, 3002 N. Van Buren St., Enid, OK, on Saturday, August 11, at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, a Tribute Donation may be made in the name of Stephen R. Close to Music & Youth at [www.musicandyouth.org/donate/](http://www.musicandyouth.org/donate/), a national non-profit that creates accessible, sustainable, high quality music programs so every young person can experience the magic of music.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Anderson-Burriss Funeral Home Chapel  
3002 N. Van Buren  
Enid, OK 73703  
<http://www.andersonburriss.com>

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ I grew up in Cartersville, Mo. My sister, Kathy, was in Steve's class graduating in 1966 from Cartersville High School. What a life we all had! I fondly remember what a marvelous trumpet player he was! He performed many solos at our church, Cartersville United Methodist. My sister passed away a few years ago. I am certain that Steve, Kathy, Danny and so many others of the Class of '66 are having a joyous reunion. If Rosalyn is still living I am certain she will remember our family. The world has lost a brilliant man. Sincere condolences. Jonnie Sue

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**Jonnie Sue** - December 30, 2025 at 09:44 PM

DC

“ Sending prayers to you Nancy, and girls for God's love to comfort all of you at this time of loss! He really helped me in my time of sorrow as well as many more I'm sure! God be with you all!

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**Deena Carpenter Coker** - August 08, 2018 at 12:17 AM

GC

“ Meeting Dr. Close and Nancy has been one of the most rewarding things in my career. Dr. Close and Nancy were kind enough to make a trip from Enid to come and meet me where I worked. The warmth, kindness and compassion of the hearts of this wonderful team had me at the first few minutes I met them. I knew they would impact many people that I referred to them. The feedback I received from patients were they were both kind, knowledgeable, and they listened :)  
Over the few years I knew them both, they were always willing to help.  
I will miss him.

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**Gail Cookerly** - July 29, 2018 at 11:57 AM



“ *Gail Cookerly lit a candle in memory of Dr. Stephen Radley Close*



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**Gail Cookerly** - July 29, 2018 at 11:43 AM