



Steven L. Beal

July 11, 2020

Steven L. Beal, 46, passed away Saturday, July 11, 2020, at his home in Ladue, Missouri.

He is survived by his wife, Erin; children, Rayan and Canaan; mother, Sandra Beal; sister, Susan B. Frangella and her husband Patrick; in-laws, Gary and Stacy Gruenwald; sister-in-law, Corrie Gruenwald; uncles, Pete Beal and wife Marilee, Clyde Beal, Rick Webb and wife Joyce; aunt, Ada Standerfer and husband Jerry; nephews and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence J. Beal; grandparents, Othello and Blanche Beal, and Leo and Dorothy Webb; and uncles, Ronald, Cliff, and Leroy Beal.

Steven's life was centered around his family. He loved to hike, fish at a family pond with his wife and children, build complex Lego projects with Rayan, and play Pac-Man with Canaan.

Steven was the CEO of Mt. Vernon, Illinois-based National Railway Equipment Corp., and was a lifelong "railroad man." He had been in the industry since the age of 12, constantly learning the business from his father, Lawrence, who founded NRE in 1984. When Lawrence passed away in 2010, Steven was well prepared to assume leadership of the company. He was well known, and highly respected in the railroad industry.

Steven was also the owner of RARE Chop House, in Mt. Vernon.

Steven was a kind, loving, genuine man, who served on numerous boards and committees, always wanting to help everyone, and give back to the community. He was loved by many and will be missed by so many people.

In light of Covid-19 public health concerns, the family will hold a private, invitation-only service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to either Camp Independence, a YMCA specialty camp for children and young adults with Spina Bifida at www.ymcachicago.org/independence, or the Little Bit Foundation at www.thelittlebitfoundation.org, which helps underprivileged students in the St. Louis area. Memorials can also be received by mail to the Osborn Funeral Home, P. O. Box 130, Dix, Illinois 62830.

Online condolences may be made at www.osbornfuneral.com, or on the Osborn Funeral Home Facebook page.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ I have not talked to Steve in years. Last night i had a dream about Steve and decided to reconnect today. I went on line to check and see if I still had his current address. I was shocked to read what has happened to my friend.

I have many wonderful memories of Steve and his family and now wish I could have been their for his family. i will regret this for the rest of my life.

Steve was a wonderful, kind, caring fun man. We had a great time and I always knew he was destined for success!!

Words cant describe how i feel and will truely miss my friend and a great man.

David Janettas

David Janettas - October 28, 2021 at 12:13 PM

MC

“ Steven was like a son to me. I watched him persevere through not only good times but the not so good times as well. My heart is full of love and many sweet memories. My thoughts and prayers are with you Erin, children, Sandy, Susan, Pat, family, as well as everyone whose life has been touched because of Steven. Blessings to you sweet Erin. Please know that Steven's spirit is with you always; he hasn't left, he just changed rooms. 🌹

Marti Champion - July 21, 2020 at 10:19 AM

FJ

“ No words can describe how sorry I am for your loss. My sincere condolences to you Erin, Susan, Pat, Sandy, and your family. I want to express my sympathy and let you know that my thoughts are with you. Steven was a decent and kind man,.... I had a privilege to know him and work with him for many years. He will be immensely missed.

Rest in Peace Steven!

Frank Jalili – Former Chromium Corporation President

Frank F Jalili - July 20, 2020 at 06:34 PM

MP

“ Susan, Pat, Sandy and Steven,s Family. We are so sad for ur loss.. Our Love and prayers are with you and your family. Sadly I know what you r going thru. We love you. Mary Ellen and Christopher

Mary Ellen plesha - July 20, 2020 at 03:25 PM

TS

“ I have had the privilege of knowing of know Steven for more than 20 years. Suzie and I are both saddened by his sudden passing. Know that your family will continue to be in our prayers.

Tom & Suzie Shead

Tom Shead - July 20, 2020 at 11:04 AM

JB

“ It is with great sadness that I am writing this note. Steven and I basically grew up in the railroad industry together as we are close to the same age. Our friendship grew over the years as we began our families and shared common interests of motorcycles and cars. Steven was a true friend that I will miss dearly but will always have fond memories of our talks about our wives, children, and parents. I will miss those talks, but am so glad that we had the opportunities to grow together and learn from each other.

Erin.....My heart goes out to you and your children. I am so sorry for your loss and we are praying for you daily.

Rest in eternal peace Steven.

