

IN MEMORIAM

David R. Stidham

1947-2013

On March 24, 2013, the Stidham* family, the Timen Stiddem Society, the Boy Scouts of America, the citizens of Haiti, and indeed, America herself, lost one of its finest citizens. A beloved family member, thoughtful president, devoted Scout leader and compassionate volunteer, David's life epitomized each of these fine character traits in a remarkable life well-lived.



tucky. He worked for the Corp of Engineers in Kentucky, Tennessee and Massachusetts as a park ranger, outdoor recreation planner, forester and park manager.

David retired in 2002 as project manager of Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam in Charlton, Massachusetts after 32 years of federal service.

In 2000, David and his staff were recognized for their work at Buffumville Lake, with "Project of the Year" by the US Army Chief of Engineers, selecting them as the best public recreation and water resource project in the nation that year.

David married his high school sweetheart, Sherry Smith, and raised three wonderful children with her: Jennifer and twins Samuel and Matthew. He later married Esther Delva,



While on one of his regular volunteer trips to Haiti, he fell suddenly ill. Flown quickly back to his home in Worcester, Massachusetts, he was unable to recover and passed away on March 24th at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester. He was just 65 years old. As president, historian and Stidham* Family Tree database manager, he was the driving force behind the Timen Stiddem Society, the family association he cofounded along with his father Jack (1923-2008) and cousin Richard Steadham back in 1998.

Born December 31, 1947 in Quincy, Illinois, he was the middle child of seven and the only son of Omer Edwin "Jack" and Eileen (Wilson) Stidham. David and his sisters were raised primarily in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he graduated from Knoxville Catholic High School.

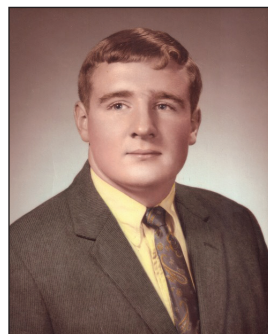
With his love of the outdoors, he spent a good deal of his formative years as a Boy Scout, camping, hiking and cave exploring in the Smoky Mountains. It was his Boy Scout experience that led him into the environmental field, graduating with a bachelor of science in forestry, and later, a masters degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee and Middle Tennessee State University.

After college, he landed his first major job as a civilian park ranger with the US Army Corp of Engineers at Lake Cumberland federal resource water project in Somerset, Ken-



David as a tot in Quincy, Illinois (above) and a senior at Knoxville Catholic High School in Tennessee (below).

At right, he is surrounded (center) by his loving parents and sisters.



David and his first wife Sherry with their three children (far left).



David with his second wife Esther and their three children (left).

who he had met on a fact-finding trip to her native Haiti. Three more beautiful children were born to this union: Lina Marie and twins David and Ruth.

Fortunate to have retired early, he was able to help his young children with homework and keep them active in scouting, an organization he loved all his life. His retirement also allowed him to travel frequently to Haiti doing peace and justice work there, as well as volunteering his time with the Boy Scouts and genealogy back home.

In 1997, he was approached by Richard Steadham through correspondence, to start a family association for Stidhams*, as he and his father Jack had done so much research and writing on the family by that time. It was due to their vast amount of Stidham* family research and contact with other family researchers that the Timen Stiddem Society was launched and became the success it is today; for without their involvement, the Society would not have been.

After three volumes of Stidham* family history published and hundreds of pages of newsletter articles written, the Timen Stiddem

Society certainly owes a debt of gratitude and respect to this outstanding cofounder.

The Boy Scouts of America, the US Army Corp of Engineers, the people of Haiti and America, owe a debt of gratitude as well, to a kind, generous and thoughtful leader, manager volunteer and citizen.

—Richard L. Steadham, editor and interim president

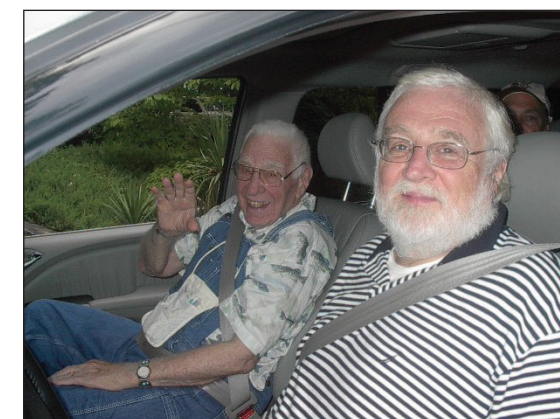
All photos courtesy of David Stidham's family



David's sisters around his casket before it is lowered into the ground on Good Friday, March 29, 2013, at Rural Cemetery in Worcester, Mass. (above).



David (far left) during his years as a park ranger.



Father and son, Jack and David Stidham, thank you both for all you have left us. So long and God bless (left).