

Dille, Stephen Everett



The eldest child of Donald Everett Dille and Bonnie Marie Anderson Dille, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota,

on March 16, 1945. He died in Dassel, Minnesota, and entered eternal life on March 25, 2020, at the age of 75 years.

Steve grew up in Litchfield, Minnesota. He graduated from Litchfield High School in 1963. Steve competed in football and basketball. He was an active member in FFA. Steve competed in high school and professional rodeos. He was awarded the 1962 and 1963 Minnesota High School Rodeo All-Around Cowboy.

In 1969, Steve graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. From 1969-72, he served as a veterinarian in South Vietnam with the USAID. He was part of the Vietnam War Pacification Program assisting Vietnamese farmers to treat and prevent diseases.

On July 5, 1975, Steve was married to Pamela Jane Johnson in Litchfield. They have four children: Nicholas Alexander, Kaisa Lisa, Spencer Everett, and Mitchell Rogers.

Steve was elected and served for six years as a Dassel Township supervisor and had a two-year-term as a Meeker County commissioner. He was elected and served for six years as a Minnesota State Representative and 18 years as a Minnesota State Senator, for a total of 32 years in public office. In the Minnesota legislature, Steve was recognized for his thoughtful and bipartisan approach to solving problems. He was often tapped to serve on conference committees to iron out differences between the major political parties as bills were drafted into final form. He co-authored significant legislation including the 2007/2008 clean indoor air acts and the 2009 primary enforcement of seat belts law. In 2014 Steve was inducted into the first class of the Litchfield High School Hall of Fame.

Steve was a student of history, especially local and family history. He wrote and/or co-wrote three family history books, as well as a publication on the value of livestock to the Minnesota economy. He also wrote an autobiography.

Steve gave generously of his time, volunteering for many boards and committees. He proceeded with optimism, determination, and humor as he met with colleagues and constituents. He enthusiastically and tirelessly pursued his work. By example, Steve instilled a strong work ethic in his children. He was extremely proud of his family.

Steve is survived by his wife and their four children, nine grandchildren; four sisters and two brothers. His parents preceded him in death.

Arrangements are with the Johnson-Hagglund funeral home in Litchfield. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred. A memorial service will be held at a later date.