Your friend,

Jason Bell

Jason Bell - July 20, 2020 at 10:49 AM

PT

“ Paul & Kelsey Talbott lit a candle in memory of Steven L. Beal



Paul & Kelsey Talbott - July 20, 2020 at 10:34 AM

RW

“ *Steven Beal was someone very special to our company. Whenever we needed locomotives for new opportunities or needed some of our fleet upgraded, Steven was the first person we would call.*

We always knew we were going to get treated fairly with the kind of open, honest communication that only Steven could give us. We weren't the only ones that were treated that way because Steven always went out of his way to treat people fairly and make them feel important, no matter their position in life.

Like any relationship, there were ups and there were downs but through it all Steven was always a friend that would listen to our needs and then go out of his way to make sure we were taken care of. You can't ask for anything more than that, which is why we did and will do so much business with Steven and NRE.

Our prayers and heartfelt condolences go out to Steven's family. May they get comfort in knowing what a very good and special man Steven was to his Customers and that he will never be forgotten.

Rick Webb

Rick Webb - July 20, 2020 at 09:16 AM

DR

“ No words can express our feelings of sadness and loss over the news of Stevens untimely passing. On behalf of the Locomotive Maintenance Officers Association (LMOA) our members thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Steven Beal. God bless all of you.

Steven Rest In Peace.

*David Rutkowski
Past President LMOA*

David Rutkowski - July 19, 2020 at 09:06 PM

CF

“ Susan, Pat, Sandy, Erin and kids,

I hurt for you all. Steven always went out of his way to make people feel special. He was kind, caring, and humble, this has been such a shock and a blow to all that knew him. His bear hugs were second to none. Prayers, love, hugs and comfort for you all. Cindy Fleri

Cindy Fleri - July 19, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Steven L. Beal.*



July 18, 2020 at 10:19 AM

MJ

“ Sandy, Susan & Pat, and Erin, my most heartfelt condolences to each of you. You are on my mind continually and I'm sending you all my love and strength during this impossible time.

I've struggled to find words to begin to express how heartbroken I am at Steven's passing. As others have said on this page, we all knew a kind, gentle, earnest man. He was an outstanding human and he will be deeply missed.

I took for granted all the happy memories of my childhood that involve him; over these past days I've really thought of nothing else. The family vacations, a decade of New Years Eves and my awful plays (sorry everyone.) Memories of riding around in the hatchback of the Dodge all over Chicagoland when Larry and Ang and I would visit...photos with the Easter bunny at Ford Mall...the time he and I had a head-on-collision on a go-kart and mini bike in front of the house in Hickory Hills, and our stunned faces as we came to a stop, surprised that we were both fully intact.....and of course, "Joe Cool's" first appearance on the Disney trip...so many good times. I'm thankful for those memories. For now all I can do is go forward knowing that he's somewhere out there with Grouch and Angie, and we'll see them all again some day.

Melissa Jones - July 17, 2020 at 06:41 PM

DV

“ Susan, Pat, Sandy and Family, there are no words to express how sorry we are at your loss. Our hearts are aching for you! We send you our love and prayers. May God send you healing as time goes by.

The Vallee Family

Donna Vallee - July 17, 2020 at 02:17 PM

MP

Susan ,Pat , Sandy and Steven,s ,Family. We r so sorry for your loss . Our LOVE and Prayers r with you every day. I'm sorry to say I know what you are going through. My grief is still in my heart and .mind. We love you. Mary Ellen and Christopher

Mary Ellen plesha - July 20, 2020 at 03:12 PM

CS

“ *I met Steven Beal a few years ago at Lambert St. Louis Airport while I was serving as an Airport Police Officer. He had a multi-tool with him at the TSA checkpoint and he wasn't going to be able to fly with it. Overhearing the conversation between Steven and the TSA agent, I followed Steven to the Terminal 1 USO, as he was trying to find a source to mail him the multi-tool, because it had sentimental value. I told him I would mail it to him the next day, Monday. We exchanged business cards, he told me to mail it C.O.D., and we parted ways so he could continue his trip.*

I mailed Steven his multi-tool the next day, but I didn't bother with the C.O.D. After he received his package, Steven emailed me at work to thank me, telling me if I ever visited Mt. Vernon, stop by for a tour of the facility and we would have lunch or dinner. He had never told me what NRE Corp is, but he must have figured that I researched it. Within a few days, he emailed me again, telling me he would like to send me a thank you gift. He also asked if I am a Cardinals fan. I responded and said a gift was not necessary, but gave him my address anyway. Steven sent me two Cardinals/Cubs field box tickets, behind the Cubs dugout, with Cardinals cash to buy food!

