



Stephen Toof Brown Jr.

March 27, 1926 - April 9, 2019

Stephen Toof Brown, Jr died peacefully at home on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. He was surrounded by family.

Toof was born in Memphis on March 27, 1926, to Ida Harrison Moore Brown and Stephen Toof Brown. He grew up in Memphis across Poplar from Overton Park, attending the Pentecost-Garrison School, Lenox Elementary, and Fairview Junior High. Afterwards, he attended Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, TN.

As a child in the 1930s, Toof loved to ride his bike to the airport. He would cadge rides with the pilots who delivered mail and when he was 16, he earned his pilot's license. At 17, he attended Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College). At 18, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was stationed in Biloxi and Ft Myers. After the war ended, he went to the University of Virginia, where he received a BA in physics. After graduating, he earned a BS in printing engineering at Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon) in Pittsburgh.

Until 1960, Toof worked in his family's business, S.C. Toof & Co. In 1960, he started Checks, Inc., the first printing company in the region to use magnetic-encoded ink when printing checks, which allowed the checks to be processed by machine rather than by hand. Checks, Inc. had branches in Gulfport, Chattanooga, and Little Rock.

Toof had many interests and hobbies. He learned to play the banjo in mid-life and played for many years in a Dixieland band, the Steamboat Strummers. He loved woodworking from an early age and made many beautiful pieces of furniture. He learned to ride horses as a boy and found that passion rekindled when he was 65. He foxhunted with local hunts and continued to ride his beloved horse, Chilhowee, well into his 80s. He was a part owner of a duck hunting club in Arkansas and was an avid hunter, photographer, runner, and local history buff. He played tennis until he was 90.

Toof was active in many organizations and charities including Rotary Club, Jaycees, Boys Club, and Junior Achievement. For a number of years, he tutored elementary students in math and reading.

His favorite place on earth was the Smoky Mountains and he knew the trails and all aspects of the park with a long familiarity. He was deeply involved in the Cotton Carnival, being president in the fateful year of 1968, when he made the decision to cancel festivities out of respect for Martin Luther King, Jr. He served again in 1969. He loved Elmwood Cemetery and served on its board for a number of years.

Everything he did, he did all the way. He had a great ability to focus and the tenacity to see almost anything through. He loved to travel and he loved to learn and never stopped being intrigued.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ida and Toof Brown, Sr, and his brother, Charles Whitney Brown. He is survived by his wife of almost 40 years, Suzanne Crosby Brown; his children, Stephanie James (Michael), Sandra Brown, Stephen Toof Brown, III (Ashley), Susan Crosby McCloy, Wallace Stuart McCloy, III; and Elisabeth Keenon McCloy; his grandchildren Devereux McLaurin Ringger, Desaix Alexandra Ringger, Chandler McCrea Brown; and his first wife, Betty Joyce McCrea. He also leaves nephews Battle Manassas Brown, II; Charles Whitney Brown, Jr; and Temple Donelson Brown. His beloved dog, Kipling, will miss him greatly.

Visitation will be from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 14 at Canale Funeral Directors. Burial will be 12:30 p.m. Monday April 15 at Elmwood Cemetery. A memorial service will follow at Lindenwood Christian Church the same day at 2:00 p.m., with a reception following.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Boys and Girls Club of Memphis, Friends of the Smokies, or Methodist Alliance Hospice.

Cemetery

Events

Elmwood Cemetery
824 S. Dudley Street
Memphis, TN, 38104

APR 14 Visitation 03:00PM - 05:00PM

Canale Funeral Directors
2700 Union Avenue Extended, Memphis, TN, US, 38112

APR 15 Burial 12:30PM

Elmwood Cemetery
824 S. Dudley Street, Memphis, TN, US, 38104

APR 15 Memorial Service 02:00PM

Lindenwood Christian Church
2400 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38112

APR 15 Reception 03:00PM

Lindenwood Christian Church
2400 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38112

Comments



“ i am soooooo glad i hooked up with Toof in the Bartlett Choral and Drama Group. on top of being a GENTLEMAN of the first order, he was fun with his little wry smile and a wonderful man to work with. RIP GREAT MAN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jim Swett - April 13 at 10:03 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Patty Schoelkopf - April 10 at 09:40 PM



“ I am sorry to read of Toof Brown's passing . We were close friends and confidants for many years . His passing ends an era that I will always have great memories of.

Tommy Farnsworth - April 10 at 01:20 PM



“ So glad I got to get t visit in yesterday with my 1st cousin before his passing. Was able to revive some great family memories together, He had a most active life, not only in the printing business that we shared together but also he contributed to the family's love of music, active in sports, world travel - all in all an amazingly active life. I pray for the comfort of all the family and close friends in the time of great loss.

R Bates Brown.

R Bates Brown - April 10 at 05:53 PM



“ Am so very sadden over Toof's passing. A MAN of True Dignitarie and Courage. Most importantly, He inspired others in His same convictions and Honesty. What a loss for the World. Gee, we had FUN fox hunting,,crossing the streams and now, you go ahead...leading The Way as usual

Joan Walters - April 11 at 10:47 AM



“ Toof was a great mentor for me when I was a young man. I worked for him several years and learned so much from him about people and humanity. I visited with him three years ago after being out of touch for decades. We had fun talking of our time together. I told him how much I thought of him and how his influence on me was a wonderful gift. He was a great man and will be missed by many.

Clark Kinser

