



Stephen Mills Cain

January 10, 1953 - December 28, 2025

Major Stephen Mills Cain, born January 10, 1953, in Louisville, Kentucky, passed away from glioblastoma on December 28, 2025.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Maxwell Cain and Sherley Cook Cain, and brother-in-law Scott Schoenbaechler.

He is survived by the love of his life and devoted wife of 46 years, Phyllis Schoenbaechler Cain; his children, Pamela (Clay) Smith and Alex (Kerrie) Cain; his treasured grandchildren, Braedon and Bryce Smith, and Kora, Maggie, and Grace Cain; all who brought him endless pride and joy; his siblings, Karen (Dan) Blum and David (Pam) Cain; sisters-in-law Paulette (Rick) Roberson and Tamara Schoenbaechler; and many nieces and nephews who he loved dearly.

Steve was a graduate of the Valley High School Class of '71. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky and his MBA from National University.

Steve proudly served his country as a Major in the United States Air Force, flying as an Electronic Warfare Officer on B-52 aircraft. Later, he served as Head of the ROTC program at the University of South Alabama, where he mentored and guided young men and women toward lives of leadership and service.

After his military career, Steve continued a life of service, directing transportation logistics for several large school systems. The work he found most meaningful, however, came later when he led the aeronautics programs

at Shawnee High School and Bullitt County ATC at the Bullitt Central High School campus. Teaching was not just a job for Steve - it was a calling. He took particular pride in helping students from across Louisville and southern Indiana, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, discover confidence, discipline, and possibility through aviation. Many of his former students have gone on to become active commercial and private pilots, and credit Steve with changing the course of their lives. His greatest reward was seeing them succeed, and many stayed in touch with him for years, often reaching out to thank him.

A devout Catholic, Steve's faith was a quiet but constant presence in his life. It shaped how he loved his family, served others, and faced both joy and hardship—with humility, steadiness, and grace.

Above all else, Steve's heart belonged to his family. He was deeply devoted to Phyllis, his partner in all things, and his greatest delight came from his two children and five grandchildren, whom he loved beyond measure.

Steve spent his life caring for others—through military service, education, mentorship, and lovingly tending to elderly family members. He lived with integrity, kindness, and purpose, leaving a legacy of service, faith, and love. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, and especially by those whose lives he helped lift—both on the ground and in the sky.

His funeral Mass will be at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, 5433 Johnsontown Rd., followed by burial at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff.

Visitation will be from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. Monday at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Highway.

The family would like to thank U of L Brown Cancer Center, Hosparus of Louisville and the Palliative Care team at Baptist East Hospital.

Donations can be made to Hosparus of Louisville or your favorite charity.

“Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth...”

Cemetery Details

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central

2501 N Dixie Blvd
Radcliff, KY 40160

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

JAN 6. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Peter the Apostle
5431 Johnstontown Rd.
Louisville , KY 40272

Tribute Wall

MM

“ My sincere condolences on the passing of Steve. Steve was my boss at Mobile County Schools Transportation Department; he was the Director of Transportation. If I'm honest, we had sort of a rocky start when he first became my boss, as we didn't see eye to eye on a lot of things, but in the end became friends. I know he will be missed by family and friends, and I know he loved his family. Much respect for Steve.

Mickey Manning - January 10 at 08:14 AM

MM

“ One short year ago today, we were with Steve and Phyllis laughing over a meal in Louisville on the river. One of their favorite places. The guys were sharing AirForce stories and Phyllis and I were laughing with them. Mike and Steve went to Electric Warfare training with Oscar Bell. Oh the stories they told. Phyllis shared stories about a prince from Saudia Arabia they had met. Such wonderful memories. We will miss Steve so much. Don't worry Phyllis, we will still come by to share more stories this summer. We were late in finding details on the service, so we won't be able to make it. We will be there in our prayers and hearts! Love to all of you, Steve and Phyllis's family! You all are a blessing!



Mike and Patty Matthews - January 04 at 10:42 PM

DA

“ David (Big Al) and Mischa Armstrong purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Stephen Mills Cain.



David (Big Al) and Mischa Armstrong - January 04 at 03:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Stephen Mills Cain.



January 04 at 09:43 AM

JF

“ *Jurmanovich Family* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Mills Cain.

Jurmanovich Family - January 04 at 09:43 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Stephen Mills Cain.



January 03 at 12:49 PM

LE

“ Lisa and Steve Emmons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Mills Cain.

Lisa and Steve Emmons - January 03 at 12:49 PM

DF

“ Donna, Allan and all our family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Stephen Mills Cain.



Donna, Allan and all our family - January 03 at 12:09 PM

DF

“ Donna, Allan and all our family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Mills Cain.

Donna, Allan and all our family - January 03 at 12:09 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen Mills Cain.



January 02 at 09:44 AM

AC

“ I was a student of his at shawnee 15+years ago. He was an amazing teacher. He will live on forever in my childhood memories. Condolences to his family.



Amanda cheatham - January 02 at 12:40 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen Mills Cain.



January 01 at 04:27 PM

RT

“ Steve and Phyllis are great people. Had the pleasure of knowing him for quite a few years. Met his mom on one trip we had. Steve loved life. Until Valhalla Brother

Russell Trulson - December 31, 2025 at 06:14 PM

JP

“ Ohhh Phyllis. I'm drawn back in my mind to the Shawnee ACE Summer programs that Steve led. Also, the day when you, Steve, me, and others showed up to sternly advocate for Shawnee High to maintain aviation services at JCPS' Board meeting. IT STILL EXISTS!



You and Steve have sincerely been valued parts of my life over the years. May GOD bless and keep you, as you and your family learn to navigate life without his presence. Rest in Power, Steve Cain.

Janice Pullen - December 31, 2025 at 05:27 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen Mills Cain.



December 31, 2025 at 01:32 PM

RF

“ Sending my most sincere prayers and condolences to you and your family Phyllis. Steve was a great teacher and he loved working with the aviation students. We shared many fine moments helping to prepare young high school students for aviation careers. He influenced and changed many young lives in his time working within the Shawnee and Prosser Aviation programs. He was respected and loved by all. High in character, personality and a natural born leader. He was so proud every time one of his students reached another aviation goal. He will be sorely missed.

Ron Frames - December 31, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen Mills Cain.*



December 30, 2025 at 06:51 PM



“ *Russ and Gina Dickens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Mills Cain.*

Russ and Gina Dickens - December 30, 2025 at 06:51 PM



“ *Phyllis, Pamela, and Alex,
Our love, prayers, and thoughts are with all of you and the extended family for the loss of Steve, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. We're heartbroken with this news*
💔.



Duane/Shirin Klug - December 30, 2025 at 06:02 PM