He also sent me NRE swag - pen, calendar, can coozie, ballcap, and notebook/journal! Steven was truly a thoughtful man and generous man. Peace to Erin and their children, the entire family, and to the NRE family. I knew this man for two minutes and was instantly impressed by him.

Christopher Slater - July 17, 2020 at 01:47 PM

EC

Beautiful story. Thank you for sharing this with us.

Eileen T. Chabot - July 18, 2020 at 12:41 AM

RE

“ *My deepest sympathies to Steven's family. I met Steven in our late teens early 20's. He was one of the nicest gentlemen I have ever had the pleasure of coming across in my life. I adored him then and thought of him very often throughout the years. I was devastated and heart broken to hear this news. Praying for his family.*

Rebecca - July 17, 2020 at 01:00 PM

TJ

Not sure if you will see this but is this Barecca... IYKYK ... hate to see this and always thought of you guys.... from Tim

Tim jendrzejak - May 04, 2025 at 02:09 PM

BW

“ *Steven was always so nice. He, as was his dad, the TRUE meaning of a gentle gentleman. He will be missed. My deepest condolences to his family.*

Brenda White - July 17, 2020 at 12:49 PM

JR

“ I think if I had to pick one small word that comes to mind about Steven, the one that pops up first is that he was such a NICE person! You can't say that about a lot of people nowadays. And he gave great hugs! I'll miss those.

He always stopped to say hello and chat when he was over at our building on Broadway. We'd talk about his kids and what they were doing, my grand-kids and what they were doing. I'm SO GLAD I saw him a couple of weeks ago. I was teasing him about his new beard and we had a good laugh. That's what I'll always remember - him smiling and laughing! What a good memory.

Our sympathy to Erin and the children, bless their hearts. Prayers for the whole Beal family.

Jeanne Reininger (and husband Joe)
NRE

Jeanne Reininger - July 17, 2020 at 11:40 AM

CS

“ Deepest sympathies! Such a wonderful son, brother, husband, father and cousin to so many of us. Still does not seem real. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Connie Simmons - July 17, 2020 at 08:51 AM

JB

“ Our sincere condolences to the Beal and NRE families from all of Steven’s friends & customers in British Columbia, Canada. A tragic loss of a remarkable young man not only for his family but also the railway industry. He was a real gentleman, a great leader and a good friend. I will miss him dearly.

*J. Singh Biln
Retired Railroader*

J. Singh Biln - July 16, 2020 at 10:10 PM

MI

Sincere condolences to Steven’s family (and to his associates at National Railway Equipment).

I knew Steven in the work environment, not only as a customer at NRE but occasionally as a guest at his restaurant. He always had a positive attitude, professional yet friendly. Rest In Peace.

Michael Iden, retired railroader and consultant

Michael Iden - July 21, 2020 at 07:48 AM

KB

“ So sorry for the loss. Condolences Kim Bonifacius & Pam Weems



Kim Bonifacius - July 16, 2020 at 08:58 PM

JP

“ Jeff Poston lit a candle in memory of Steven L. Beal



Jeff Poston - July 16, 2020 at 07:25 PM

DR

“ It is with great sadness that I learned of the death of Steven. In my railroad career, I worked with Steven and his father Lawrence. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Beal family.

*Dave Rutkowski
Retired Chief Mechanical Officer*

Dave Rutkowski - July 16, 2020 at 04:42 PM

JV

“ To the Beal family (Mrs. Beal, Susan and Pat who I knew well many decades ago), I am so very sorry. Steve was truly an amazing person and taken from you too soon.

