



Dr. Stephen Thomas True

March 28, 1943 - January 10, 2024

Stephen Thomas True (Steve), 80, passed away, January 10, 2024, from ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was born March 28, 1943 in Redlands, California, to the late Lester E. True and Mary Marguerite True. He graduated from Coachella Valley High School with honors, the University of Redlands with a degree in Biology, and the University of Southern California School of Dentistry with a Doctor of Dental Science degree, receiving the Lewis E. Ford Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Fixed Prosthodontics. But Steve always considered his greatest achievement to be his ability to play high school sports having been born with a club foot, wearing a cast for 5 years and having major surgeries to correct it.

He served his country in the Navy for two years during the Vietnam War on a Marine Corp Supply Base as a dentist. On his departure from active duty he received the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service. In part it reads, "... During the period of October 1970 to February 1971, he was required to fill the billet of Senior Dental Officer, a position he accepted with great pride and concern,...He maintained the department in a fully operational capacity... Throughout his tour of duty, Lieutenant True has exhibited loyalty, devotion to duty and outstanding leadership which have reflected credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service." E.R. Zumwalt, USN, Chief of Naval Operations.

Steve came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior when he was thirty-three years old, and from that time forward he sought to lead his family according to the Bible. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed sports, woodworking, gardening and camping with his wife and children. As a dentist he was gentle, kind and caring.

Steve practiced dentistry in California for 30 years before relocating his family to the Greenville/ Spartanburg, South Carolina area on September 11, 1998. He opened and operated a dental practice for 18 years in Mauldin, South Carolina, along with his daughter, Heather, as his receptionist, and his son, Eric, as his dental technician for fixed crown and bridge, followed by three years as a digital dental designer for Family Dental Health.

He is survived by his wife, Delia, of 53 years, a daughter, Heather True of Reidville, SC; a son, Eric True, a daughter-in-law, Alicia, and three grandchildren, Brandon, Jonathan, and Brianna of Menifee, CA; and a daughter, Emily (True) Doucette and her husband, Robert Doucette of Vernon, France; and one sister, Charlene True of Idyllwild, CA.

A Memorial Service will be held at Westgate Baptist Church, 1990 Old Reidville Road, Spartanburg, South Carolina, January 27, 2024 at 11:00 am, conducted by Pastor James Wooten and Eric True.

Family visitation will be from 10:15-10:45 before the service.

Burial will be held privately at M.J. Dolly Cooper Veterans Cemetery, Anderson, SC

Cemetery Details

M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery

Anderson, SC

Previous Events

Gathering of Friends and Family

JAN 27. 10:15 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Westgate Baptist Church
1990 Old Reidville Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301

Memorial Service

JAN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Westgate Baptist Church
1990 Old Reidville Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301

Tribute Wall

PH

“ Steve had a warm and kind demeanor, as well as smiles, as he reminisced.

Philip Henderson - January 27, 2024 at 10:28 AM

HT

Thank you for sharing and also helping us with dad when he needed help!

Heather True - February 10, 2024 at 09:34 AM

JG

My son, Steve, and I were talking last night and reminiscing about Dr. True. (We went to church together with your family in Palm Springs). Dr. True became our dentist when he later moved to Forrest Ranch and I had moved to Red Bluff, California. During our phone conversation, Steve looked up Dr. True and we were saddened to hear about his passing –BUT we know he’s in Heaven serving our Lord as he did here on Earth. Heather, I loved your bookstore and Eric, you made Steve’s great retainer – which just broke after all these years. Delia, we love you and know how close your family was (and is). Enid shared your cards with us. We have such great memories...Many Blessings to you. Jeanne Baldwin Galliher (now in Phoenix!)

Jeanne Galliher - December 02, 2025 at 01:36 PM

LI

Just found out Dr. True passed away. What a lovely man. He took care of my teeth for years. I hated to see him retire. I had trouble finding another dentist who could fill his shoes. He was the kindest man and made me feel so relaxed in his chair. So sorry for your loss.

Linda - December 14, 2025 at 08:03 AM

TB

“ Dear True Family,
You are all in our prayers as you mourn the loss of such precious gentleman. We count it such a privilege and blessing to have known Steve, and to be called his friends. It was obvious that he loved Jesus and wanted to spread the Gospel to all those around him. Even when he could no longer walk, he ensured he took Gospel tracts to give to those he met as he was wheeled around the retirement center. We mourn with you, but also rejoice with you because we know will see him again.
With our deepest sympathy,
Tracy and Docia

Tracy Buchanan - January 26, 2024 at 03:55 PM

HT

Thank you for sharing your memories of dad! And I can't wait until we are all together in Heaven! Heather

Heather True - February 10, 2024 at 09:33 AM

DS

“ David & Beth Smith purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.



David & Beth Smith - January 25, 2024 at 05:31 PM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.



January 25, 2024 at 03:36 PM

EU

“ Dear Emily, your dad was such a gentle soul. It was always a pleasure to chat with him whenever I brought the kids to your studio and he was working in the garden... Much love and strength to you and your dear Mom.



Eugenia - January 22, 2024 at 08:01 AM

EI

“ E, M, A, D & E Ishizuka-PachecoPinedo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.

E, M, A, D & E Ishizuka-PachecoPinedo - January 22, 2024 at 07:56 AM



“ Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.



January 22, 2024 at 07:56 AM



“ Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.



January 21, 2024 at 11:36 PM

GL

“ Grace and Jeremy Lee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.

Grace and Jeremy Lee - January 21, 2024 at 11:36 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.



January 21, 2024 at 05:08 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.



January 18, 2024 at 11:51 PM

LS

“ Love, Your Brothers and Sisters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Stephen Thomas True.

Love, Your Brothers and Sisters - January 18, 2024 at 11:51 PM

MS

“Glen and I were so blessed to have such a loving and a great mentor in our Lives . He always encouraged us in our walk with Jesus,he shared so much about the Bible with us and helped us grow in the Lord. Steve was and always will be a Warrior for his Lord and Savior Please read the book of Romans and I hope you will receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior as Steve did. Love you Delia our hearts break for you with Joy we know Steve is in his Saviors arms never to have pain again 🙏

mary shelley - January 18, 2024 at 01:14 PM

AJ

Well said.

Thank you Steve for loving our family and being such a role model for us.

See you soon!

Goss Speed!!

Albert Chatigny JR - January 21, 2024 at 01:09 PM

AJ

God Speed

Albert Chatigny JR - January 21, 2024 at 01:10 PM

AJ

I still have two fillings that Dentist Steve True put in when I was 9 years old.

Talk about doing a good job!

Thanks for caring.

You will be missed!!

Albert Chatigny JR - January 21, 2024 at 01:13 PM

HT

Thank you Mary and Albert for your kind words about dad! Love you all! Heather

Heather True - January 21, 2024 at 01:53 PM

CM

My heart hurts for your loss, but at the same time I rejoice with you that Steve is now with the Lord in Heaven. You all are much in my prayers. I am so thankful God brought you and Steve into Arlen's and my lives. You are blessings!

Cheryl Mills - January 23, 2024 at 01:55 PM

MG

Heather, I am so sorry for your loss. I think the world of your dad. He was the best dentist. He had compassion and respect for his patients and the patients returned that kindness. Remember the good times and always remember your dad is still with you and keeping you safe. You are loved and blessed. Melissa G.

Melissa G. - January 24, 2024 at 10:36 AM