



## Steven Benzel Sr.

August 20, 1958 - July 19, 2022

Steven Craig Benzel, Sr. was born on August 20, 1950, to Richard and Marjorie Benzel in Grand Island, NE. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island, NE.

The eldest of five siblings, Steve grew up surrounded by family and friends. He attended school in Grand Island and graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 1968.

Steve married Jean Ann Ridgway in 1969 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island, then they immediately moved to Chicago, IL where Steve started work with Delta Airlines. In 1976, they transferred to Tulsa, OK with the opening of the new Delta station. They have enjoyed fellowship at Immanuel Lutheran Church since that time. He retired from Delta in 2010 and subsequently earned his CLEET license and worked for a private investigator and security company for two hospitals. He retired a second time in 2011. Steve was an active and involved husband and father. He enjoyed traveling, spending time with his family, Karate and Tae Kwon Do earning a black belt in both disciplines, being a soccer coach and referee, shooting sports and more recently, learning Tai Chi, attending football watch parties and spending time at the Broken Arrow Senior Center.

Steve is survived by his mother, Marjorie Benzel, siblings: Jeff, Brad Sr., and family, Bill and family, and Lana and family; wife of 53 years, Jean; daughter,

Veronica and son-in-law, David Walker; son, Steve Jr. and daughter-in-law, Marissa; former daughter-in-law, Cory; Grandchildren: Mishayla, Michael, Caitlin, William, Sammi, Sarah, Hannah, Jackson, Caden, Zander, Mason, and Brylee. He was preceded in death by his father, Richard Benzel and grandson Maxwell.

Steve was diagnosed with Stage IV glioblastoma in April 2020. He fought a good fight, and we were blessed to have additional time with him.

A Memorial Service will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on July 26th, 2022, at 1:00 PM 400 N. Aspen Avenue, Broken Arrow, OK 74012

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to the Glenn Garcelon Foundation at:  
[glenngarcelonfoundation.org](http://glenngarcelonfoundation.org)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL **26**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
400 N. Aspen Ave.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

# Tribute Wall



“ *Steven Benzel Sr.*

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *Steve and I were good friends, we worked together at Delta in Tulsa and maintained that friendship over the years till I moved to Denver. It is distressing to me, to see his passing, he was always in a good mood, quick with a joke, and would certainly laugh at you when the opportunity presented itself. RIP my friend, I'll see you on the other side.*

**Bob Grace** - September 17, 2022 at 02:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Steven Benzel Sr..*



July 25, 2022 at 10:17 AM

SB

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Steve Jr and Marissa Benzel - July 24, 2022 at 08:51 AM

CP

“ Steve & I (Chuck Page) started together with Delta at O’Hare field in April of 1969. We first met in MSP where we were attending “Airline Personal Training School”. A Delta representative visited the school and hired us both, we were to report to Delta on April 21 at the ORD ticket counter for further instructions. I lived in the small Iowa town of Collins approximately half way between Grand Island and Chicago. Steve and I decided to drive his black Chevy to Ohare. He drove from his home to mine, spent the night and the next day we drove to Chicago to start our new careers. We were driving along, having just left I-80, now going north on I-294, Steve, without any comment pulled onto the side of I-294 and said “I can’t drive in all this traffic, you will have to drive”. Now I too was from a small town of about it 300, I looked at him and said “well ok, I will try it”. So 2 young guys made their way to Delta’s O’Hare ticket counter & the rest is history!

*Praying for you Jean, Steve spoke of you often in those early days, and praying for your entire family.*

*May the peace of Jesus be a comfort to each of you.*

*Chuck Page*

Chuck Page - July 21, 2022 at 09:21 AM

RH

“ Steve and I shared many exciting adventures both in Chicago at Ohare with Delta and later in Broken Arrow and San Diego. He was much more than a great friend he was more like the brother I never had. He will be greatly missed. I will think often of our times together.

*Richard H.*

---

**Richard Hoppe** - July 21, 2022 at 04:05 AM

SB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Steve Jr and Marissa Benzel** - July 20, 2022 at 03:05 PM

SB

“ We will always love you, and forever miss you, Papa



---

**Steve Jr and Marissa Benzel** - July 20, 2022 at 02:15 PM



“ *It is our honor and privilege to serve the Benzel family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Steven.* ”



---

**Hayhurst Funeral Home** - July 19, 2022 at 02:07 PM