The Khoen family is lifting you up in our prayers. We all loved Steve so very much and he was a part of our family. With much love and my deepest sympathies, Jennie Khoen Vana

Jennie Khoen Vana - July 16, 2020 at 02:02 PM

MK

“ *Mary, Casey, Lukasz, Matthew Kulma purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Steven L. Beal.*



Mary, Casey, Lukasz, Matthew Kulma - July 16, 2020 at 01:43 PM

SM

“ *I had the honor of coaching Steve in football at Argo H.S. He was hard working, respectful, and always a true gentleman. I'm very shocked and saddened by his death. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.*

Steve Morgenthaler - July 16, 2020 at 01:14 PM

JG

“ I KNEW STEVEN'S DAD, LAWRENCE, AND RECALL HIM COMING TO MY OFFICE IN EARLY 1984 to tell me he was setting up a new company, National Railway Equipment. Over the past 3.5 decades, my companies bought many locomotives from NRE. I recall meeting Steven when he was barely 20 and working with his Dad at one of his offices..HIS DAD Created a legend in NRE, and Steven continued it after Lawrence left us 10 years ago.. THE success of NRE was and is its people, and his dad picked some good ones such as Ray Thornton, who had been top mechanical guy at the Seaboard Coast Line and Auto Train who sadly passed about five years ago.

WE are praying for Steven's family and the hundreds of people at NRE who hsve and continue the legend Lawrence began and Steven continued. I bet Steven, Lawrence and Ray are up there in Heaven telling old railroad stories and selling locomotives.

our thoughts and prayers and good memories will always continue. On behalf of all of us from Minnesota Commercial Railway, our thoughts and prayers will always continue

John Gohmann

Founder and President
Minnesota Commercial Railway

JOHN GOHMANN - July 15, 2020 at 10:28 PM

EC

“ I was honored to work at NREC (NRE) from 2006 to 2017. Steven always took the time to wave, or say hi, as he passed by my work area. I believe he really cared about the people that worked there, and always called me by name. His kindness to me in 2010 after Earl's death, was like seeing a rainbow after a fierce rainstorm and he was never too busy to sign any condolence card that I circulated.

One day, after we had become NRE, Steven happened to pass by and I saw his lapel pin with the new logo and complimented him on it. He looked at me, smiled, removed it from his jacket and handed it to me. Of course, I was hesitant, saying, "Are you sure?" He replied, "It's okay, take it, I have more at home."

Steven (and his dad before him) had a way of making you feel a part of something bigger; there was a real genuineness about them that is hard to find, and it is one of the reasons that I consider my time at NRE to be the highlight of my working life.

I cannot imagine the pain and loss that the Beal family is feeling right now, and my heart and my prayers go out to all of them. I hope they are comforted by knowing that Steven will be missed by everyone he dealt with, and that their grief is lightened a bit by being shared by so many.

Eileen T. Chabot - July 15, 2020 at 09:19 PM

CS

Lovely tribute.

Christopher Slater - July 17, 2020 at 01:52 PM

CF

Well said. Steven and Lawrence always talked to people as if they were important to them. Steven was bigger than life force and will be missed by all.

Cindy Fleri - July 19, 2020 at 02:40 PM

KD

“ Susan and Pat, and Family, words cant express how sorry I am for what your family is going through. I was just thinking the other day , how nice it would be to have a reunion of our New Orleans trip. It’s hard to believe that’s the last time I seen him, smiling and riding the bull, that’s how I’ll remember him. Lots of love and prayers to all of you , take care of yourselves and the families.

Kim Walen - Degnan - July 15, 2020 at 07:55 PM

CF

“ Erin, Jay and I are just devastated to learn this news and for you and your sweet kids. We loved hanging with you and Steven at the girls’ gymnastics meets. His love of you and your kids was always evident, and he was always so friendly and welcoming to our family. Our deepest condolences to you and your family. Our hears and prayers are with you.—Jay Baum and Cindy Follman

cindy follman - July 15, 2020 at 05:10 PM

DH

“ Steve was awesome!!!he was my brother Craig's best friend I had the privilege of hanging out with them for many years ,we were fortunate to be able to see him two years ago at Rare and were able to reminisce ,I am so saddened by this my heart goes out to the whole family and all the people's heart he touched throughout his life!

David Hill - July 15, 2020 at 04:24 PM

DB

“ I had the pleasure of working with both Lawrence and Stephen. Both were great individuals, hard workers, innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders in their company, community and their industry world wide.

Stephen was a quiet but sincere individual respected by all that knew him. He will be missed by his family, many friends, the Community, NRE and RARE.

Praying for the family during this tough time.

Dan Black - July 15, 2020 at 04:09 PM

PB

“ So very sorry for this huge loss! So glad that a few weeks ago we had a very nice conversation at my house. My sincere condolences to Sandy, Susan & Pat, and especially Erin and the kids. So heartbreaking for many of us! Godspeed! 🙏😊

peggy Beal - July 15, 2020 at 03:07 PM